

**MINUTES OF A STUDY SESSION OF THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
APRIL 4, 2013, 4:30 P.M. IN THE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Mayor Paul Whitcomb called the meeting to order. Council members present were Thom Walker, Jules Zimmer and Victoria Hallin. Staff present was Administrator Mark Karnowski, Public Works Director Bob Gerold, Police Chief Brian Payne, Liquor Store Manager Nancy Campbell and City Clerk Shawna Jenkins. Absent were Council Member Dick Dobson, Finance Director Steve Jackson and Community Development Director Carie Fuhrman.

Sherburne County Board of Appeal and Equalization

The Sherburne County Assessors reported that sales from October 1, 2011 through September 30, 2012 were used to determine the 2013 Assessor's Estimated Market Value. The Minnesota Department of Revenue requires the assessor to maintain a ration of 90% to 105%

The 2013 Assessment was completed using the Computer Aided Mass Appraisal CAMA system for residential and agricultural property. This system is compromised of market areas and neighborhoods for a uniform assessment.

In Calendar year 2012, there were zero single-family permits and zero permits for additions, decks, detached garages and pole buildings.

There were two sales for the 2013 Assessment. The townhouse building schedule was not changed and the townhouse land schedule was also not changed. The Princeton land value is in line with other townhouses in Sherburne County. The final ratio for Princeton is at 94%

Mille Lacs Board of Appeal and Equalization

The Mille Lacs County Assessors reported that they have no letters or appointments for the Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Whitcomb asked if there were many sales in Princeton. The Assessor's replied that they increase residential buildings by 5%, but land, commercial and industrial values stayed the same.

1st Street Bike Path

Karnowski reported that Community Development Director Fuhrman is on vacation this week and asked that the Council be made aware that the Park Board is tossing around an idea to get an "on-road" bike lane installed on First Street from Odger's Dental at 21st Avenue to the Mille Lacs County Historical Society Building on 10th Avenue.

The current plans are to apply for a "Bikes Belong Grant". The grant needs to be submitted in May.

The purpose of this update is so the Council's aware of what's being considered. A formal presentation on the grant submittal will be made to the Council in the near future. In the

mean time, city staff also plans on meeting with the Mille Lacs County Engineer, Bruce Cochran, to discuss the proposal.

No Council action is requested at this time.

Hallin said she really likes the idea of a bike trail.

Authorization to purchase K-9 Squad

Payne reported that in the course of the last few months Officer Cederberg along with Princeton Auto has been searching for a used Chevrolet Tahoe for the K-9 Program. In the earlier states of searching, the dealership found numerous vehicles that would have possibly worked for this department and the City; recently finding a Tahoe that had 80 thousand miles. The dealership decided this vehicle, in particular, would not be a good fit for the department due to the high mileage and not being able to lower the price of that vehicle with the other dealership. At this point they have been unsuccessful in finding another vehicle for the K-9 program. It should be noted that there is a small window of a week to order a new 2013 state bid Tahoe. After the window closes we will have to wait until 2014 to order.

Payne stated that Investigator Todd Frederick has located a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe with no mileage police pursuit package at a dealership in the metro (Polar Chevrolet). The price of this vehicle is \$26,344.20 which was the state bid from last year. This price includes revisions that the original department had ordered (factory wired front and rear flasher, grille lamp and speaker wiring and disabled rear window controls that added approximately \$520 to the total price). It should be noted these revisions will reduce the cost of the installation of the equipment for the vehicle. It should be also noted that a state bid 2013 price is approximately \$25,700, which would take 60-90 days to order and an additional 20-30 days to install which would conflict with Officer Cederberg's return to the road with the K-9 in service.

Payne is asking for approval to purchase the 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe for \$26,344.20.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2012 CHEVROLET TAHOE FOR \$26,344.20. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mark Park Dump Station

Gerold reported that the city has maintained a dump station at Mark Park primarily so the folks who rent RV camping spots in Riverside Park can have a place to dump their sewage when they leave.

City staff has had increased concerns over the past few years in that the dump site is not monitored and, on occasion, we've had reports that septage haulers and others have used that facility. Staff's concern is that the best intentions of the city, (i.e. provide a place for RV campers to dump their sewage) could result in someone dumping something into our sewer system that could upset the biological process of the wastewater treatment plant.

Staff has been aware that the Marathon Service Station on the south end of the city also has a dump site that they monitor and also charge for people to use.

The city has discussed our concerns with Marathon and they are on board with allowing the users of Riverside Park to use their station at no charge, if they show them their Riverside camping registration card.

The staff recommendation is to permanently shut down the Mark Park dump site and advise the RV campers at Riverside that they can dump their holding tank at Marathon Oil for free if they bring along and show them their registration card.

If the Council concurs with that program, a motion to that effect would be in order.

Hallin asked how long Mark Park has had a dumping station. Gerold replied it has been there for some time. Payne added that he uses it when he comes back from camping vacations.

HALLIN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MARK PARK DUMPING STATION TO REMAIN CLOSED AND TO REFER PEOPLE TO THE MARATHON SITE. ZIMMER SECONDED THE MOTION. ZIMMER THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

ADJOURN

ZIMMER MOTIONED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:50 PM. SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully Submitted,

Shawna Jenkins

ATTEST:

Paul Whitcomb, Mayor