

**CITY OF SHOREVIEW
CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING
May 14, 2012**

Attending:

Council: Mayor Martin, Councilmembers Quigley, Wickstrom, Withhart

Councilmember Huffman was absent.

Staff: City Manager Terry Schwerm

Mounds View School District: Dan Hoverman, School Superintendent
Sandra Westrman, School Board Member

Ramsey/Washington Metro Watershed District: Cliff Aichinger, Administrator

North Suburban Communications Commission: Coralie Wilson

Mayor Martin called the May 14, 2012 City Council workshop meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

STATE OF THE SCHOOLS PRESENTATION BY MOUNDS VIEW SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT DAN HOVERMAN

Superintendent Hoverman stated that the school district is involved in a broad range of programs. Each year a District Operation Plan is created. The current plan focuses on school/home communications; contract negotiations--most negotiations have been positive, which has led to a good culture in the system; financial stability, academic excellence, and a safe environment.

Enrollment in 2001 was just under 12,000 students, which dropped significantly by 2010. It is anticipated that the student population range will stay around 9,600 to 10,000. This will depend on whether empty nesters stay in their homes or sell them to young families. Mounds View School District spends \$7,670 per student, second only to Burnsville. The District has a healthy fund balance. Of every dollar spent, \$0.77 is on student instruction. School administration costs are \$0.03 of every dollar. A new funding formula is being worked on with the legislature to increase funding. When enrollment is flat, there is a severe cut in revenue. The District cannot reduce dollars proportionate to loss of students. Reduction of expenditures has included moving out of any leased space. Negotiating bus contracts and other fixed costs has been helpful.

Mayor Martin asked if costs were covered when the legislature did not pay out tax revenue on time. Superintendent Hoverman responded that the District was not significantly impacted because it used a short-term loan.

Councilmember Quigley asked if the levy will be renewed when it runs out in 2013. Mr. Hoverman stated that a renewal levy request and amount have not been determined. Ms. Westerman added that the School Board has not discussed a renewal, and it will be important for schools to continue at the current level of funding. Surveys show that support remains high in the community.

The Middle School STEAM program explores ways to prepare students for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math. A 21st century approach to education is revitalizing the middle school program with introduction of broader course in languages, fine arts, graphic arts, visual arts. In the fall of 2013, a center on project based learning will be implemented at Chippewa Middle School. These projects will be relevant to real life applications and promote not only academic performance but also seed to bridge gaps in opportunities, expectations, aspirations and students being able to set goals for themselves.

Almost all students start a post-secondary program after high school, but an increasing number drop out and do not finish. Post-secondary training is necessary for a job. The Board has developed five recommendations to ensure all students graduate ready for a career and post-secondary success: 1) help students navigate their education in relation to a career and post-secondary planning; 2) increase opportunities for students to pursue post-secondary credit while in high school; 3) help students who are not on track for post-secondary education to get on track; 4) further teacher preparation with real world skills; 5) early college classes for grades 9 through 12 to make it possible to achieve an Associate of Arts Degree in high school. College classes taken in high school will be free and open to all students. The college curriculum classes would all be general college requirements, which would save students almost \$10,000 in tuition costs.

Mayor Martin noted that Minnesota used to be second in the world in spending for education. Now the state is 38th in getting college degrees. Of those who enter college, 36% graduate. The City will continue to be interested in working with the School District on these issues. Ms. Westerman responded that the District will continue to provide further information to the Council.

DISCUSSION WITH RAMSEY/WASHINGTON METRO WATERSHED DISTRICT

City Manager Schwerm stated that a public hearing is scheduled for later in May regarding the merger of Grass Lake Water Management Organization (GLWMO) with Ramsey/Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD). It is expected that the process will be completed this year to incorporate the area within GLWMO under the

taxing authority of RWMWD in 2013. Mr. Schwerm introduced Administrator Cliff Aichinger from RWMWD who was present to speak with the Council.

Presentation by Administrator Cliff Aichinger

Because of the increasing complexity of water quality law, boards under joint powers agreements are consolidating with larger watershed districts. Grass Lake will become a sub area of RWMWD. The area will not be handled any differently than the rest of the District. The Management Plan will be revised to include GLWMO, and an area plan will be developed to identify issues that will feed into the monitoring program of RWMWD. Issues will be analyzed and specific projects to address issues will be done as needed.

There are five Board members on RWMWD who are appointed by the County Board of Commissioners--four members from Ramsey County and one from Washington County. Members serve as at-large members with no constituency and are very diligent in taking action for what is best for the district. The District consists of 10 cities and covers 56 square miles. The office building is located on Little Canada Road, just off I-35E. The building is an example of Best Management Practices and produces no runoff. He invited Councilmembers and staff to visit anytime at their convenience.

RWMWD operates under a Management Plan, which is now in its third generation and was adopted in 2007. The Plan is updated every 10 years and identifies the major issues and concerns of the District residents and communities regarding flood control and water quality. The vision of RWMWD is to manage water resources and related eco systems so as to sustain long-term health and integrity and to enable such systems to contribute to the well being of citizens within the watershed.

RWMWD focuses on results. The major issues and concerns in the District relate to water quality. Most flood control issues have been solved, but water quality issues are continually being addressed. Where there is not a water quality problem, then protective measures are taken to maintain standards. RWMWD programs include a rigorous inspection program, annual maintenance program, habitat management, new species control, habitat improvement, exotic species control, invasive aquatic vegetation and fisheries management, wetland management, ground water protection, inter-government coordination, and wetland management setback requirements. RWMWD maintains a close relationship with cities and works to provide education, advice and engineering support when needed.

RWMWD has 14 staff with two full-time staff just to work on public education. The District budget averages \$5 to \$6 million with a levy of \$3.8 million. The remaining \$2 million comes from state grants. A principle source of revenue is the property tax levy. Due to the large tax base, the levy is approximately 2.5% (\$40.00) of the total property tax for each parcel per year. RWMWD funds include a City cost-share fund for projects and grants.

There is no emphasis on any one area of science. All issues are balanced in deciding the best approach. If it is found the best approach is not used, the program will be modified and improved. Projects are planned in cooperation with communities, counties and Mn/DOT.

The public hearing for GLWMO to merge with RWMWD is May 29, 2012, in Shoreview. After the public hearing, approval of the petition to merge is needed from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) with an order sent to the Secretary of State. That is the process for Ramsey County to change the tax rolls. Properties will receive a RWMWD tax levy in 2013.

Mr. Schwerm indicated that some people have expressed concern about merging with a larger district because few resources will be directed into the local area. Mr. Aichinger responded that RWMWD will monitor everything. Each sub-watershed area is analyzed to identify issues and priorities the same as in all other areas of the watershed district.

Mayor Martin asked if additional staff is planned and whether there will be local representation on the RWMWD Board. Mr. Aichinger answered that initially, no additional staff is anticipated. It will depend on the projects needed when an updated plan is completed. GLWMO will make up little more than 10% of the RWMWD.

Councilmember Quigley asked how issues can be brought to RWMWD and how residents can learn of planned projects for the year. Mr. Aichinger stated that anyone can come into the office or call him directly. The budget work program and plan updates are sent out to all city public works directors.

Councilmember Wickstrom asked for clarification on how cost-sharing works with the City. Mr. Aichinger explained that a City project that is identified by the RWMWD Plan as a need, then RWMWD will pay for that project.

UPDATE ON CABLE FRANCHISE RENEWAL AND CTV

Presentation by Coralie Wilson

The Cable franchise renewal process is set up in federal law and begins when a letter is received prior to expiration of the franchise. It is at this time that services are reviewed and analyzed in terms of community and technical needs. A consultant, The Buske Group, was hired to determine community cable-related needs and interests. The Comcast franchise will expire in 2013, and serves 10 cities.

In looking at the Cable system itself, it was found that the internal parts of the system are up to date. There is concern about the capacity of the system, which needs to have sufficient capacity for on-demand high definition capability.

One issue being addressed is required compliance with the electrical code. The consultant found well over 300 problem issues from cables not buried to guidelines not

properly structured to safety issues. The cable company must develop a maintenance plan to address code compliance issues immediately.

Communication needs of member communities are being reviewed. With the changing demographic of increasing age, those resident needs must be addressed. Existing public education and governmental channels will be maintained.

It is difficult getting information from Comcast, and there is concern about how revenue from bundled packages is handled. When promotional prices are offered, how is the revenue divided so that no party is at a disadvantage. Comcast will be required to maintain data for three years on everything including bundled services by third parties.

A planning committee will make recommendations to the Board in July or August regarding a strategic plan to: 1) raise the level of awareness of CTV and its services; 2) build sustainability by expanding and diversifying funding sources; 3) explore opportunities presented by making changes to CTV organizational structure; 4) evolve CTV services and training to meet changing needs of the communities; and 5) develop leadership in the use of media technologies to better serve the community.

Councilmember Quigley asked the impact of these changes to cities. Ms. Wilson stated that there will be more hours for original programming by people in communities on things that are of interest to the community. Council meetings will be web streamed so they can be seen on computer, as well as CTV.

Councilmember Withhart stated he would like to see coverage of Mounds View sporting events. Ms. Wilson encouraged contact with Mounds View School District because volunteers are needed to do that and must be trained.

The City has up to 100 hours of free technical or production services. Mr. Schwerm suggested that the City can use some of its hours of programming for various City organizations.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.