

May 22, 2013 DPARB – Front Lot Line Utilities Discussion

Started discussing at last DPARB meeting during the agenda setting portion of the meeting, but Jim and David were gone

Last full discussion in 2006 and 2007

- People upset – Northwestern Energy changed their policies in a very short period of time.
- At that time the private utilities were in the back for the most part
- A number of issues/concerns raised from all affected parties (access to utilities, aesthetic questions)

Section 23-410 Utilities of the BMCC needed to be amended

- City mediated proposed changes to the City Code
- In the end Northwestern Energy did not agree
- It did result in better discussion concerning utility placement and easements during the planning stage

Skip ahead to 2013

- the utilities have been in the front for the last few years (different than in 2006)
- At the last meeting Rod indicated at last meeting that Yellowstone Valley Electric is still in the back in his subdivision.
- The big change now is that MDU continued to go in the back in the past and now they are moving to the front.
- All of utilities should be in one corridor

City Standards are for Boulevard Walks

- Allows room in the boulevard for utilities
- Allows utilities to be placed under the sidewalk if desired by the private utility.
- Boxes and cans will have to be in easements
- Problem has been – private utilities are sometimes placed in an easement behind the right of way – encumbers the front yards.
- If MDU agrees to stay in ROW, this change is really not too concerning to Public Works because the curb valve is still on the private side of the gas line.
- If MDU must be in an easement that is a problem to PW because someone has to dig under the gas line for water and sewer service lines – bad thing

Public Works Items to be Discussed at the May 22, 2013 DPARB Meeting

Item 1 - Requirement for a Certified Concrete Technician be onsite to perform concrete finishing. In City Right-of-Way (ROW)

- MPWSS requires and has required this for some time
- In the past this has not been strictly enforced
- June 11, 2013 – there will be a certification seminar
- This year beginning June 12, 2013 a contractor will not be allowed to pour concrete without the Certified Technician (see attached letter).
- As a concession by the City, if an individual is signed up for the course they will be allowed to pour concrete in the City ROW until June 12 and then they must be certified.
- The Concrete Technician certification exam is offered by the Sylvan Learning Center.
- The attached letter has been sent to all contractors known to the City that work in the City ROW.

Item 2 – City Standard Modifications Are Out and Are Being Used

- These modifications have been given to the parties doing work with the City Engineering Division and has also been given to the HBA.
- These modifications are available on the City's website.

Item 3 – Increase in Fees for Private Contracts

- Fees are used to offset the costs to the City for the work.
- Fees have been increased from 2.5% to 3.5% and are included in Administrative Order No. 124 signed by the City Administrator, Tina Volek.
- Fee now matches the required SID fees
- Fees will become effective July 1, 2013

Item 4 – Subdivision Improvement Agreements (SIAs) Will Now Have Provisions for all Sidewalks to be Complete

- In the past without this provision, there were gaps in the sidewalks in a subdivision resulting in the property owner having to construct the sidewalks at a later time.
- The SIA language will be tailored for each subdivision during the development of the SIA.
- The HBA has said they want a small group to meet with the Engineering Division to discuss how to implement.

Item #1



City of Billings

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
Engineering Division

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May 3, 2013

Attention Billings Contractors:

The Montana Public Works Standards Specification requires that any contractor performing concrete work in the right of way for the City of Billings has a Certified Concrete Technician on site to perform concrete finishing.
(see the following paragraph taken from Montana Public Works Standards Specifications)

SECTION 02529-6TH EDITION

CONCRETE SIDEWALKS, DRIVEWAYS, APPROACHES, CURB TURN FILLETS, VALLEY GUTTERS AND MISCELLANEOUS NEW CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

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3.5 PLACING CONCRETE

- A. Assure the subgrade is compacted and brought to specified grade before placing concrete. Dampen the subgrade immediately before placing the concrete. Spade and tamp the concrete into the forms providing a dense, compacted concrete free of rock pockets. Float, finish and broom the exposed surfaces. **Each placing/finishing crew shall have at least one ACI Flatwork Finisher Technician level or above, on site at all times.**

The City of Billings Inspectors are now checking ACI Certifications at form inspections. If you do not have a Certified Technician for your crews, there are courses that are offered to obtain this certification. The Montana Contractors Association is providing a Concrete Flatwork Finisher & Technician Certification course June 11-12, 2013. Attached is a registration form. Please inform the inspector if you have registered for the June 11-12 class.

In the event you have not registered please provide the inspector with a copy of your ACI Certification. Every contractor must be in compliance by June 12, 2013. If you do not have an ACI Certified Technician on your crew by that date, we will not allow any permits to be issued or any work to be performed in the City ROW until you are in compliance.

If you prefer, you can schedule the test through Prometric located in the Sylvan Learning Center. Enclosed is information on scheduling your test through Prometric.

Once you have completed the course, or have passed the test, please notify Bridgette Heil at 657-8307 or by email at heilb@ci.billings.mt.us

Thank you,

Bridgette Heil
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