

**Minutes of a Public Hearing**  
**CITY OF LITTLEFORK**

Present: Mike Fort, Loren Lehman, Sara Wendt, and Todd Thydean

Others Present: Holly Hoy, Whitney Sims, Jim Howell, Betsy Howell, Rhonda Wimmer, Bruce Grotberg, David Sather, Vonna Sather, Erik Lund, Nick Evens, Dan Siltman, Shelley Williams, Tom Morris, Calvin Olson, Lyle Larson, Ray Fischer, Greg Williams, Sue Williams, Jean Anderson, Joel Anderson, Duane Street, Mike Polkinghorne, Nicole Bolter, Kathleen Dobson, Dennis Jenson, Neil Manninen, Rob Wimmer, Jody Leidholm, James Bakken, Elaine Bakken, Jesse Mercer, Kim Newell, Allyn Newell, and Rod Bergstrom.

The Littlefork City Council conducted a public hearing Wednesday, January 15th, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Littlefork Community Building, 220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN on the proposed street improvement project.

Short Elliott Hendrickson engineers Jason Chopp and Austin Kalisch provided handouts for everyone who attended regarding existing conditions of streets, as well as a project schedule and estimated costs per foot. Based on Littlefork's past assessment practice, the cost would be full price per front foot (\$78.20) on the address side and half price (\$39.10) per foot on the non-address side. The engineers discussed payment options and there would be no payment due until after the project was completed. Mike Bubany, the City's financial advisor, joined on speaker phone. The three payment options that he discussed were: 1. Pay in full, 2. Pay part assessment, and 3. Don't prepay – roll over into a real estate bond. He suggested a twenty- or thirty-year bond. Main Street qualifies for a state funded 80% Local Road Improvement Plan (LRIP) grant.

Lyle Larson commented that the taxes in Littlefork are more expensive than the taxes in International Falls.

Jody Liedholm commented that his street was recently paved and has at least ten years left on it before replacement is needed.

Discussion went on about poor maintenance of streets. Whitney Sims asked what the cost would be to go back to gravel. Engineer Jason Chopp explained that would be a savings on the front end but would require a lot of maintenance. Neil Manninen commented that the material used in paving layers prevents cracks.

Kathleen Dobson commented that Littlefork is not growing in population and that the proposed assessments would tax people right out of their homes.

Mike Polkinghorne commented on the expense of the project right now and asked the council to consider waiting a year and then address the project. Jesse Mercer, Lyle Larson, and Rob Wimmer also liked the option of putting the project on hold for a year. The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Attest: Holly Hoy  
City Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer

Mayor Mike Fort