

**CITY OF TUCUMCARI
CITY COMMISSION
Work Session Notes
September 9, 2010**

The Tucumcari City Commission met in a work session on Thursday, September 9, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Commission Chambers. Members present constituting a quorum were Amiel Curnutt, Robert Lumpkin, and Jim Witcher.

City staff members present were Bobbye Rose, City Manager; Mike Cherry, Assistant City Manager; Christine Dougherty, City Clerk; Dennis Dysart, Finance Manager; Alex Madrid, Streets and Sanitation Superintendent; and Clara Rey, Human Resources Director.

Streets and Sanitation Department

Chip Seal Machine

Mr. Alex Madrid informed the Commission that his department uses a dura patcher machine. Mr. Madrid stated that the machine was purchased in conjunction with Quay County in 2004. The City contributed half of the cost which was \$12,636. He went on to explain that the machine was purchased due to its ability to stand alone in patching roads. Mr. Madrid went on to say that the County uses the machine in the summer time and the City usually uses it in the spring and fall. Mr. Madrid explained that this past May the machine was used on the fitness track, at the cemetery, and to prepare the street for the high school seniors to paint.

Alex went on to explain that the machine is a liquid seal machine and utilizes chips. The machine is primarily used in alleys and to seal concrete cracks. Alex explained that the machine does not create the highest quality repair but does a good job. He also explained that the machine uses HEP 100 chip seal oil which ranges from \$525 to \$600 a ton depending on the quality of the oil. The price per ton for the chips is \$25.

Alex explained that when the dura patcher machine is used, it seals the road for a year or two. When the process of repair is complete, the oil is only about a quarter of an inch thick with the chips on top. Additionally, when the weather gets cold, the product shrinks and when it's hot outside, it tends to run. As the weather changes, the patches shrink and expand and come out of the cracks. Also, Alex explained that the amount of traffic that travels over the patches impacts how much the product seals to the crack. Streets with more traffic are good candidates for repair with the dura patcher according to Alex.

Alex explained that coal mix is used for repairs because application uses less man power. He stated that his department has also used chip seal process to repair roads. All three types of repair methods are used at different times and at different locations. Alex explained that one problem is that the City does not have a crack cleaner. Alex stated

that he can rent a crack cleaner and purchase sealer for \$4000. He also explained that he is looking for a crack cleaner to purchase.

Mr. Madrid went on to explain that he feels hot mix is the best repair medium for the streets. He explained that usually two inches of mix are placed on a street. He noted an exception to this standard is Second Street where three inches of mix were applied due to the amount of traffic on that street. Mr. Madrid went on to say that the cost to put two inches of hot mix on the average city block is around \$16,000. He stated that the life expectancy of hot mix is 20-30 years. Alex then explained that chip sealing provides around one half inch thick coverage on the roads, costs about \$6000 per city block and is expected to last five to eight years. Alex stated that the dura patcher works fine when combined with other processes however, the product shifts and ripples. Alex explained that the dura patcher uses one ton of oil seal to cover approximately three city blocks which costs approximately \$525.

Alex stated that the oil truck owned by the City has a lot of problems. Alex was informed by the previous Street Superintendent that a repair shop in Albuquerque told him it would cost more to repair the truck than to replace it. Alex said the truck runs but can't be used for oil. He also explained that the truck must be hazardous materials certified to be used as an oil truck. Alex stated that currently he is sending his staff to Artesia to get the chip seal truck filled with oil.

Mayor Witcher asked if the oil truck could be converted for some other City use. Alex suggested that it could be used as a water truck for dust control at the new landfill. Mr. Lumpkin agreed that would be a good use for the truck.

Alex stated that the weather window for chip sealing is open now and he plans to have his staff work on Ninth Street between Washington and Georgetown. He also will try to have staff work on Tiffany, Sunburst, Monroe, and Rock Island.

Mayor Witcher stated that in order to receive grant money for street resurfacing, the neighborhood has to meet income requirements. Mr. Witcher also stated he understands that the Streets Staff are busy mowing at the Industrial Park. Mr. Lumpkin stated that with the recent rains, the Streets staff is doing a lot of mowing.

Ms. Rose stated that her concern is that the roads in good condition need to be maintained. Ms. Rose explained that there are many roads in the City that have weeds growing up through them and if not taken care of, the vegetation will erode the roads.

Mr. Curnutt stated that an annual plan needs to be drafted for routine road maintenance because grant funding for roads can not always been counted on for repair. Mr. Curnutt stated that funds must be set aside to maintain the roads. Ms. Rose stated that the road projects need to be on the ICIP plan.

Alex Madrid explained that a five year plan for the roads exists. He went on to explain that Wilson and Company evaluated all the roads in the City. There are 66 miles of roads

in the City that the department has to maintain. Alex explained that the cost to maintain the roads is \$900,000 to \$1.2 million per mile. Alex stated that in the past the short term maintenance was always priority and now the focus is on long term maintenance of the roads.

Alex also mentioned that last winter was very wet and consequently lots of potholes formed. Alex went on to say that the budget for annual maintenance of the roads is \$40,000 and this will not repair very much road. He explained that his department works on a need basis. He also stated that only a few months into this fiscal year, he has exhausted his budget for weed killer.

Equipment Purchased at State Auction

Alex reported that at the State Auction most of the equipment did not run. He did report finding one good truck with a fifth wheel that he purchased. The other vehicles that were purchased were done so that their parts can be used to repair other trucks.

Personnel Policy

Dress Code

Ms. Rose stated that she felt the dress code in the personnel policy was vague and she clarified her expectations with a memo to staff. In the memo, she asked for input from Department Heads. She received very little response but what she did receive varied widely.

Mr. Lumpkin stated that he feels the dress code should comply with currently accepted societal standards. He went on to say that the standards could be set by department. Mr. Witcher disagreed saying that the policy should be consistent across the City.

Mr. Witcher stated that body art and piercings are a matter of personal taste. He did not feel the City can dictate those things to employees. Mr. Witcher stated that the City does not have the right to tell employees what they can and cannot do with their bodies.

Mr. Lumpkin stated that he is not offended by tattoos and piercings. He did however, state that employees should look as nice as possible. Mr. Lumpkin stated that what is considered acceptable is a matter of opinion. He also expressed that the dress code should take safety issues into consideration. Mr. Lumpkin suggested that the line could be drawn at facial tattoos and only allowing piercings in the ears. He added that offensive language or images should be disallowed. He also added that he was concerned about violating human rights.

Mr. Witcher stated that the policy cannot be retro-active.

Respectfully Submitted:

Christine Dougherty, City Clerk