

LOCALNEWS

City Council hires engineer for project

BY SPENSER BICKETT  
Staff Writer

The Littlefork City Council Thursday hired an engineer to develop a plan to improve the city's water and sewer lines.

John Mattonen of JPJ Engineering will work with city officials to develop a plan to replace the water and sewer lines over the next 10 years, city Administrator Sonja Pelland said. City officials want to lay out a comprehensive plan for replacements, instead of doing small repair after small repair, she said.

"He's going to help us with a plan on how to go about replacing and repairing everything throughout the city in a way that makes sense," Pelland said.

In 2015, the city is scheduled to replace water and sewer mains on Fourth Avenue, Sixth Avenue, and Central Road, as well as some interior piping and valves at the water treatment plant. The more than \$1 million project will likely be funded through a variety of grants and other sources.

To qualify for grants from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development program, Pelland said the council had to officially

hire an engineer for the project, which led to hiring Mattonen.

In other business, the council set a date for the yearly, city-wide spring cleaning week. During the week of May 12-16, residents can rake their yards, bag the leaves, set them at the curb, and city crews will come by and dispose of them, Pelland said. Crews will also check the city for junk cars sitting around or other things people need clean up and remove.

The council also granted a sponsorship to the Northern Minnesota District Fair. The annual fair is July 11-13 in Littlefork, and the city usually is one of the sponsors of the event, Pelland said. The city contributed the usual \$1,000, she said, and also agreed to have maintenance crews help with moving picnic tables and other heavier items before the event.

International Falls Building Inspector Kelly Meyers has agreed to inspect the dilapidated buildings in Littlefork, Pelland said. There are two vacant buildings on either side of the Jackpine Savage Grill on Main Street, but Meyers will make a list of all the buildings in the city that need attention, she said.

Permits sought for power line

Both proposed routes travel through Koochiching County

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

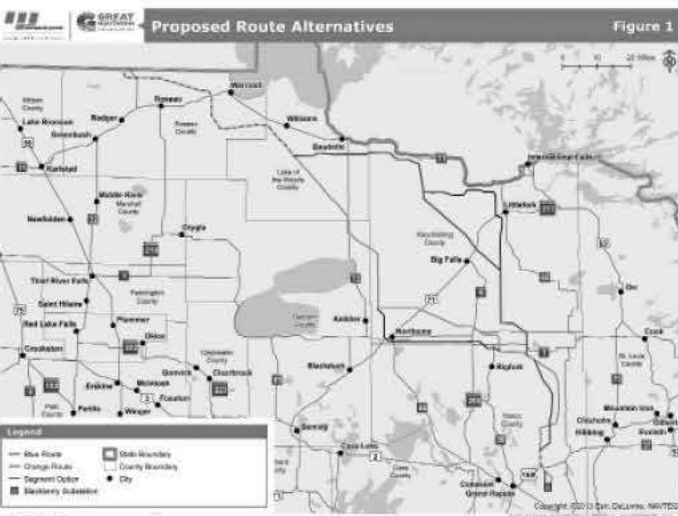
Minnesota Power last week applied for permits to build a 500-kilovolt Great Northern Transmission Line on one of two routes from the Minnesota-Manitoba border to an electric substation on the Mesabi Iron Range.

Both proposed routes travel through Koochiching County.

Minnesota Power filed a route permit application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and also applied for a Presidential Permit from the U.S. Department of Energy for the international interconnection at the U.S.-Canadian border.

The Great Northern Transmission Line will deliver to Minnesota Power customers and the upper Midwest clean, emission-free hydroelectricity generated by Manitoba Hydro to meet growing and changing energy demands, said a news release. The project advances Minnesota Power's EnergyForward strategy of increasing its generation diversity and expanding its renewable energy portfolio.

The two proposed routes cross into Canada about 20 miles northwest of Roseau. In Lake of the Woods County, one route proposed heads east into Koochiching County and then southeast into Itasca County. The other route runs southeast through Lake of the Woods County and then through the



southwest portion of Koochiching County.

The applications filed with the MPUC and DOE explain that the line will generally require a 200-foot wide right-of-way, with four or five structures per mile about 100 to 150 feet in height. The type of structures will depend on land type and land use.

Both proposed alternatives are approximately 220 miles and, where feasible, follow existing transmission line rights-of-way.

Minnesota Power estimates total project cost in the U.S., including substation work, between \$500 million and \$650 million, depending upon the final approved route.

Project construction is expected to begin by 2016 and be completed by 2020. A University of Minnesota-Duluth economic study estimated the project will create 213 construction jobs and 73 additional indirect jobs.

The Great Northern Transmission Line will generate approximately \$28 million annually in state and local taxes, according to the study. About \$875 million of direct and indirect spending on goods and services will be needed to support construction activities, researchers said.

"The Great Northern Line enhances a unique synergy involving hydropower and wind," said Minnesota Power Chief Operating Officer Brad Oachs in a news release. "The new transmission capacity more readily allows the Manitoba Hydro system to store intermittent wind generation during times when energy markets don't need it. This is important to Minnesota Power as we expand our Bison wind project to 500 MW in North Dakota by the end of this year."

Since 2012, Minnesota Power has held more than 75 open houses and meetings

with agencies, tribes, local government units, landowners and the general public to gather input on the routing of the transmission line project.

"We look forward to continuing our work with state and federal agencies in identifying the best route for this project," Oachs said. "The public will have additional opportunities to provide input which continues to be an important facet of this project."

The new transmission line will facilitate the delivery of at least 750 megawatts of energy into the U.S. beginning in 2020. Minnesota Power, which will have majority ownership of the project, will utilize the Great Northern Transmission Line to deliver to its service area 250 MW from Manitoba Hydro through a power purchase agreement approved by the MPUC. The two utilities are also finalizing an agreement outlining how Minnesota Power will purchase additional energy and substantially expand its energy storage opportunities using the new asset.

For more information about the project, visit [www.greatnortherntransmission-line.com](http://www.greatnortherntransmission-line.com).

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting 143,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States.

Boise Paper employees award safety funds

Boise Paper pulp and bleach employees presented \$2,700 in safety funds to Koochiching County youth and supplemental food service organizations at a safety meeting in April.

Boise Paper, A Division of Packaging Corporation of America, donated the funds in recognition of employee safety participation in March. Employees then voted to distribute funds evenly to the Rotary Club's STRIVE and Learning Tree programs, United Way's Buddy Backpacks and Imagination Library, Project Read, Backus Community Café, Falls Hunger Coalition, and Salvation Army food pantry.

"I extend my congratulations to the very deserving non-profit organizations and to the pulp and bleach employees for their commitment to a safe work environment," says Bert Brown, mill manager. "In addition to consistently achieving 100 percent safety participation, they recently reached the outstanding milestone of working one year without a recordable incident."

For the past several years, monies have been set aside to assist organizations in Koochiching County based on employee safety participation. Those interested in learning more information about the program are encouraged to call 218.285.5312.



Pulp and bleach employees Dave Ginter, Bob Bruggeman, Rick Faulkner, John Maclean, Brandon Dion, Noah Ginter, Waylon Olson, Bruce Budris, Mark Hauke, Dean Boerger and Chuck Coombe join Backus Community Center representative Hoa Sobczynski, United Way volunteer Betsy Zaren, and Project Read coordinator Gail Rasmussen.

**BOISE® Paper**  
A Division of Packaging Corporation of America

**Handmade POTTERY AT CITY DRUG**

This pottery is handmade on a potter's wheel and fired to 2,345 degrees which insures lasting durability. Made with a lead free glaze so it's food safe, dishwasher, microwave and oven safe.

<p>Inscribed with: "Together forever through love, honesty, respect, faithfulness, compromise, and compassion."</p>	<p>Inscribed with: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control" Galatians 5:22</p>
<p>Inscribed with: "Trust as if there were no doubt, forgive as if there were no blame and love as if there were no tomorrow."</p>	<p>Inscribed with: "Good Food, Good Wine, Good Friends, Good Times"</p>

**Great Gift Ideas For** Anniversary, Wedding, Retirement, Milestone, Keepsake or any Special Occasion

**City Drug**  
[www.citydrugstore.com](http://www.citydrugstore.com)  
283-3061  
314 3rd St., Int'l Falls  
Mon. - Sat. 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Makes A Great Graduation Gift!**