



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

To Robert W. Healy, City Manager

Date June 16, 1988

From William Sommer, Commissioner, PWD

Reference

Subject Council Order No.24 - Councillor Duehay - 10/19/87 and 5/23/88.
Re: Petition of residents on Elmer Street to widen the street to 30 feet.

Elmer Street is 25 feet in width running from Hingham to a private way. The street is curbed on its western side where there are five houses. The easterly side has one house at the intersection of Elmer and Hingham; the rest of the abutting land is now vacant. The plan would be to take five feet from the westerly side, making a thirty foot road.

To accomplish this the City would have to receive, either by donation or by eminent domain, about 665 square feet. However, since the house at the intersection of Hingham and Elmer is within the five foot limit, the proposal would be to leave the street at 25 feet the length of the house and begin the taking five feet in the back yard of the house. If the land were donated, of course, there would be no cost to the City; if, however, the land had to be taken by eminent domain, our consultation with the assessor's office indicates that the going rate is \$10/ square foot or an estimated cost of \$6,650 for this taking. But the assessor also points out that the taking of a portion of the parcel proposed for apartments might be higher since the taking of the five foot strip might deprive the property of its ability to build as many houses or units than before the taking; this could be an important issue and could, according to the assessor's estimate, raise the cost of the taking to as high as \$40,000.

If the land were taken there would be an expectation that Elmer Street would be rebuilt to include curbing on the side of the taking. Our estimate of the cost of reconstruction, based on current figures taken from recent contract awards, would be about \$56,000.

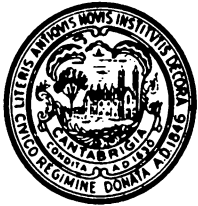
If the taking had to be paid for and if the street were reconstructed, the estimated cost for the whole enterprise would be \$96,000.

It should be pointed out that, according to our records, most of the property, including five houses, on the westerly side are owned by one property owner.

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OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

ROBERT W. HEALY

City Manager

RICHARD C. ROSSI

Deputy City Manager

July 25, 1988

To the Honorable, the City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report No. 10 regarding the widening of Elmer Street, I submit the attached report from the Public Works Department.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

Agenda Item No. 4 S-493

Re: response to Awaiting Report Item 10
on the widening of Elmer Street.

In City Council,

July 25, 1988

Referred to the City
Mgr. with request for
discussion with property
owners for donation of land.

Copy sent to City Manager
7/27/88 (di)