

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of JULY 1, 2020

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held via remotely by phone at the DPW 50 Manca Drive at 4:30 PM on July 1, 2020.

Members Present via telephone: Councilor Nathan Boudreau, Chairman; Councilor Karen Hardern, Councilor Judy Mack, Adm. Assistant Christine Harty

Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director, Chris Coughlin City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Nathan Boudreau called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

ANNOUNCEMENT – any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All Documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

Dane announces Christine Harty is recording meeting for purpose of minute taking.

SPECIAL NOTE TO BEGIN

Councilor Nathan Boudreau begins with a special acknowledgement thanking Denise Merriam for her many years of work with the PSC, The DPW, the City and the Retirement Board.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting as written Councilor Judy Mack second by Councilor Karen Hardern, all in favor motion carries.

ORDINANCE ISSUE

Order #10288, Petition by National Grid for permission to install 197' of conduit starting at 370 Park Street and heading north to pole 40 Clark Street. Chris Coughlin, underground work to do with updating of transmission lines. Ok with work but recommend curb to curb paving restoration. Dane, it is actually 307 Park Street and not 370. Councilor Boudreau have it stated on record it is 307 Park Street. Motion made by Councilor Judy Mack, second by Councilor Karen Hardern to accept with contingency of paving restoration to City Council for Public Hearing. Role call vote was taken with all yes, motion passes.

SEWER/WATER ISSUES

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Dane Arnold: Water/Sewer project downtown: the contractor is off this week with no water work being done. Will continue work next week starting with connection of Main at Pleasant St. intersection of Main St. and down to City Hall. The water will be

off approximately 6 hours at Pleasant St., City Hall and a few units leading up to Knowlton St. until connection is made. They will then continue up Central St. to complete a fire service for the Heywood Wakefield Building and also a tie-in on Maple St. and then connecting the main going down Pine St. Dane, any questions? Councilor Mack, have residents at Pleasant Street, City Hall and Knowlton have been notified? Dane, City Hall was one hour ago and approximately 40 notices have been drawn up to notify remaining residents. Councilor Mack, will residents at Wakefield Building and the Assisted Living Building will be affected by the Central St., Maple St. and Pine St. connection. Dane, they should not, they are currently fed off the new water main. Councilor Mack, thank you for the information.

Councilor Boudreau to Councilor Mack, I understand several business on Main St. have reached out to you re: water project and Dane has spoken with them directly, any other concerns regarding them reaching out to you? Councilor Mack, yes, did receive communication with Johns Sports Shop. Very discouraged by length of project and now wish they'd kept track of worked versus non worked time during the 14 months. They requested the Water/Sewer Dept. be honest when reached out to by other Cities regarding a recommendation of the contractor and their work. Mack, businesses affected have been greatly discouraged, upset, and should be acknowledged.

Dane, not understanding, do you mean a recommendation of the Contractor? Councilor Mack, yes, would like the Water/Sewer Dept. to be honest if anyone comes back for a recommendation of Contractor. Dane states he feels it's actually gone well considering the old infrastructure in ground, very little plans on it, very congested infrastructure, going through reinforced concrete and connecting to 110 year old water pipes. There will be issues no matter who the contractor. We have run into ledge causing 5-6 week delay on City Hall Ave. doing the water/sewer main, not on contractor. The gas company in front of Ale House now on what was believed a week and a half job for a month now due to ledge. Will have unforeseen issues that come with a project of this size. It is largest DPW or infrastructure project downtown has seen since installation of original mains.

Councilor Mack, the concern of businesses, started over a year ago tho do agree this project had to be done, second moved to different parts of city then came back to Main St, third businesses had to shut down during Covid period when they could have worked all but 2 weeks of that time. Believed some of the area with businesses and restaurants would have been completed during that time and were not, fourth there have been errors on breaking of pipes and lastly their needs have not always been foremost in this project.

Dane, 100 % understand frustration of businesses and spoke directly with them. August 26 of last year was actually the breaking day of water main project. There is other work downtown. Gas co. began earlier in summer and downtown sidewalk project began, may have appeared as though water main project had begun. Downtown very busy as far as infrastructure projects. Covid affected the

crew on the project, with one member out for testing, down for 10 days. Couple that with the ledge issue and water main breaks which will happen, some services were not marked. These issues are bound to happen on project this large.

Councilor Mack, positive note, businesses are happy with company doing sidewalk project. Stating have been wonderful and done what they could to make easier for businesses.

Councilor Boudreau thanks Councilor Mack. Councilor Boudreau to Dane, is that all for today? Dane, would like to speak of flooding around city on this past Sunday. Received more than 3" in one hour. Significant flooding that storm systems are not designed for. Councilor Boudreau states not much can be done for that. Dane states would like to have drain lines televised throughout the city. Not much money to televise and if blockage found, can address.

Chris Coughlin states most concerned about Wasa St. drain which catches most of downtown and dumps into Parker Pond. Significant surcharge at Greenwood Playground. Councilor Boudreau, remember flooding couple years ago at Acadia Club. Chris Coughlin, yes, same idea. We would like to televise upstream past bank toward Acadia Club and downstream toward Jean St. Perhaps find a tree root or some blockage to address rather than it being the size of the pipe as issue.

Dane, lastly update on the North Gardner Woods, Kelton, Stone, Wheeler and Raymond Street road conditions. They are in bad condition, tons of potholes, and beyond sending crew and wasting money on patching. Have an estimate on Company coming in under City Contract to pulverize what is about 3-4 miles of road, turning it to gravel, and paving what can be afforded this fiscal year (Eaton St. across from Golf Course, down past Veterans Center and out to Route 140 Bridge).

Chris Coughlin: In addition to flooding on Sunday, dam on Winter Street let go. The guess is the big gate at the bottom has let go. Temporary fix to retain some water is being done by sandbagging but will be meeting with contractor/dam consultant to find long term solution and ballpark price, could become expensive. It is an old mill dam not really serving much purpose but an aesthetic of the pond. Update at met meeting.

Lindsay Butler: Have received many complaints of Bents Pond as well.

Mass Electric is working on relocating some poles on West Street.

The Elementary School Commission is working on issuing order of conditions for the project to move forward.

Leo Park is out to bid right now, Phase 1, Natural Park, not a complex. Councilor Boudreau states he and Councilor Hardern would still like to go out and view Parkers Pond land.

MONEY ORDERS

Dane requesting a One Million dollar loan for two projects to be undertaken by Water Department.

First one is to paint elevated storage tank on 140. Last done 2004-5, after inspection shows signs of needing cleaning, repairs and painting. Estimated to be 350-500 thousand, out to bid now.

Second is inside Crystal Lake Water Facility, filters treating water from lake are in need of replacement, last done in 2007. 177 of them at approximately 1.500.00 a piece with plumbing work and fittings, estimated cost 350-400 thousand dollar job. Jobs combined could be 700-950 thousand dollars. Short term loan for 5 years with forecast of water, loan will not impact water rates. Councilor Mack, filters out to bid. Dane, these are specific items and the quote will come from Veolia.

Motion made by Councilor Karen Hardern second by Councilor Judy Mack, motion to send to City Council. Roll call vote was taken with all yes, motion passes.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILOR'S

Councilor Judy Mack: Rocks at Crystal Lake Cemetery, Dane stated we are working on it.

Councilor Mack, who maintains outside building at pool, needs to be painted. Dane, Personnel Department does.

Councilor Mack, follow-up on 5/13 discussion for tree removal on Chapel Street. Dane, lengthy process, is in process, had some delays.

Councilor Mack to Councilors, would like to join on walk at Parkers Pond.

Councilor Karen Hardern: Call from resident on Harvard and Baker Street, major concerns.

Dane, will meet her out there to discuss. Dane, update on paving, much is needed and not enough received from Chapter 90, will have to sit with Mayor and discuss.

Councilor Nathan Boudreau: Sidewalk on corner of Waterford and Church still issue. Disabled resident in wheelchair having many issues. Dane, our error, had wrong side of Church Street. Will go out tomorrow and look.

Motion made by Councilor Judy Mack second by Councilor Karen Hardern to adjourn meeting at 5:10 pm. Roll Call vote: Councilor Judy Mack yes, Councilor Karen Hardern yes, Councilor Nathan Boudreau yes. Motion passes.

Next meeting scheduled as needed.

All documents submitted at this meeting are stored in the office of the DPW 50 Manca Drive for any review.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant

PRESIDENT
Elizabeth J. Kazinskas

COUNCILLORS AT LARGE
James S. Boone
Craig R. Cormier
Ronald F. Cormier
Scott Joseph Graves, Esq.
Judy A. Mack
George C. Tyros

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WARD 1 COUNCILLOR
James M. Walsh, Esq.

WARD 2 COUNCILLOR
Elizabeth J. Kazinskas

WARD 3 COUNCILLOR
Nathan R. Boudreau

WARD 4 COUNCILLOR
Karen G. Hardern

WARD 5 COUNCILLOR
Alek Dernalowicz, Esq.

June 26, 2020

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Time: 4:30 P.M.

Location: Remotely*

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AGENDA

1. Review and Approval of the Minutes of the prior meeting.
2. Department Updates:
 - Public Works/Sewer/Water – Dane Arnold, DPW Director
 - Survey/Engineering – Chris Coughlin, City Engineer
 - Conservation Commission – Lyndsy Butler, Conservation Agent
3. Abatements Water/Sewer
4. #10288, Petition by National Grid for permission to install 197' of conduit starting at 370 Park Street and heading north to pole 40 Clark Street.
5. Water Department Loan Order Request for 2 Items.
6. Councillor Requests
7. Adjournment

NOTICE: The listing of Agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chairman which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

CITY COUNCIL OF GARDNER

Nathan R. Boudreau

Nathan R. Boudreau
Chairman, Public Service Committee

**Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Committee will be conducted via remote participation and broadcast live on Gardner YouTube Channel. The audio recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings will be posted on the City's website as soon as possible after the meeting.*