

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of February 17, 2022

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 3:00 PM on February 17, 2022.

Members Present: Councilor James M. Walsh, Chairman; Councilor Alek Dernalowicz; Councilor George C. Tyros; Administrative Assistant Christine Harty

Attendees: Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director; Katie Guertin, Conservation Agent; Neil Viner, Senior Civil Engineer.

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 3:00 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.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the meetings dated October 27, 2021 as written. Current committee was not acting committee at time of covered meeting however recording was available for review of written minutes. Motion made to accept minutes by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

NICHOLS STREET ROAD OPENING

Property owner, Angel Dejesus present to request road opening at location of rental property. Looking to re-install gas line to 57-59 Nichols Street. States with the rising costs of oil prices his (7) tenants have proposed this request to him and are also willing to absorb the costs. Owner purchased property in September shortly after newly paved.

Dane Arnold, road was recently paved this past August 2022. There is a (5) year moratorium for any excavation on newly paved roadways. Owner would be requesting waiver on excavation and of the \$ 5,000.00 fee.

Councilor James Walsh, owner will need to provide more information for assessment of the situation. Sketch providing gas line position in road. Will defer this request until more information is provided regarding the disturbance of the recently paved public way and the plan for restoring the road following excavation.

Councilor James Walsh recommends tabling of Nichols Street Road Opening request until additional information requested is provided. Motion made to accept recommendation by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros.

Councilor George C. Tyros recommends property owner stay in close contact with DPW on this matter. Councilor James Walsh provided 60-day period to return with additional information requested by Committee.

ABATEMENTS WATER/SEWER

10 Robillard Street: Homeowner, Denise Santiago, contacted by phone to attend meeting for appeal. Was unable to attend today's meeting. Requested for a second time to be placed on next scheduled meeting for opportunity to appeal.

Councilors resume brief discussion, agree to allow owner of 10 Robillard one more opportunity to attend next scheduled meeting for appeal of water/sewer bill. Motion made by Councilor George C. Tyros, second by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz to extend appeal opportunity one last time to next scheduled meeting.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Dane Arnold: Provided committee members handouts. First handout in regard to the DPW Road Opening Policy. After discussion with Committee Chair and Mayor we are looking to convert/draft policy into ordinance. Additional ordinance drafting also in works for water and sewer. Once complete will bring to PSC and then Council as a whole.

Councilor James Walsh, this drafting of ordinance came about after discussion with Dane regarding the Nichols Street road opening request. It was found the road opening moratorium is a direct policy of DPW rather than ordinance.

Dane, second handout is Drinking Water mailing to all City water residents. During recent repair and cleaning of water storage well at Crystal Lake Treatment Facility there was a brief 40-minute period, where upon bringing well back online, the chlorine level had dropped just below limit. It was a brief period, no concern to residents (no boil water action needed) however DEP requirement is we send out Drinking Water Notification.

Dane, third handout is draft of paving list/plan. Portion of handout in blue covers portion of City covered by Water Main Project. Cost to pave portion of City from water project would be 1.8-million dollars. There is approximately 367,000 dollars remaining from the original 11-million-dollar loan. Would need to ask City Council for additional 1.5-million-dollar loan.

Portion of handout in red is not part of the Water Main Project. Cost to pave this portion is 1.1-million dollars, of which there is money left in our paving account as well as Chapter 90 account. Would need to request an additional 260,000 dollars, however this will leave us with no money for any other paving. Included in paving list/plan are sidewalks to be completed, noted in green.

Councilor James Walsh, could this be covered by the infrastructure legislation? Dane, unsure, regarding question of infrastructure bill. It will need to be determined what part of paving list can be done. Councilor James Walsh, this will be the Mayor's decision.

Dane, we had a virtual meeting with State regarding paving of Pearson Blvd., on docket to be paved this summer. Also working on paving of Pearl Street, road is in bad shape, delaminated. Design of rotary design is finalized and on docket for construction in 2024.

Councilor James Walsh, we can discuss design details of rotary at next meeting.

Dane, Route 140 tip project, construction this year. Location is from Green Street at horse stables to Winchendon.

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, will Pearson project include sidewalks? Dane, yes from Williams to the rotary @ Olney Street.

Chris Coughlin: ***Chris is not present for meeting, Dane Arnold provides updates on his behalf.

The street light request at Beagle club has been installed. The street light request for back school access at Blanchard Street has not been completed.

Councilor James Walsh, what is status of lighting under rotary? Dane, State owns them. Now that rotary is complete, broken/crushed conduit. National Grid will not touch conduit where State completed work. Unsure process, it is with National Grid and State.

Katie Guertin: Working on Keyes Road Culvert Grant, we were awarded 123,000 dollars with grant, in design phase with Tighe & Bond. Design will be completed on June 30th. For construction, applying for a MVP Grant, will fund up to 3-million dollars with 25% match. This Grant requires flood design not included, was an additional charge with Tighe & Bond. Construction will be 1 to 1.5 million dollars. In addition to MVP Grant, will apply for DER Culvert Grant (will award up to \$400,000) & Small Bridge Grant under State. Keyes Rd. Bridge falls within requirements of bridge grant. The bridge is the main road and only access for residents of Keyes Road.

Update on Open Space Plan, presently working on RFQ. Will gather committee and get rolling mid-spring.

Lastly, Bailey Brook Park is in design, phase 2, had received 380,000-dollar award for construction, but will not receive until FY 2023. Had requested remaining 39,000 dollars from City to finish design phase. Fuss & O'Neill should complete design phase by June 1st. so that we can go out for construction phase. Construction phase will have to be complete by June 2023.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILOR'S

Councilor James Walsh: How is pothole patrol repairs going? Do we have two crews out?

Dane, yes, two trucks up and running. Also utilizing cold patch to get us through until spring. Can only put out so much with pothole patrol before must use cold patch with current weather conditions.

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: Resident on Whitney Street at corner of Adam Street. Tree is hanging over what was previously a City Street, was a portion of Whitney Street. Question is, though road is removed, is City still responsible? Dane, tree in question was sent to City Solicitor, John Flick and City Clerk.

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, also regarding previous request of resident for a new bus stop. As indicated, contacted Mart, they completed their assessment and are willing to construct but unsure if would need to facilitate with DPW. Dane, no, would be the DARE Officer and school who would meet to determine safety of stop.

Councilor George C. Tyros: No request.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor George C. Tyros, second by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 pm. Roll Call vote: Councilor Alek Dernalowicz yes, Councilor George C. Tyros yes, Councilor James Walsh 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