

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of March 30, 2023

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 8:00 AM on March 30, 2023.

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

Attendees: Mayor Michael J. Nicholson; Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director; Rob Oliva, City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:00 am. Welcomes Mayor Michael Nicholson.

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 a recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the 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.

APPEAL

20 Graham Street: Owner, Sarah Carroll Hydon is present for appeal, wishes to ask permission to excavate street. A newly renovated multi-family with two new water lines, sprinkler system brought to code. Plans submitted to Director, Dane Arnold, City bonded contractor obtained.

Dane, informs committee street is 2 years into the 5-year moratorium. Requests is owner given permission to excavate it is with condition for flowable fill to prevent settling.

Motion made to grant waiver of 5-year moratorium, allowing excavation of street with condition of flowable fill. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

POLE PETITION

- **10909** – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. – Cross Street – to install 4 jointly owned poles on Cross Street beginning at a point approximately 15 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Lawrence Street and Cross Street and continuing approximately 800 feet in a west direction. Install 4 new poles on Cross Street. (*Public Service Committee; Public Hearing Required*)

Representative for National Grid, Eric Fontaine, present to explain and answer questions on project. Also present is resident David Kenney, homeowner of 73 Edgell Street/abutter to the pole petition, requesting further information regarding the work to be done on his property.

Discussion and questions arise regarding the timeframe for project completion. Up to date and information for abutters, and for follow through/verification from other utilities.

Councilor James Walsh, recommendation to postpone for time to resolve matters such as: timeframe, more information for residents affected, and follow through and verification with other utilities involved.

Motion made to recommend passage of petition subject to an inquiry regarding involvement of property and private property owners. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH ASHBURNHAM

Mayor Nicholson presents agreement to the Committee, noting it was on the Ashburnham Board of Selectmen Agenda and signed now awaiting the City of Gardner approval. Two documents are included, The Agreement itself and First Amendment to the IMA with payment agreement. He states the City Solicitor has approved, awaiting City Council approval.

Councilor James Walsh, inquires with Dane if Ashburnham is only behind on the capital improvement portion of the agreement? Dane notes yes, current on usage payments, agree to payment plan and to any future capital improvements. Dane, agreement provides more teeth, esp. with odors and flows down Pearl Street.

Agreement to be presented to the Finance Committee at Monday's meeting.

Motion made for passage to City Council of the Intermunicipal Agreement between City of Gardner and Town of Ashburnham for Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Disposal. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Motion to accept the minutes of the meeting dated February 2, 2023, as written. Motion made to accept minutes by Councilor George C. Tyros, second by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, all in favor motion carries.

WATERSHED LANDS

City Engineer, Rob Oliva, has been requested by Councillor James Walsh to provide graphics for better understanding regarding the zoning changes along 140 and parcels involved. Looking for more understanding in identifying the locations following the information discussed at the Planning Board meeting of Watershed Lands within the City. Documents provided from the City Codes, Chapter 632. Watershed Lands and Chapter 675 are provided.

Rob provides explanation of the codes and identifies the locations of the Watershed Lands and Zoning/Surface Water Protection Overlay District with visual mapping. He provides better understanding of the various locations. With the visual mapping provided Rob also identifies the locations of the Zoning, and surface water protection.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Dane Arnold:

1. Finance Requests
 - a. **Sewer Structures**, requesting \$50,000 to purchase sewer manhole frames and covers for the upcoming paving season. Mayor Nicholson states requests are on the agenda for the Finance Committee. States he agrees with need of the Sewer Structure request as well as the Water Structure request, will be less disruption to residents completing with current project of repaving the streets.
 - b. **Water Structures**, requesting \$30,000 from available Water Surplus to Repairs and Mains to purchase water gate box tops and other necessary materials for the upcoming paving season.
 - c. **Sewer Relining**, requesting \$150,000 for the relining of sewer mains. Approximately 1 mile of mains were found to need relining following the recent cleaning and televising of 6 miles of sewer lines.
2. DPW is down on crew, currently the Municipal Grounds crew is down 3 employees. The Department is aware of damage and debris cleanup needed at the cemeteries, may take a bit longer to complete with staff shortage.
3. 1.57 million Dollar Grant received for the Wastewater Plant upgrades, will need to match 25% from sewer reserves.
4. Received Grant money for Transmission Line. Chris Coughlin is currently working on the funding process. Mayor states funding has been received through an earmark in the Federal budget as well as an earmark from the State's Infrastructure Bond bill for the project.
5. Snow and Ice Budget, brief discussion of the current status.

Rob Oliva:

1. Sludge Landfill update. Current appeal of the Conservation Committee regarding the approval of order of conditions that was granted. Have a site walk with the DEP, party appealing the project and the public next Monday. Has been postponed several times due to weather.

Sophie Dorow:

Not in attendance, responded by email, no update at this time.

Councilor James Walsh, Committee requests attendance for department update at the next scheduled meeting.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: No requests today.

Councilor George C. Tyros: No requests today.

Councilor James Walsh: No requests today.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor George Tyros, second by Councilor Alex Dernalowicz to Adjourn the meeting at 9:03 am. 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