

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of April 28, 2022

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 8:30 AM on April 28, 2022.

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

Attendees: Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director; Rob Oliva, City Engineer.

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

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.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Dane Arnold: Update on paving – May 9th tentative start (weather permitting) to begin milling Pearl Street. Have some water tie-ins to complete in that area. Pearly Lane was completed yesterday, Pearl @ Chapel will be today/tomorrow. Ruby, Robert, Smith & at that point Pearl Street will be ready to mill and pave. Estimated to be out there for approximately 2 weeks, mill, raise structures & pave.

May 23rd scheduled to begin Central, West Lynde, West & Monadnock Street. Parker Street is to be done week of May 30th.

Councilor James Walsh, inquires on Chapter 90 funds.

Dane, the Chapter 90 monies have been approved, coming in just under 600 thousand, an additional 300 thousand in funds possible to be available soon. The plan is to put most of these funds into the City sidewalks and paving in the Robillard Street neighborhood.

Update, Water Project, main lines are in, tying in new mains into old mains in the Douglas and Draper area, plan to wrap up project by July.

Pearson Blvd., start date for state said to be May 1st. 140 will also be resurfaced from Green Street to the Winchendon town line.

We have 3 accounts that are affected by the rising cost of oil.

1. Street Light account is at a deficit of 10 thousand with three months left to fiscal year. In part due to higher maintenance costs and fewer credits.
2. Snow & Ice, at a 334,601-Thousand-dollar deficit, total cost at 634- Thousand.

3. Vehicle Fuel, have approximately 30-Thousand left, three months left, account pays for entire city fuel consumption, Police, Fire, School, etc.

Update, line painting, goal is to complete before Memorial Day. Cannot paint those in paving process of water project. Additional note of the current paint shortage.

Ordinance Changes, in receipt of City Solicitor edits, have not had time to review.

Water Transmission Line advertisement to bid project has been pulled. There has been an application to grant money, cannot be a work in progress. Therefore, removed bid and hoping to receive grant to complete by fall and project to be done next year.

Also have a Grant in for the salt shed, to be placed across street from DPW building on city owned property.

Looking to expand sign department, Dept has grown with large need of city for signage.

At Crystal Lake Cemetery currently in process of removing old building, before it falls. In-house demo job, working with Building Dept. & Health Dept. Need to complete asbestos testing before completing demo. Looking to follow with building of cremation vaults.

Rob Oliva: Provides handout as requested at last meeting of diagram regarding lighting at end of Blanchard Street entering High School. Chris Coughlin has discussed lighting and was informed by Coviello a secondary service would be required. Street lighting account is currently in a deficit as stated by the Director of Public Works. Recommendation is to turn this project over to the School Department. to take on, given it is on their property. Willing to assist School Department in any way we can. Do not have the funds in our department this year.

Councilor George Tyros states he is willing to offer any help in the discussions with the School.

Wayside Dam project, Engineer has been out with drilling company to establish what the dam is built of so to allow movement forward in the design phase.

Uptown Rotary project, action ongoing in terms of easement and takings. Attorney Flick is moving forward with title exams. Then, to make contact with property owners, appraisals for the small takings involved.

Katie Guertin: Councilor James Walsh notes he was contacted by Katie indicating she was unable to attend meeting and indicated she had no updates at this time.

POLE PETITIONS

10655 – A petition by National Grid and Verizon New England Inc., Matthews Street - to install 2 Jointly Owned Poles on Matthews Street beginning at a point approximately 3,700 feet in a south direction. Install 2 Poles underneath transmission crossing. (Public Service; Public Hearing 5/2/2022)

10656 – A petition by National Grid, Matthews Street – to install 5 Single Owned Poles on Matthews Street beginning at a point approximately 1400 feet west of the centerline of the intersection of Route 140 and continuing approximately 20 feet in a north direction. Install 5 poles to extend line for a new service. (Public Service; Public Hearing 5/2/2022)

Rob Oliva hands out copy of email shared between himself and a National Grid contact. States he was informed in this email conversation that National Grid would not be attending meeting with Public Service Committee for the Pole Petitions on agenda today.

Councilor James Walsh, until details and discussion of pole can with National Grid Representative, cannot make motion to approve.

REPORTS & REQUESTS FROM COUNCILOR'S

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: No requests.

Councilor George Tyros: Thank you to Rob Oliva for looking into streetlight at High School.

Councilor James Walsh: Has question regarding “yield for left turn” sign at intersection of Lawrence Street, Elm Street, and Temple Street. The sign faces traffic entering Temple from Elm yielding for left turn. Questioning of this yield for left turn sign prompted him to look at the City Code which designates the locations of authorized signs around the city. This sign is not listed in the City Code.

Discussion occurs between Dane Arnold and Councilor Walsh regarding drivers’ awareness of the sign, as well as discussion of sign removal. Councilor James Walsh states he believes the sign is uniformly ignored. Dane believes the location of sign serves as a reminder to drivers and can help in preventing collisions. Dane states can remove sign if requested. Councilor James Walsh, believes there is a process to remove sign. Says, perhaps discuss sign at next meeting and the possibility of contacting Legal Department for opinion.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George Tyros to adjourn the meeting at 9:11 am. Roll Call vote: Councilor Alek Dernalowicz yes, Councilor George Tyros, 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