

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of July 26, 2022

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 4:00 PM on July 26, 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

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 4:00 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 dates May 25th & June 8th, 2022, as written. Motion made to accept minutes by Councilor George C. Tyros, second by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, all in favor motion carries.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Dane Arnold: Paving list is finalized with Mayor.

- Will begin in approximately 3 weeks when sidewalk project is complete downtown. Paving will begin at Parker/Connors Street, will then move down to the Robillard area, Wickman Drive, Coleman St., and west to Shore Road (Douglas, Draper, Foss, etc.).
- We cannot pave A Street or Jean Street with the current funds.
- All new sidewalks, handicap ramps at all intersections, new berms, and drainage checked and moved as we speak.
- Also pulverize and pave Warwick & Kendall. Crestwood Drive and Lawrence Street walk will be completed.
- 1.8-million-dollar project to be complete by end of September.

Waiting on funding to begin transmission line project, James Street pump station to begin Sept., Oct., depending on grant monies, several applications are in.

Revoli is wrapping up, working on punch list, hope to be complete by August. Completing concrete work on Parker, West and in center of town.

The Sewer Dept. will be undertaking a manhole adjustment project. Some are two to three inches lower.

Crystal Lake Cemetery building has been taken down and removed. Demo completed over last two weeks. Looking into cremation monuments, also pricing walls and octagon structures, funded from Perpetual Care. Though costly, sales of vaults will pay for cost and eventually pay for purchase of more.

To begin a drainage project at Wasa Street between Wickman and Pond tomorrow, flat and flooding.

140 is 90% complete and Pearson is about 50%.

Sent email to Mayor & Auditor today with concern of rising costs of energy and utilities. For City fuel, we budgeted 220K, projection based on current costs for last three months would be approx. 455K, additional 235k or so. If projection based on June alone, would be 685K, another additional 230K.

Have a Request of Funds Transfer submitted for FY22 line items in red, all related to fuel and energy costs.

Councilor James Walsh, inquires if unusual circumstance to use funds to be considered free cash to cover previous fiscal year expenses??

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, states these transfer requests are allowed up to August 1st.

Dane continues, will see company soon out leak detecting the City's water system. Had a survey completed couple years back and found 85 million gallons leaking. Company will provide a report to City so repairs can be made. This, following the mains replaced in the city, will give us a more up-to-date survey. Helps on lost revenue. Cost to complete entire city is just under 10K.

Councilor James Walsh, inquires on status of Elm Street gas main project. Dane states unsure time frame left but can say the gas company has run into some issues.

Councilor James Walsh, also wanted to inform of a pothole on Comee Street, near intersection of Pearl Street.

Rob Oliva: On vacation, no report available.

Councilor James Walsh makes mention, Rob had provided, for the agenda, a Project Review Memorandum regarding the National Grid Pole Petition, City Council Item #10740.

Katie Guertin: With warmer weather projects have picked up.

Single family home projects have picked up, wetland buffer zone.

Biggest project is Keyes Road culvert, now in front of Conservation Commission for notice of intent. Was continued last night, waiting on Mass DOT Chapter 85 review. There was no grant funding this round, not all permits were in hand. Next year will be grant ready & a good candidate for funding, this is a 1.67-million-dollar project. Tighe & Bond are the consultant, will stay for entire project.

Councilor James Walsh, plan for project to start next year?

Katie, could be up to two years to begin.

Other project is Bailey Brook Park, off Leo Drive. Have final design & final cost. Have money (380K) in account from state regarding park grant. Wrapping up with consultant this week and preparing to go out to bid. Construction must be complete by end of June 1st next year under state grant.

Sludge landfill expansion is in from of Conservation Committee. Was continued last evening, commission looking for 3rd party review due to abutter's & concerns.

Councilor George C. Tyros, what is the remaining property left of sludge landfill?

Dane, timeline on topographical survey indicated volume left would carry City into 2024-2025.

POLE PETITION

City Engineer, Rob Oliva, unable to attend today's meeting, submitted a Project Review Memorandum on July 20, 2022, to the Committee via email. The memorandum indicated he had inspected, reviewed the pole petition and had no comment on the petition at this time.

Keyes Road – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc., Keyes Road – To relocate 1 Jointly Owned Pole on Keyes Road beginning at a point approximately 700 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of West Street. Relocate Pole #2 across the street to accommodate for bridge construction and upgrade to a 45-foot class 2

Councilor James Walsh, has concerns, questions of map provided.

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, is looking for clarification on public hearing regarding pole #3 on private property.

Motion made to hold off on pole approval pending return of City Engineer Rob Oliva and possible contact made with National Grid for clarification. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

MONEY TRANSFERS

Director of Public Works, Dane Arnold submitted letter to Mayor Michael J. Nicholson for request of transfer from Salary Account to the Operating Budget, FY 2022, to offset deficits in the Vehicle Fuel and Entergy and Utilities line items.

Councilor James Walsh: Had question regarding if this was an unusual request regarding funds from previous FY, question was raised and addressed earlier in meeting.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: Rob was looking into the Union Street culvert and poles on West Broadway, will follow up with him on Monday.

Councilor George C. Tyros: No requests today.

Councilor James Walsh: Addressed requests earlier in meeting.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George Tyros to Adjourn the meeting at 4:27 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