

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of October 13, 2022

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 8:00 AM on October 13, 2022.

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

Attendees: Dane Arnold, DPW Director; Rob Oliva, City Engineer, Trevor Beauregard, Conservation Director; Sophie Dorow, Conservation Agent

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:00 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:

Paving, currently at Robillard Street, installing berms, prepping sidewalks, have 32 handicap ramp installs, have no date as of now for topcoat. Also, at Kendall & Warwick & very end of Travers St., pulverizing & raising structures. At Travers St. narrowing and squaring up intersection perpendicular to West Broadway. Will finish by winter unless unforeseen circumstance. When pulverizing this year added calcium chloride to the gravel, costing approximation 2% more but worked well preventing washaway during heavy rain events. Useful for water resistance and dust control.

Installing a temporary skating rink (60' X 100') at Jackson Park. For public use during winter between basketball courts. Also looking to get power out there for evening time.

Currently have contractor performing sewer main televising. Cost is approximately 45 to 50K. Vac truck to clean line, then flush system and look for cracked sewer lines. Next step would be a money request in spring for the contractor to come in and slip line the mains. Reducing ground water from seeping into pipes. This can reduce diameter of line but also produce better flow.

Sludge Landfill is in review. Trevor states hopeful for next week. Then meet with reviewer and transfer to Commission for further action.

DPW was down 9 positions over summer. Had set up 8 interviews, 4 no show, 1 turned job down offer. Currently salary far below pay for CDL drivers. Also, we hire employees, pay for schooling and they seek elsewhere for employment. Clause in contract to stay for 1 year after schooling or re-imburse City. Recommend salary study with regards to other comparable Cities. Winter is coming, need our CDL drivers for plowing. Impact will be on routes needing prompt coverage during storms. Councilor Walsh states is unsure of status regarding Department Head and Non-Union Employee salary study. Maybe discuss with Mayor to include these DPW positions?

Rob Oliva:

At last meeting had discussed public outreach for more information on sludge landfill. Have since added new graphic to City web page under Survey/Engineer Department for the public to view.

Uptown rotary project, have two appraisers under contract. Have begun their property assessments for easements and. In speaking with Mass DOT, have worked well with both appraisers in past, reviewer was pleased. Have 8 parcels involved.

Through the Mayor's Office there was a Community Compact state grant for 50K at Crystal Lake. Currently no spillway at Crystal Lake. Should water ever arise, would head down Park Street to Center of town. Grant reviews options (feasibility study), for example, infiltration around lake to reduce spillway?

Chris Coughlin had applied to the Long Island Sound Future Funds grant program. Looking to reduce nitrogen into the watershed, which we are part of. Look at sewer treatment facilities to reduce nitrogen. We had applied. Our system/components are outdated, can reduce nitrogen to comply with future mandates by addressing these systems. Have applied for a 150K grant but EPA decided better pool of funds for our needs. Confident there is a 4-million-dollar pool available, Gardner to be reviewed for consideration of grant. Removed from original for better grant fit.

Trevor Beauregard:

Introduce new Conservation Agent, Sophie Dorow, to the PSC Committee.

Previously discussed Sludge landfill update, no further updates from department.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: Inquiring on status of West Broadway. Rob states will contact Daryl Sweeney regarding traffic lights, National Grid has pole on list to check.

In process of narrowing streets such as Travers St., is the new section of land responsibility of homeowner, is there a process of notifying the abutter? Dane states yes.

Councilor James Walsh: Inquires on length of concrete and asphalt contract. Dane states it is renewed/out to bid every 3 years. Councilor Walsh, might create opportunity to review use of concrete vs asphalt.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor George Tyros, second by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz to Adjourn the meeting at 8:24 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