



Town of Lee Board of Public Works
MEETING MINUTES of December 27, 2022
Town Hall Courtroom

Members Present: Chairman Bob Bartini, Clerk David Forrest, Gary O'Brien, Robert Wright
Others Present: Superintendent Lenny Tisdale, Town Administrator Chris Brittain, Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino, Highway Laborers Brian Carlino, Josh Stewart, Patrick Finnegan, Jeremy Baker & Sam Touhey from Water Distribution

Chairman Bob Bartini called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM in the Town Hall Courtroom.

Water Department:

Sam Lovett provided an update on meters and radio swaps. The first week of the new year begins another quarterly meter read. Hopefully, this quarter will show the progress that the Water Department has made on changing radios to accommodate new software.

Highway/Cemetery Department:

Capital Planning – Superintendent Lenny Tisdale provided a list of capital purchases planned through 2025 at the meeting on December 13, 2022. This includes trucks, mowers, sweeper, holder, and whacker purchases.

Administrator Brittain wants to approach the Town Meeting with specific trucks and equipment for efficiency when it comes time to make purchases.

The Board expressed concern over waiting to replace the holder until 2025. Administrator Chris Brittain explained that the Town is still waiting on free cash certification but can possibly move up the purchase. The holder requires parts to be ordered from Canada. New holders run approximately 3.5 inches higher increasing the risk of hitting signs on the streets during snow removal.

Supervisor Sorrentino provided an update on the status of the trucks after the last snow storm. Seven of the nine trucks went down during the storm. This occurred throughout Berkshire County, with other municipalities having no spare trucks, and wait times for repairs extending into weeks and months. The Highway Mechanic is leaving as of December 30, 2022. He will be kept on as a private contractor to assist the Highway Department when his schedule allows. The town will be reaching out to local businesses for further help. So far, there have been no applicants to take the mechanic position.

Cemetery Mower – Supervisor Sorrentino reported that a new cemetery mower would need to wait until Spring. It will be a gasoline 60" rear discharge. The Town has to wait for the State Procurement to purchase

a new mower. Clerk Forrest suggested looking for one outside of State procurement. It was discussed that the cemetery mower, currently a diesel with a bagger, would be given to the Waste Water Department.

Chip Seal Discussion – There was much discussion on the pros and cons of chip sealing amongst Superintendent Tisdale and various Board members. The Board would like to have a meeting with a paving contractor to discuss chip sealing. Clerk Forrest stated that the only benefit will be the cost, that it's a stop gap measure. Superintendent Tisdale countered that it is preventative maintenance and lasts up to 6 years. Clerk Forrest indicated that it would be bad for motorcycles and window breakage.

They did agree that the neighborhoods need to know what is being planned before commencing chip sealing, which Administrator Brittain is more than willing to accommodate.

The new Highway truck has been ordered and is due to arrive August 2023. Supervisor Sorrentino provided details and specs of the new purchase. It is an International, with central hydraulics and a slide in sander.

There is a F250 getting built in February for the Waste Water Department. The Ford Ranger for the Superintendent is due to arrive mid-January.

Minutes

Clerk David Forrest made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 13, 2022. Rob Wright seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

Chairman Bartini made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Lovett