



Town of Lee Board of Public Works
MEETING MINUTES of August 14, 2023
Town Hall Courtroom

Members Present: Clerk David Forrest, Gary O'Brien, Robert Wright, Jim Ethier

Others Present: Town Administrator Chris Brittain, Superintendent Lenny Tisdale, Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino, new Highway employees Bill Stewart, Matt Bombadier

The meeting was called to order by Dave Forrest at 1:00pm.

Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino introduced the newest members of the Highway Department: Matt Bombadier and Bill Stewart. Rob Wright asked the status of empty positions, Sorrentino responded that they had interviewed several people and they would be conducting second interviews and making decisions in the next 2 weeks for the Highway and Water Departments. The Mechanic position is still vacant.

Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2023 meeting of the Board of Public Works by Jim Ethier. Gary O'Brien seconded the motion; it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Water Department

Railroad and Robert St Water Main Replacement – At the Selectboard's meeting on Tuesday, August 8th, 2023, the Selectboard authorized Town Administrator Chris Brittain to sign the contract with Tighe & Bond. Dave Forrest said that the project never received approval or a recommendation from the Board of Public Works. Admin Assistant Samantha Lovett was able to provide proof from the BPW meeting on June 12, 2023 indicating that the Board agreed that they didn't have to vote for approval on the project because it was already cast in stone.

Superintendent Lenny Tisdale stated that the kick off meeting for the project is scheduled for 10 am on Friday August 18, 2023 and that BPW members were welcome to attend.

Highway/Cemetery Department

Mower – New Cemetery mower was delivered on August 10, 2023. Forrest shared his displeasure of the lack of communication with Highway Supervisor Sorrentino and with Pittsfield Lawn & Tractor for marking up the price of the mower. Forrest wishes the Town would negotiate more and recommends that everything for purchase go out to bid.

Past issues with the state procurement MHQ arose and Tisdale, Sorrentino, and Brittain explained to the Board the process of procurement as well as the struggles of getting exceptions made.

Forrest complained that he heard that zero turn lawn mowers being used to do roadside mowing. Tisdale explained that mowing still needs to be completed despite other equipment being broken. The ditch mower is

currently out of commission due to a broken shaft that will cost \$1700.00 to replace. Sorrentino added that the zero turns can cover 6 feet at a time, whereas the over the guardrail mower can only cover 3 feet and the Town only has one employee who can operate it. To which Forrest replied that if the Town wants to purchase another mower in 6 months, they will wish that they had never done this. Tisdale commented that he would make a donation to the town if the need for a new mower arises.

Abby Court Drainage – Dave Forrest stated that he didn't want to hear about elevation changes or digging ditches. When the Conservation Commission approved a plan for mosquito control, it involved the Town using a digging bucket to dig out 3-4 feet and slope the banks. He stated that the area near his property looks like a jungle. Forrest said that when Tisdale completed digging the swamp by East St, he opened up Pandora's Box due to a homeowner seeking a permit to dig out the brooks to build another house. Now Forrest wants to go up the ditch from Greylock St to Center St and up behind. Tisdale stated that the impact on these areas is not the same as Abby Court. Tisdale also reported that after speaking with Steve Garrity, it would cost \$10,000-\$15000 a day and he would be up there for a solid month. Due to the proximity of this area to Dave Forrest's personal property, TA Brittain reminded the board that due to conflict-of-interest laws; members should not participate in board business that involves their own personal property. Forrest then stated, "Okay, you know what? Don't dig it up. And when the time comes, and that son of a bitch is plugged up and down, I'll come down and jam it down each one of your throats. It's all I can tell you, and I'll end it there."

Paving – Len Tisdale reported that the budget has passed the state but there is still a wait for legislature to approve the bonds. The Town will have to wait for that approval before submitting requests for Chapter 90 Funds. Increasing costs for asphalt could possibly pose problems for the future. Forrest said that he is on board with waiting to bid for paving until Spring 2024.

The Board was provided with a list of equipment inventory as of January 2023 which Supervisor Sorrentino went through.

Repair:

F550 – Back in working order, Gary O'Brien recommends that the Town keeps the truck for the winter and reassesses getting rid of it in the Spring 2024.

F750 "White Lightning" – waiting for removal of Town equipment, set for auction.

International w/ wing – Still has electrical problems, sand blasting will be completed by East Coast in September 2023.

New:

2023 CV Series Dump Truck – signed for, will be ready for October 2023

2023 Ford F250 – delivered for Waste Water Department

Waste Water Department

Long Term & Capital Planning FY2024-FY2028

TA Brittain provided a brief update explaining that this plan is a fluid project contingent on free cash, bonds, taxes and that there will likely be changes along the way.

Forrest asks for information about LB Corp's work on hydrants and curbing. Sorrentino responded that hydrants were purchased during FY23, LB came in to do hydrant installations. Removed hydrants were kept for spare parts.

There was a \$4000 carryover from FY23 sidewalk repair and that was totaled with the FY24 budget to cover the costs of curbing repair from plowing.

Other

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Robert Wright at 2:38 pm. Jim Ethier seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Lovett