



Town of Lee Board of Public Works
MEETING MINUTES of March 25, 2024
Town Hall Courtroom

Members Present: Robert Wright, Jim Ethier, Ashley Shepardson, Patrick Rooney

Others Present: Town Administrator Chris Brittain, DPW Superintendent Lenny Tisdale, Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino

Clerk Rob Wright called the meeting to order at 1 pm.

Board Member Update:

Bob Bartini has retired from the Board of Public Works. Patrick Rooney has been promoted from an alternate member to a full member.

New Water Distribution employee John Archer was introduced to the Board.

Highway/Cemetery Department

Willow St Bridge Closure – On Thursday, Town Administrator Chris Brittain received notification that the bridge on Willow Street should be closed due to structural damage. This bridge is the only access for trucks hauling materials to the Onyx Paper factory. These trucks weigh approximately eighty to one hundred thousand pounds, which eliminates the Meadow Street bridge as an alternate route. DPW Superintendent Lenny Tisdale provided an update. The Town is currently looking for alternate routes which include updating Willow Street, Pine Street, and Bear Town Mountain Road. LB Corp is working on the corner of Pine Street and Bear Town Mountain where the corner is too sharp for a tractor trailer to navigate. A temporary bridge could be placed there and as water and sewer lines are on the bridge, the Town will still have to support the utilities. A temporary bridge would cost about \$15,000 a month with an additional \$20,000 for a pedestrian walkway. The total projected cost for the project is over \$30 million. TA Brittain reported that previously the bridge was rated fair, the reports didn't show extreme danger and the weight capacity was never lowered. He said that this is not something we could have planned for. Tisdale added that if emergency work isn't completed on Pine Street and Willow Street the Onyx Paper Mill would be forced to shut down. Tisdale has already received unit pricing from LB Corp. The Town has an emergency contract with LB Corp so the hourly rate is already set. The asphalt will come from Sand Lake, New York. This project will affect the paving plan for FY24 and FY25. Due to this closure, \$300,000 will have to be set aside from Chapter 90 causing some roads to be removed from the paving. Tisdale asked the Board to decide what roads would be pulled from the plan. Funding will have to be shifted from FY25 to FY24 to cover paving that was promised in FY24. Tighe & Bond has been brought in for engineering services for both the bridge and the roads. Tisdale will al

FY25 Paving – The Board will drive through town before making any final changes to the paving plan. The warrant for Town Meeting will be posted in two weeks. If the Board has not made any final decisions, TA Brittain will leave out details of paving, but warned the Board that questions will be raised during the meeting. Tisdale said that there is a little bit of contingency in the paving contract for price adjustments and escalations but it will not be enough to cover the \$300,000 being removed for the bridge. The paving list for FY25 was provided in the Board

packet. Any roads that were promised to be paved for FY24 will still be completed. Ashley Shepardson stated that they should drive around to gauge the roads that will need to be cut.

Rob Wright asked if funds can be drawn from any other departments. TA Brittain said that we are not looking to add anything to the tax payers and paving funds are only for road infrastructure so money cannot be borrowed from any other departments.

Holt Family Cemetery Request – Administrative Assistant Samantha Lovett received a series of phone calls and emails from Derrick Holt regarding the Board's decision at the February 12, 2024 meeting to limit the Bassett/Holt cemetery lot. The Board had agreed to allow a monument marker to be installed contingent that no other burials be placed in the lot. Lovett had reached out to legal counsel to have an agreement drawn up to guarantee that the family would not use the plots. Legal counsel advised that it is difficult to draw something up when the living family members probably don't have any authority to bind future generations. However, the Board can make an order that no more burial stones will be placed on the family lot regardless of any agreement with the family. After having more time to think and reviewing the lot maps, Holt responded with the following requests claiming the selfishness and greed of family members buried there:

- 1) #37, 40, 64, and 67 remain in the family.
- 2) #37, 40, 64, and 67 will be subject to the flat stone requirement.
- 3) All other plots not in use will be turned over to the Fairmont Cemetery
- 4) The headstone for Mary and Henry will be installed as per the exhibit supplied at the meeting.

Highway/Cemetery Supervisor Zachary Sorrentino explained that the hedge row planted on the outside perimeter of the lot and that it is up to the family to maintain. The hedge row covers all open plots in the perimeters leaving only the middle open. Two people are buried at a 45 degree angle in the middle taking up twice as much space. There are 2 cross monuments approximately 12 inches high over these graves. These burials do not allow anyone else to be buried there. With that space used up, the family bought additional plots closer to the road.

Ashley Shepardson said that Holt can either agree to the original offer of one monument headstone or revert to the Fairmount Cemetery's rules and regulations. After much discussion Shepardson made a motion to deny any previous or current requests regarding the Holt Family plots for any markers that are not approved by the rules and regulations of the Fairmount Cemetery. Rob Wright seconded the motion; it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Water Department

Hydrant Flushing – The Town found the hydrant flushing plan from Dave Leinart, it shows best practice. Lovett said she included hydrant flushing in this meeting because the Town flushes twice a year, in April and October. She needs to post in the newspaper and on the Town website 2 weeks before hand to let residents know. Sorrentino made a request to delay flushing due to cold weather and to work on staffing/training. Daytime flushing was briefly discussed.

Jim Ethier asked Sorrentino for an update on the East Street water leak. Sorrentino reported that there was bubbling water on the sidewalk and it tested positive for chlorine. The Highway Department dug and found water leaking from their service line. One house lost water pressure, though the town never shut down the main. It took 2 weeks to trace out the water main because all the maps were wrong. Sorrentino came to the conclusion that they had collapsed their old, galvanized service line when they were digging to find the original leak. They put in a new shutoff on the waterline that should have been there originally. The water pressure increased a significant

amount. When the weather gets better, more investigation will take place to find a problem heading towards the 12" line.

Capacity Permits

120 Reservoir Rd – Gary Cannon applied for a capacity permit for a new sewer connection to an existing property at 120 Reservoir Road. Jim made a motion to approve the capacity permit. Patrick Rooney seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

825 Fairview St – Marc Digrigoli of Fox Homes applied for a capacity permit for a new build at 825 Fairview Street. Ashley Shepardson made a motion to approve the capacity permit. Rob Wright seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

635 Marble St – Marc Digrigoli of Fox Homes applied for a capacity permit for a new build located at 635 Marble Street. Jim Ethier made a motion to approve the capacity permit. Ashley Shepardson seconded the motion; it was passed unanimously (4-0).

300 Valenti Farms – Marc Digrigoli of Fox Homes applied for a capacity permit for a new build at 300 Valenti Farms. Jim Ethier made a motion to approve the capacity permit. Patrick Rooney seconded the motion; it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Jim Ethier made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting of February 26, 2024. Ashley Shepardson seconded the motion; it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Respectfully submitted,
Samantha Lovett