

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

MINUTES OF MEETING September 6, 2022

Town Hall Court Room

Members Present: Bob Bartini, David Forrest, Roger Scheurer, Gary O'Brien

Others Present: Lenny Tisdale, Chris Brittain, Zach Sorrentino

Chairman Bartini called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm on September 6, 2022 in the Town Hall Courtroom.

Superintendent Tisdale reported on the following items:

Water Department

Radio Update

113 letters were sent out to Lee residents with outdated meters. We've had approximately 30% response from residents to make appointments to swap out their radios. Second mailing is due to go out in October.

Staffing

No updates for staffing in the Water Department. Lenny Tisdale, Superintendent, mentioned reaching out to a private consulting firm to cover the DEP Requirements. There is a company that covers multiple municipalities and completes the reports because they have the proper licensing. Board members feel that we have to fill the gap somehow so while the hiring search for employees will not stop, outsourcing to a new company will be explored.

The Town is still trying to lower the 3 rating of the water plant to a 2. But because the plant was originally built for a 3, that is where the DEP wants to stay. The rating depends on the personnel.

Highway/Cemetery Department

Job Opening

There have been applicants.

Paving/Chapter 90 Funds

George St, areas of Orchard St and Church St are still scheduled for the end of September, Palmer Paving has the contract. Due to being in the same fiscal year, the DPW was able to bundle the unit price numbers. Dig Safes have already been completed.

Chapter 90 is reimbursable; the Town must first have the money and then the State will reimburse. The State is looking to see if the project is viable. The State is involved for the first \$250k, not the remainder of the funds.

Culverts

Len Tisdale provided an update on culverts. Water is flowing well, considering the amount of rain that has fallen recently. MASSDOT did an analysis and took a look at all the culverts, the one that went under the

railroad tracks had low sediment, the one on Greylock St had 41 inches of sediment. Even if all the culverts are clear, that area will still be affected by the flood waters, up to a foot or 2 feet.

Vote to approve \$200k from 40R Account for paving and make a recommendation to the Selectmen to release those funds. Roger Scheurer made the motion to approve, David Forrest seconded. Motion was passed.

Capital Purchases

Zach Sorrentino provided an update on purchasing town trucks. F250 and Ford Ranger have been purchased through MHQ. After multiple emails sent for F750 range of trucks, all they can say is that they are building 2024s to be ready in 2025.

Need confirmation from MHQ that they cannot provide what is needed so that the Town can begin to look elsewhere to satisfy the Highway Department's needs. When form is received, that is sent to the State through procurement to release the Town to purchase trucks from an outside dealership.

Zach has contacted other providers.

United Ag & Turf to provide a mower, PLT is unable to provide a mower this season.

Cemetery Signage

Zach Sorrentino looks to update cemetery signage to be more aesthetically pleasing with a stronger focus on enforcing no dogs in the cemetery.

Zach Sorrentino made a request on behalf of Vernon Leydet to divide his 5 cemetery plots into 3 parcels for family members without selling the plots back to the town and then purchasing them individually. David Forrest made a motion to transfer the 5 plots to 2-2-1 with no money exchanged. Roger Scheurer seconded. Motion was passed.

Curb Cuts

Zachary Gagnon applied for a curb cut for 200 Summer St, which he recently renovated into a 2 family home. The Curb Cut was denied until Mr. Gagnon can provide an update that he will deal with the sidewalk accordingly. Dave Forrest made a motion to deny the current application as presented, Gary O'Brien seconded. Motion was passed.

Frank Guerino (175 High St) started installing a new driveway without a curb cut application or approval from the DPW or Building Department. Application submitted will be put on hold until research is completed in Town bylaws. The board took no action at this time.

There is nothing in the Town Bylaws that prevents residential properties from having more than one driveway.

Abatements

An abatement was submitted for 491 Chapel St (Morin) for a broken pipe causing a large amount of water to be absorbed by the floor. Proof was provided that the broken pipe was corrected. The Board reviewed the information sent in by the customer and after discussion, David Forrest moved to abate 12000 cu ft on the sewer side, Roger Scheurer seconded. Motion was passed.

An abatement was submitted for 9 Paul Dr (Parks) for sewer charges assessed before a sewer hookup was completed. The Board reviews the information sent in by the customer and after discussion, they voted. Bob Bartini moved to abate \$307.20 on the sewer side, David Forrest seconded. Motion was passed.

An abatement was submitted for 250 Theresa Terrace (Boule) for filling his pool. The Board reviewed the lack of information sent in by the customer and after discussion, Roger Scheurer made the motion to deny, Gary O'Brien seconded. Motion was passed.

An abatement was submitted for 100 Mountain View Terrace (Kinnas) for a pool liner replacement. The Board reviews the information sent in by the customer and after discussion, they voted. David Forrest moved to abate 2012 cu ft on the sewer side, Roger Scheurer seconded. Motion was passed.

An abatement was submitted for 570 Fairview St (Brunell) for a faulty meter. The Water Department inspected the meter and found nothing wrong. The Board reviewed the lack of information provided by the customer and after discussion, they denied the abatement. Roger Scheurer moved to deny, Gary O'Brien seconded. Motion was passed.

Motion was made by Roger Scheurer to approve the minutes from the August 2, 2022 meeting.

David Forrest moved to adjourn the public meeting and to enter executive session for the purpose of litigation strategy. Motion Passed. Bob Bartini recused himself for the executive session for conflict of interest.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Lovett