



Town of Lee Board of Public Works
MEETING MINUTES of March 28, 2023
Town Hall Courtroom

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

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

Water Department

A proposal was made for High Lawn Farm to switch most accounts to a flat rate. High Lawn operates using their own water source but is tied into Town sewer. Clerk Forrest questioned the validity of transferring to a flat rate based on a loan the Town has with the USDA which is linked to the Water Treatment Plant. The Board voted to approve the proposal on the condition that it didn't interfere with the current loan agreement. Rob Wright made the motion to approve with the contingency, Gary O'Brien seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Highway/Cemetery

During paving discussion, Clerk Forrest and Superintendent Lenny Tisdale posited the need to replace manhole covers. Clerk Forrest wishes to avoid digging up recently paved roads to replace damaged manholes. Tisdale has pulled all the covers on the streets being paved for FY2024 to see what each street will need.

Jim Leahy has excavated areas including Main St and Robert St to assess drainage issues. Abbey Court will be completed next. These areas were assessed as the worst in town by drone footage.

Clerk David Forrest made a request that the DPW purchase a new piece of equipment for salting and clearing sidewalks. Town Administrator Chris Brittain and Superintendent Lenny Tisdale reported that the funding would cut into paving plans and intimated that the article would not be supported by the Financial Committee. Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino reported that while parts are difficult to find, there are other options than buying a new machine. Member Gary O'Brien said that there is time over the summer to look for parts and other solutions.

Clerk Forrest asked Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino about the status of a plow truck that was lent to the school. Sorrentino stated that Johnson Ford is holding a 550 with no central hydraulics for the school but in the meantime, highway department is maintaining the truck, replacing the plow blade etc. Forrest asked if the school was willing to help the town with sidewalk plowing, Sorrentino stated that they already take care of the sidewalks on Greylock St by the school.

The DPW welcomes Ryan McCusker to the Water Department. Sam Touhey, formerly of the Water Department, has transferred to the Highway Department.

A Lee Resident called in to make burial arrangements and asked if the Town of Lee offers green burials or cremations. She said that the Town of Great Barrington has recently made changes to incorporate green burials into their cemeteries. The Board took no action to change our current cemetery policies to include green burials.

Waste Water

NA

Capacity Permits

45 Erskine Drive – A capacity permit was granted on the contingency that the second bedroom of the home was incorporated into the fees at the March 2nd meeting. Admin Asst Sam Lovett provided proof that the payment was completed.

200 Golden Hill – Thomas Renton applied for a capacity permit for an existing home that is seeking connection to town water. The house has 3 bedrooms. Clerk Forrest made the motion to approve the capacity permit, Gary O'Brien seconded the motion, it was passed unanimously (4-0).

Jim Ethier made the motion to approve the minutes of the March 2nd meeting. It was passed unanimously (4-0).

Clerk Forrest made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Lovett