



**Town of Lee Board of Public Works**  
MEETING MINUTES of October 23, 2023  
Town Hall Courtroom

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

Others Present: Town Administrator Chris Brittain, Superintendent Lenny Tisdale, Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino, Select Board Chair Bob Jones, Fire Chief Ryan Brown, Police Chief Craig Disantis, Building Commissioner Matt Kollmer

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

Minutes

Jim Ethier made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2023 meeting of the Board of Public Works. Rob Wright seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

New Municipal Building

Town Administrator Chris Brittain prepared a slide show to inform the Board of the plans for the new municipal public safety building (see attached). Fire Chief Brown, Police Chief Disantis, Building Commissioner Matt Kollmer, and Selectboard Chairman Bob Jones were present to answer any questions.

The presentation explained the need for a new building as many of the buildings in use are not suitable for these purposes. One concern raised by Dave Forrest was the elevation change and how that would affect fire trucks in the proposed drive-thru bays. TA Brittain explained that it would be taken care of during demolition and grading but would reach out to the engineers for more detail.

Another concern was the fire tower that would be used to train firefighters on multiple story buildings. The closest existing fire towers are in Springfield, MA and are not easily accessible to Lee or other local municipalities. Dave Forrest questioned the need for such a tower. Chief Brown explained that the Town does not have a place to practice multiple stories or confined space training. This tower isn't meant for live fire training, its intent is really for exterior ladder access training as well as interior multi-floor operation training.

It was stated that this is a necessary change to improve the safety of Lee residents.

The records located in the Airoidi Building, which is one of the buildings to be demolished as part of this project, were discussed briefly. Admin Asst Samantha Lovett and TA Brittain have spoken about bringing in a company (Maverick) to have all documents scanned. Also discussed was the relocation of the current occupants of the Airoidi Building. With the Building and Police departments moving out of Town Hall, there will be more space to accommodate others.

A new DPW garage location was also discussed due to displacement for the new municipal building. The Town is looking at the Casella building located on Route 102 (Pleasant St.). It has more square footage and would better suit the DPW. The property could also accommodate a salt shed, though keeping it at the Waste Water Treatment

Plant is also an option. Dave Forrest requested an architect come in to lay out where everything will be placed at this Route 102 location.

Dave Forrest asked Chief Brown about the future of merging the Lee Fire Department with Stockbridge. Chief Brown said that it is still being discussed how to share services. He mentioned that there is still a lot to be done and the merger may not occur for a few more years.

There will be a meeting on November 2<sup>nd</sup> open to the public to discuss the plans for the new municipal building.

### Water Department

#### *Railroad & Robert Street Water Main Update*

Superintendent Lenny Tisdale provided an update. The 8 inch line is due to be completed on Railroad Street by the end of the week, which is three days ahead of schedule. Robert Street has a temporary patch, the Town is waiting on the proctor analysis, and will be repaving in the Spring giving the street time to settle over the winter. LB Corp will complete the paving as a piggyback of existing paving projects. All service lines located on Robert Street were copper. The pipes were in good condition, but the catch basins are disintegrating. There were also 7 foot boulders that needed to be dug up.

#### *Waterline Ownership*

Dave Forrest asked for clarity for waterline ownership.

§248-6 in the Town of Lee Bylaws states:

C. All service lines from the connection to the Water Department's water main shall be considered as owned by the owner of the property served by such lines.

This determines that the entire service line, from the corporation stop to the house, is the responsibility of the homeowner.

### Highway/Cemetery Department

#### *Spring Paving Schedule*

Superintendent Tisdale reported that all streets that are scheduled to get paved this year will still get paved in the Spring. The Highway Department will remove the sidewalk on East Street themselves to cut costs.

Dave Forrest asked Superintendent Len Tisdale what the plan was for requesting funds for paving funds for next year. Tisdale reported that a lot of the funding depends on the free cash figure for the Town. The Town is hesitant to take on more debt due to high interest rates. \$250,000 will be used to purchase a new sidewalk machine outfitted with a blower, plow, and sander.

#### *Auction*

Three of the four trucks that went to auction have been picked up. These include the Sweeper which sold for \$1225.00, the 1999 International Truck for \$3500.00, and 2 2010 F150s which sold for \$810.00 and \$1825.00.

#### *Mower Equipment Update*

Highway Supervisor Zach Sorrentino reported that the ditch mower will have to be replaced. The new cemetery mower got two leaf vacuums. Sorrentino is still looking for a 4 foot rotary head.

Supervisor Sorrentino reported that the new mechanic is doing very well. He has applied for his hydraulics license and has been managing fixing vehicles and equipment for Fire, Police, and DPW. The fleet is almost ready for the upcoming snow season.

Capacity Permit Application

New owner of 150 Fairview St submitted a capacity fee application for a one bedroom addition. Rob Wright made the motion to approve the application, Jim Ethier seconded it, it was passed unanimously (5-0).

Board Position Elections

David Forrest was nominated by Robert Wright for chairman of the Board of Public Works. The Board came to a unanimous agreement to appoint Dave Forrest as Chairman of the Board of Public Works.

Robert Wright was nominated by Gary O'Brien for clerk of the Board of Public Works. The Board came to a unanimous agreement to appoint Rob Wright as Clerk of the Board of Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

Samantha Lovett