

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING HELD: August 16, 2022

LOCATION: 84 Somers Road, East Longmeadow, MA 01028

ATTENDANCE: P. Abair, M. Lynch, B. Fenney, T. Christensen, F. Vachon, D. Keane and T. LeCourt

ABSENT: T. O'Brien and B. Taddia

P. Abair called the meeting to order at 3:59 pm and asked if anyone is recording the meeting other than the webinar. None

Review/Approve Minutes from 02/15/2022 meeting: Delayed until the next meeting as T. O'Brien is absent.

SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Staffing: currently have 3 skilled worker positions open, two mechanic positions and one pump station operator repair man. Our new Facilities Manager, Robert Roy, will be starting on August 29, 2022. **Project updates:** The Parker Street sidewalk project (4100') bid was opened on July 26, 2022 @ 10:00am. Three bids were received: Caracas Construction Corp: \$320,340.00; Gomes Construction Company Inc: \$297,629.00; D&P Morais Construction Inc: \$277,022.00. Bid was awarded to D&P Morais Construction, Inc. **Utilities:** Town Manager confirmed that there is a potentially significant upcoming basic service rate increase for all medium and large commercial and industrial G-2 and G-3 rate class customers that will become effective August – October 2022; the increase is roughly a 50% increase; rates will be fixed; Western and Central MA increase is from 10.796 to 21.304 cents per kilowatt. Will look at the utility budget in December as we are all set for now.

COMMENTS:

P. Abair: We need to look at Utility usage and time of usage.

BUILDING FACILITIES:

Wrapping up our annual inspections for all Town buildings and are ready for the upcoming school year.

Mountainview: Gym floor capital project is under way. The contractor is Dimauro Carpet & Tile; project will be completed before school begins on August 31st; they are putting the final coat of sealant down. **Meadowbrook:** Parking lot lighting started this week through Hampden Zimmerman and Collins Electrical Contractors; light poles were delivered today; Town electrician supplied electric service to the exterior building.

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT:

Maple Street Project: Should be done reclaiming tomorrow; base course will be done on Thursday and Friday weather permitting; they need to put structures back up and paving should be done by September; base course was completed before school starts so there wasn't a big mess out there; we will have to adjust some hours due to school starting before we open up holes in the road. Signed a contract with VHB for the 25% tip design project on North Main St, which is Harkness to Dearborn. **Allen St landfill:** started the wetland delineations; started wildlife and endangered species paperwork; will sign another contract to finish the design; we didn't have the funding to complete the project; we do not own the whole property yet.

COMMENTS:

P. Abair: Allen Street Landfill contract is still under negotiations? **T. Christensen:** Yes; we will keep rolling like DEP wants us to until it doesn't make any sense to spend Town money for something the Town doesn't own; we can start with information gathering, we have an access agreement; our guys will spend a lot of time clearing and doing the design; we pulled a whole bunch of material off Maple St., gravel that we brought back to the yard which we will use over there. **P. Abair:** Any infrastructure work being done on N. Main St as far as digging, Utilities? **T. Christensen:** No; they have been notified; they were aware of Maple St. as well. **P. Abair:** Did you do

anything with the lights at Big Y? **T. Christensen:** I have been tinkering with them. **D. Keane:** I contacted David Northrup multiple times; there are two loops in the ground and one is bad; cars don't pull all the way up to the stop line so you could sit there all day; when someone takes a right it triggers the light and it thinks there was only one car there; Northrup timed the light so it's not working off the loop but off the timer. **P. Abair:** I have to give you guys a pat on the back for responding to the trash over the summer; it was great effort on your part to participate with that; was glad to see that we have our new trash company running and it seems to be running smooth; you guys made an extra effort and I appreciate it. How is stormwater going through the summer, are we going through all the testing, cleaning? Any bad items showing up on the testing? **T. Christensen:** We had bad luck with our clam truck (catch basin cleaner); can't get parts; we have the new sweeper out there; we did not see anything major show up in our outfall testing.

Tighe & Bond Presentation: M. Lynch entertained a motion to approve Tighe & Bond to move forward with presentation, which is out of order from the agenda; P. Abair seconded the motion. The vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.

TIGHE & BOND MS4 UPDATE PRESENTATION: Copy of the presentation attached to minutes.

COMMENTS:

Tom LeCourt: Senior Engineer with Tighe & Bond took over management of MS4 project for Emily Tully; presentation is an update for MS4 management program, which is a requirement as part of the permit to give an annual update due by the end of September 2022. **P. Abair:** I noticed one of the items (Preliminary stormwater BMP retrofit inventor) is the High School **B. Fenney:** Had conversations with the Engineer and Architect on that project so would like to put in some BMP's and LID's, rain gardens and roof leaders; had conversations to include these new designs into the new or remodeled High School; also educate the kids; this is scheduled for construction during the feasibility study phase. **P. Abair:** also the Police and Fire station scenario are the same **B. Fenney:** Could be as simple as putting in a hood; put a plastic insert into a catch basin that contains the trash and doesn't allow it to get into the system; currently in the process of an MBP action grant for culvert inspections; finding some different LID programs for Heritage Park center field; we have a lot of stormwater running off of the parking lot; water travels down before it gets into the catch basin to a drainage swale; indigenous species soak up a lot of water; trees pick up the water. **P. Abair:** I don't think enough people go to the website and look at Stormwater information; it's there and if people want to learn about Stormwater it's pretty educational and in depth; I recommend people to go to the website. **B. Fenney:** part of the publication outreach is the poop message; people think that storm drains are for sewer and people are putting poop bags down there; worked with the clerk's office so when they issue dog licenses they give out an information card regarding poop bags; door knocker hangers; hang posters up at veterinarian offices; don't get rid of your grass clippings put it back into your lawn; 250 letters went out to landscapers within town as part of public outreach **D. Keane:** signage at Heritage park and the rail trail. **P. Abair:** Are you finding a glitch load of nitrogen in town? There are a lot of people that use fertilizer programs and lawn care and golf courses and we have fertilizer programs on our fields; does this nitrogen interfere at all? **T. LeCourt:** No **B. Fenney:** Part of the MS4 doesn't like you to use fertilizers; they like you to use the natural things on your lawn; thatching your lawn and using mulching blades; no testing is done if you get more than 1/10" rain so you don't test after it rains; dry weather screening. **T. Christensen:** if somebody is connected to the system and they should not be that is why we still having water running 48 – 96 hours later. **P. Abair:** Overall, Bruce and Tom have been doing a great job with the stormwater system that we have implemented 5 years ago; they have a good handle on it.

Agenda: M. Lynch entertained a motion to go back to agenda; P. Abair seconded the motion. The vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.

Board of Public Works Reorganization: M. Lynch entertained a motion to have P. Abair continue as the Chairman of the Board of Public Works; P. Abair made a motion to have M. Lynch as the Vice Chair. P. Abair seconded the motion. The vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.

WATER & SEWER ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Started the North Main Street wastewater meter vault project 2 weeks ago. They installed the parshal flume last week. Job is moving very well with no issues other than a touch of COVID in which we had to shut down a couple days. PLC and Radio upgrades project had had a minor setback while Tighe & Bond tried to incorporate the parshal flume telemetry into the project; we have 17 sewer pump stations in Town and 2 water stations. We continue to see elevated levels of THMs and HAAs coming from Springfield. This has been exasperated by increased water demand and issues with some issues with filtering process. I foresee no changes until the new filtration plant is up and running estimated 2026-2027; this project was funded and approved. **Vineland pump station:** grinder contract is ready and we are waiting for monies to be appropriated.

COMMENTS:

B. Fenney: We will be notified for our 3 quarter MCO for DHM's and HAA's; we will receive one every quarter. We were notified by EPA a few weeks back to go through process and procedures; no red flags, they were happy with our operations. **P. Abair:** Is there any other recommendations other than the normal standard letters; it's going on 9 years before we fix this item and about people taking certain actions? **B. Fenney:** All of the requirements we follow are dictated by the EPA and DEP. Felix is in constant communication with Springfield based on the chlorine levels so we can reduce ours because these are the byproducts of the DEP's.

HIGHWAY & UTILITY MANAGER REPORT:

D. Keane: Roads: Our guys have been out with our miller on the bobcat. Maple St. project will help with the residents; been out on Prospect St., Hillside, Yorkshire, Canterbury. **Parks and Fields:** department has been doing our mowing; applied fertilizer steps 1-3; set up fields and fences and barricades for the 4th of July celebration. **MS4:** new sweeper came in this year; we have been sweeping the streets; been able to send two sweepers out at once; brought the roller for the sweeper to a welding shop in CT while we were waiting for parts to come in; hard getting materials and parts for our equipment. Roadside cutting around guardrails are complete throughout Town; purchased a brush cutter for our mini excavator; now we use less staff to get the job done. **Markouts:** continue with mark outs for the gas company **Potholes:** continue patching with our miller; residents call in pothole issues and DPW office enters work orders. **Salt:** annual salt bid is in place **Staff Training:** Implementing a new training program to get new staff accustom to our roads and vehicles; they will go out some many hours with the plow learning their routes so they have an idea where to put the snow. **B. Fenney:** will help them to know their turning radius.

COMMENTS:

P. Abair: I have heard complaints about the sweeping on side streets. Will we be paving the other end of Parker St? Didn't we get extra funding for highway? **T. Christensen:** Eventually; Yes; most likely in the Spring; we don't have the time or man hours to put that design together right now. Took two full years of chapter 90 funding to complete Maple St. **M. Lynch:** I spend a lot of time on the bike path and when the landscaping was cut back residents had a lot good things to say; passing along that it made a big difference to all the people on the path. **B. Fenney:** we have a staffing issues with 7 positions down; Darrel has been taking guys from other departments so other work has been suffering; sewer line pump on High St; hired a landscape company to do all the schools; we are getting creative with getting the job done within reason. **P. Abair:** Are they done with the gas line on Pease Rd? **T. Christensen:** permit for inspection was signed; they had to go under 2 culverts; they had the directional drill team there. **P. Abair:** Intersection at Prospect and Chestnut seems to be an issue with accidents. Does the DPW get involved with working with the Police dept.? If you're going South on Prospect you can't see

the cars coming up the hill from the right side; maybe a motion detector to say go or no go; open you're minds to something other than signage; look for an alternative idea from an electronic standpoint that would detect the cars coming. **T. Christensen:** We can't put any more signs out there that are flashing to follow the speed limit; we received complaints about the bushes at that intersection and they are not in the way. **B. Fenney:** there has been complaints made at Town council; there was one fatal accident; it's a 3 way stop; the Police chief is working on this as well and we will put our heads together. **D. Keane:** DOT does not like the fact that there is a mirror there. **P. Abair:** Thanks for keeping up the parks; hearing good things from the Recs department.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Department special initiatives: Applying for grants within the department: MSBA school project; MVP Action grant which includes culvert inspections, culvert recommendations, pollinator habitats, BMP's; MEMA BRIC Grant for the generator for the Town Hall and Police Station; Mass DOT small bridge replacement/repair program just received \$500K, we will finalize in the fall and go out to bid in the spring; CDBG Grant ADA Sidewalks \$150K, handicap ramps that don't have detectable warning pads aprox. 40 locations around Town; wrapped up a training grant.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING: **B. Fenney** will send an email invite for the next meeting and will have it posted to the town website.

P. Abair entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:22 pm; P. Abair made a motion to close the meeting; there being no further discussion; the vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.