

Department of Public Works
171 Worcester Road
Sterling, MA

Minutes of October 13, 2020

Present: Gregg Aubin, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Paul Lyons, Paul Gerardi, Geoff Donohue, Susan Genereux, Arden Sonnenberg

Meeting called to order at 7:05pm

Gregg Aubin, Deane Day, Blaine Bershad present

Minutes of September 22, 2020 were read. Gregg Aubin made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Blaine Bershad seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Superintendent Report Water

- Discussion of the Assistant Superintendent Water job description took place, work in progress at this time. The Personnel by Law that was passed at this year's town meeting has created limited authority for autonomous Boards.
- The Board will submit, to be placed on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting of Dec. 7th, an article for Sr. Executive Assistant and an article for Badger water meters.
- Reviewed the meter information set forth by Jackie Lemmerhirt. The Badger metering system is a reliable drive by system that has a long life span of functioning. The department currently has the Badger software and reading equipment in use as it was the system used for years prior to the Mueller system. The Eaton drive by system over the long term will add up in cost despite sharing the cost with SMLD. Keeping the Mueller system is not a feasible option as the support and technology is not keeping current and becoming obsolete. Paul Lyons stated that we all bought into the Mueller system a few years back when SMLD approached the department. In hindsight, it wasn't the best option for our needs. Blaine Bershad made a motion to submit a warrant article for Badger meters for the Special Town meeting of Dec. 7th. Deane Day seconded the motion. All in favor 3 - 0.
- Smart hydrants were discussed as an option for the department to consider. The hydrant will pick up a pressure drop instantaneously which will report to the office identifying the street name by use of maps and GPS any leaks and/or water pilferage. Five hydrants would cover the entire town. The cost per hydrant is \$4000.
- Discussion took place pertaining to moratorium on underground irrigation systems in use by commercial and condo locations. It is the least that can be done to save water and decrease over taxing the water system. Gregg Aubin stated the moratorium was a good idea. Paul Lyons stated that there hasn't been any restrictions on irrigation systems except with the watering ban. He continued that we do not have much clean water when at peak 1.8 million gallons of water is being used daily, and it needs 16 hours to recharge which does not allow time to disinfect naturally. The water needs to sit and purify, just can't drag it out of the ground. The

town's water permit with the DEP allows 219 million gallons per year. Discussion of this topic will be ongoing at future Board meetings.

- PFA testing complete, two test wells viable, hope to get good news back on these.

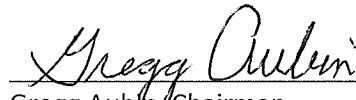
Superintendent Report DPW

- The MS-4 permit is demanding on time and labor. Seventy outflows need to be logged, visited for flows and illegal discharge. It is not an easy ongoing 5-year process. Currently there are no funds budgeted for this and there is no manpower for this. The Superintendent is involved currently with the permit, but due to the demands of the permit and the multiple responsibilities of the Superintendent position it is not a feasible option. Serious consideration and productive talk needs to take place now in order to submit an article to be placed on the May 2021 Town Meeting warrant. This article will create and finalize a job position within the town for the responsibilities of the MS-4 Permit.
- Shared Streets and Spaces downtown projects are done except part of Waushacum Ave. The configuration line in front of the library was engineered by Weston and Sampson engineering. The configuration is an attempt to slow vehicles down before coming out onto Main Street. It is temporary and will be removed before snow flies. It met the approval of the fire department and it was determined by the fire department that there is clearance for the ladder truck with that configuration. These projects came in under budget with \$26K remaining.
- Paul Lyons met with Casella Waste Management and with Waste Management Company regarding the curbside trash and a five-year contract to review. Casella calculated a 3% yearly increase cost based on a worst-case scenario of recyclables. Casella has offered to offer bulk item pick up for residents with the residents prepaying for disposal of the item. This service and scheduling would be handled directly through Casella and not the DPW office.
- Paul Lyons and Blaine Bershad met with Matt Marro of the Conservation Commission regarding the downtown drainage; all came to the conclusion that it is a problem. The level is high and extensive work is needed to get the flow to drain properly. Matt Marro stated from School Street up is out of wetland area and we can do what we want without permits. Gregg Aubin suggested that the DPW board goes to the Board of Health and be put onto their agenda to discuss this situation and the Mosquito Control Program. Blaine Bershad offered to join Gregg Aubin at said meeting.
- The DPW will be plowing and sanding Gates Terrace and Sterling Ave from now on. The Waushacum Village Association - Campground will be notified by letter that they will have to take care of their own roads. The DPW does not provide sand, salt, nor plowing for private roads.
- Paul Lyons stated we will have to look for drivers for our trucks, currently there are three open trucks in regards to winter operations.

- The department will be heading over to Twine Road this week to do the culvert project.
- Deane Day indicated that the department did a great job the other night during the storm that downed trees and power lines. Gregg Aubin stated he received nice comments from residents also. Paul Gerardi stated that everyone was on their game; it was a long night and that the department is still in clean up mode and roads are open.
- Gregg Aubin made a motion to reappoint Paul Lyons as DPW Superintendent for another year. Deane Day seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0 unanimously. Paul Lyons thanked the Board.
- Arden Sonnenberg stated to Paul Lyons that she has received all positive feedback nothing ever negative. She expressed Paul was doing a nice job and there is a difference like night and day due to Paul's leadership and the great group at the DPW. Arden expressed her thanks.

Next posted meeting date TBD

Motion to adjourn at 8:45pm

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gregg Aubin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Gregg Aubin, Chairman

Department of Public Works Board