

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Minutes of July 14, 2020

Present: Gregg Aubin, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Paul Lyons, Paul Gerardi, Norman Gamblin, Lisa DeCiero

Meeting called to order at 7:08 pm

Deane Day, Gregg Aubin, Blaine Bershad present

Minutes of June 9, 2020 were read. Gregg Aubin made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Blaine Bershad seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Gregg Aubin made a motion to reorganize the DPW Board as stated:

Gregg Aubin Chairman
Deane Day Vice Chairman
Blaine Bershad Clerk

Blaine Bershad seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Superintendent Report DPW

- Paul Gerardi discussed marking the sections of Hillside Cemetery using 4 x 4 posts with white sleeves, top cap and lettering. The DPW will do the work, the materials used will be low maintenance, it will have eye appeal and make it easier to identify the sections, currently there are no marking anywhere.
- Cemetery foundations currently are poured at no cost to the lot owner. The layout of the lots in the cemetery requires the headstone to be removed in order to perform an interment. The headstone is at the foot and the government marker is at the head. Consideration is being given to charge for foundations.
- Signage regarding dogs at the cemetery was discussed. A motion was made by Deane Day to display "No dogs allowed" signs at the cemeteries. Blaine Bershad seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0.
- Cemetery rules to be fine tuned and upgraded is a work in progress.
- Went back up to Upper North Row Rd to do edges using crushed stone on it. The project came in under budget by \$30K.
- Chip Sealing is finished. The project came in \$5K under cost. In August, All States will come back to repair Laurelwood Rd.
- Mortimer Rd mostly done. Dug out a big drain pipe, 1 more inlet; take it down a bit more. Flow is good there.
- Tree work that has been performed from list includes the Historical Society, West Sterling Community Center, and Legg Cemetery
- Basin Truck has been out steadily doing the worst areas first
- Roadside mower has been performing the cutting
- Beaman Rd trench repairs one done so far
- MS-4 Storm Water Permit is up to date. The second year report need to do now. All town property requires quarterly inspections. No outside washing and it must be documented. Had the warrant article regarding Mosquito Control passed at town meeting it would have helped with this. In essence this Permit is turning into another whole job, help is needed to get this done due to the detail and time consuming task.
- Grant money for sidewalk and temporary barriers downtown a walk around of the area took place with the town planner. The suggestion of a granite curb; pull out temporary asphalt ramps at crosswalk, pave and realign at Meetinghouse Hill Rd to more of a ninety degree angle.
- Personnel By Law changes got slammed at town meeting. The protocol of how to handle things, DPW Board works for the voters of the town, why is this Board treated differently when all the Board

members agree on something and it is thrown out, we don't feel good about that, we need to stick together to straighten this out

- Blaine Bershad suggested bringing the DPW into view for everyone to be aware of the good work that is being done by the department and the responsibility the DPW has for getting things accomplished.
- Gregg Aubin commented on the actions that involved the DPW; how can the town administrator go against the Board's decision.
- Blaine Bershad addressed the inequities of the Senior Executive position and the DPW not getting the same position, he stated it bothered him that the DPW was not being treated the same.
- Trench Permits for natural gas installation nowhere is there a bond or fee permit required currently. Paul Lyons suggested there should be a trench permit fee, a bond fee, and a competent person in charge of the trench opening. The suggestion of a minimum \$5000 bond certainty for the year to the date of project, \$100 trench fee, competent person to provide their name, license and contractor number. The contractor must have police detail and must pay for it.
- Blaine Bershad commented that roads are getting expensive
- Chain of Command: DPW Board, Superintendent. Regarding North Row Rd water main break Gregg Aubin asked Deane Day if he called people in Deane said he did not. Gregg Aubin conveyed to Deane Day that Deane is not to participate in the matter, if Deane does it could be considered an ethic violation. Deane Day stated it isn't the Board's job to call in guys to the job site.

Superintendent Report Water

- Beacon meter reading software and equipment has been installed and is working pretty good
- The Muller system working talked about it to SMLD, they are bailing out, our water readings are off of the SMLD system. Last mitigation study cost of \$300K to keep them running. After SMLD pulls out start replacing meters with drive by system. Water meters are located inside the locations which creates extra burden for replacing.
- Flanagan Hill Road project has been pressurized and tested. No sign on fees paid as of yet, no one online over there as of yet.
- Water break at Campground at first 110 feet four repairs, at 30 feet three repairs. Slowly replace that whole section.
- Lead and copper passed this quarter by a good margin. A lot of money has been spent on this. We were at a reduced sampling schedule prior to this.

Next posted meeting date TBD

Motion to adjourn at 8:38pm



Gregg Aubin, Chairman

Department of Public Works Board