

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
171 Worcester Rd
Sterling, MA

February 20, 2024

Present: Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, David Smith, Susan Genereux, Richard Maki and Eric C Johnson

Zoom: No One

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, and Deane Day present

Mr. Bershad made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2024 as written
Mr. Day seconded
Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: Eric Johnson had concerns pertaining to the level of noise from the back-up alarms on the DPW trucks. Mr. Mouradian explained that two Loaders were replaced with lower frequency alarms and other vehicles will be replaced as needed. The lower frequencies do not compromise safety measures.

Updated Pavement Management Plan

- Yearly updates of road work completed helps with the PCI rating scale. (Pavement Condition Index) The PCI for the Town of Sterling was a 71 and after the road work completed in 2023 the score rose to a 76. As the town invests in its infrastructure by matching Chapter 90 money the PCI score will continue to rise from the fair road conditions in town.

Water System Update

- Over the past few years the Water Dept has overcome permitting challenges and additional test requirements from MADEP in regards to a failed Lead and Copper testing in 2019 and 2021. All test since have been at an acceptable levels. However, because to the delays the Water Department was unable to complete our chemical addition project by the deadline given which created a violation. The corrosion control treatment wasn't approved by MADEP until December 2023 and will be in place by October 16, 2024. Even though this is not an emergency an informational letter will be distributed to all our customers in the next few weeks and if there are any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact us at (978) 422-6767.

Main Street Curb Alignments Options

- Two diagrams were handed out- One showing a straight curve and another showing a bump out curve. The DPW Board agreed after a short discussion the straight curve is the preferred method. Lower cost and safety are a couple of reason for their decision.

FY'25 Budget Update-letter to Select Board

- Mr. Mouradian will be presenting the 2025 DPW budget Tues, Feb.27 at 6:30 PM and requested that the Board Members to attend. Wages and salary line items are in question, different factors contribute to the increase- Overtime increased hours, using different line items to record wages and the increase of wages approved by the Select Board.
- Previous week the Finance Advisory Committee voted not to approve the Mowers needed to maintain the fields and voted to approve the DPW paver but denied the Water Dept. payment of the paver. There is one paver with the cost being split between the DPW and Water Departments. A slight misunderstanding but these items will be discussed further in the

upcoming meeting. A more comprehensive discussion will help clarify in detail the DPW Budget with a collaborative approach. The proposed budget would increase by 1.11% from the previous year.

DPW Building Committee –

- A new building for the DPW has been discussed this past year and the next step is to create a DPW Building Committee. Mr. Mouradian suggests a five- member board and looks to the DPW Board for their input. Mainly the DPW fleet needs to be housed inside to extend their life span. Heating and electric cost, underground tanks, salt shed are just a couple of issues that need to be addressed. There is a policy in place for forming the committee. Posting the positions for 21 days and hoping for a diverse group of people. A letter should be drafted for the next meeting which will outline the needs and will be open for more discussion for this long term project and then can be posted to the Town website.

Project Update:

- Roadways safety audit – Redemption Rock Trail at Princeton Road was handed out for Board to review.
- Water meters update is going slow, unfortunately waiting for more meters. 30% of meters completed.
- Corrosion Control Study has all the necessary permits from the State and have filed for an extension. The letter will be mailed within the next few weeks.
- Crowley Road Source positive and numerous reports have been submitted to the State
- West Sterling Generator Replacement and Electrical upgrade finalizing plans and project is underway for winter bid period
- Truck # 5 awaiting delivery
- Truck #8 – 2 wheel drive is not an option

Superintendent's Update:

- Fourteen Snow & Ice Events so far this season went quite well.
- DPW Crew working on tree removal, basin repairs and truck cleaning.
- New work order system in place and will assist with tracking calls for service. Permanent records of service being completed and data collected by categories. Now we can pull up potholes completed, basin repair and other repairs being completed.
- Paving Bid Package 2025 ready to go out by end of month- Pratts Junction Road is main focus
- FEMA declined funding for the last storm damage

Future Agenda items:

- DPW Building Committee
- 5 Ash Trees Row D at Hillside Cemetery

Motion to adjourn at 8:23 PM

Next posted meeting TBD



Andrew Parker, Chairman
Department of Public Works Board