

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
171 Worcester Rd  
Sterling, MA

January 17, 2024

Present: Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, Michael Tomaiolo, Susan Genereux, Richard Maki and Dave Harwood

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 December 12, 2023 as written

Mr. Day seconded

Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: No one spoke.

#### Crowley Road Water Source Update – Verdantas & Stantec

Mr. Harwood from Verdantas & Stantec was present to discuss and answer any questions pertaining to the Crowley Road Water Source. This new water source will give the town the ability to cycle existing water sources around. Hand-outs were available showing that the quality of water is good. This project is running under budget with the money going to permitting and securing this site. Future budgets will address Article 97. Article 97 addresses Land Use and Management ensuring no net loss of protected open spaces. Board members questioned the need to address water sources, what effect this new source will impact the town during times of draught and the quality of the water source. Mr. Mouradian stated that the need will be within the next 5 to 10 years and is monitored on a yearly basis. Updates to the permitting and findings will be made available as stages are completed.

#### FY'25 Operating Budget

- No new updates. The binders given to the Board members are complete and the budget has been submitted for approval. Mr. Mouradian will be working with Bill Caldwell, Town Administrator, the Select Board and the Finance Committee to explain and work to fine tune it before presenting the budget to the public at the Town Spring Meeting.

#### Year to Date Budget Reports

The DPW budget is in good shape with 51.85 % of the year completed. The hand-outs that were made available were through WT#14. The DPW's warrants are lower in the winter because of the shift to Snow & Ice. The Water Budget is right on target.

#### 2023 Annual Town Report Submission

- A draft of the 2023 annual town report submission was made available to the board members for comments.
- Pavement Management and Water pumped will be updated before report is submitted to the Town Clerk's Office on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This report highlights the work completed during the year by the DPW team. Road work - 6.6 % miles of public roads improvements completed.

#### DPW Building Committee – Discussion

- 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.

Project Update:

- Water meters update 26% of system updated
- Water billing has been greatly improved
- Corrosion Control Study has all the necessary permits from the State and have filed for an extension. An Administrative Consent Order will allow us to extend study to October. This letter will be put in the Water Bills
- Truck #6 new frame is complete and it is back in the garage
- Truck #5 and Truck #27 - Chevy is not accepting any orders right now so switching to Fords will shorten the wait to 12 to 16 weeks. (F350's)

Superintendent's Update:

- Eight Snow & Ice Events so far this season went quite well. Thanks for the entire staff for their work and efforts to keep the roads safe.
- Received additional \$265,705 Chapter 90 Money through the fair share act
- Water billing is becoming more efficient with each billing cycle. Water Bills are due Feb. 12th
- Sold a blower for \$335.00 and a John Deer Zero Turn for \$740 on Municipal Bid Website. (January 9<sup>th</sup> Sale)
- MDEP free water audit again this year.
- We have seen some quality control issues with the salt but the Company is working with us and there is no problem getting the salt delivered

Future Agenda items:

- DPW Building Committee

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM

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Next posted meeting TBD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Parker', is written over a horizontal line.

Andrew Parker, Chairman  
Department of Public Works Board