

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
171 Worcester Rd  
Sterling, MA

January 10, 2023

Present: Deane Day, Blaine Bershad, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, Mike Tomaiolo, Susan Genereux, David Rembetsy, Kathy Brown and George Brown

Zoom: No One

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

Deane Day and Blaine Bershad present

Mr. Bershad made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 13, 2022 as written.

Mr. Day seconded

Motion passed 2-0

Public Session: No one spoke

#### Greenland Road Safety issues

- o A resident presented material pertaining to Greenland Road Safety, proposing a truck restriction. There are no immediate actions to be taken at this time other than the DPW mowing the grass and replacing fading signs along the road. The DPW has completed both tasks. More discussion with other boards and committees in town and research is needed before entertaining other alternatives to best deal with the safety concerns. The DPW Board did express interest in having MRPC perform traffic counts in the area.

#### Trash & Recycling Implementation

- o The Christmas overflow trash collection at the DPW to help with the excess holidays trash was successful. Mr. Bershad noted that driving around the town has noted that plastic trash bags have been placed in recycle bins.
- o Just a reminder if anyone has a question on what is recyclable please visit [www.recyclesmartma.org](http://www.recyclesmartma.org) for more information. Carts will still have to be placed at curbside by 7 AM each morning.

#### FY'24 Operating Budget

Minor changes were made from the last presentation of the DPW Operating Budget that Mr. Mouradian presented to the Board. The Board was given a copy of the Operating Budget at the previous meeting and thoroughly discussed the changes and increases that were made from the FY'23 Operating Budget.

#### The Water Operating Budget: highlights include:

The Water Expense Budget has an increase of 18.3% but includes one-time costs from the Capital Budget. A ten percent increase to the Health Insurance, increase in Debt Table, Meter Replacement Program, UV upgrades and Water Main Programs are factors in the increased budget. The DPW and Water Operating Budgets will be presented to Financial Committee during a week night meeting one on one sometime in late January or early February.

Mr. Day made a motion to accept the DPW and Operating Budgets as presented

Mr. Bershad 2<sup>nd</sup>

Motion passed 2-0

Raising Water Rates was discussed and Mr. Mouradian is in the process of researching comparative rates in surrounding towns. He projects a rate change coming in July 2023.

Project Updates and Superintendent's Update:

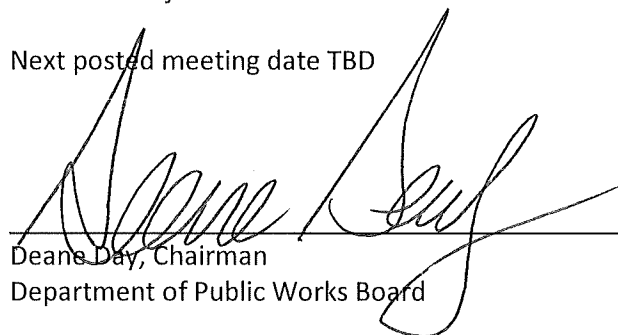
- DPW still accepting Christmas trees until the end of January
- Truck #19 is coming along at Sunnyside, close to complete
- Route 140/62 Peanut shape round about proposed, consultant will visit a future meeting
- Five Snow and Ice events so far this year.
- Installed 20 new water meters and readers for testing. Hopeful to begin installing middle of January, targeting accounts not neighborhoods.
- MADOT moving forward with chapter 90 road acceptances.
- Water Forman and Superintendent working on Corrosion Control Study
- Lead and Copper testing- One year of passing results
- Sand and salt mix for residents is available and under video surveillance
- Town Center Revitalization Project- hand out made available with Weston & Sampson Action timeline and Town of Sterling Action plan schedule.
- Upgrade in 3G to 4G kits for water meter reading is helping meter readings
- Water bills going out at end of week
- Thanks to Town Administrator, Bill Caldwell for obtaining a grant that provided step ladders and 20 signs with bases Road Work Ahead
- Matt Staples and Andy Hagburg both passed their 2A, 4E and 4G Hoisting exams
- Both Board members stated their concerns about Oak Hill Cemetery wall and parking for ball fields and thanked the DPW and Water Staffs for making 2022 a successful year
- Mr. Day stated that he can't thank Ryan and Paul enough for their leadership and that Mike has proven himself as Water Forman

Future Agenda items:

- Trash & Recycling Updates
- Water Rates
- Mr. Maki would like to discuss Columbarium at Hillside

Motion to adjourn at 8:36 PM

Next posted meeting date TBD



Deane Day, Chairman  
Department of Public Works Board