

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
171 Worcester Rd  
Sterling, MA

May 9, 2023

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

Zoom: No One

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM

Deane Day, Blaine Bershad and Andrew Parker present

Mr. Bershad made a motion to reorganize board, by nominating Mr. Parker as Chairman of Board

Mr. Day seconded

Motion passed 3-0

Mr. Bershad made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 25<sup>th</sup> as written

Mr. Parker seconded

Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: Congratulations made to Mr. Bershad for re-election

#### Year to Date Financials

- o Mr. Mouradian thanked the Town Residents for voting favorable on the DPW Budget at Town Meeting
- o Hand-outs made available for Year to Date Financials through WT #23
- o DPW budget right on target- Hand-outs through WT 23
- o Water Budget 87.7 % thanks to the Water Dept. for keeping cost down – Moving into higher expense season- Well Redevelopment, higher chemical usage and higher water usage but have not needed to touch reserve fund.
- o Snow & Ice expenses covered at Town Meeting- Report from DCR- Salt usage down from 2022 by 28% (929 Tons) and down 52% (2665 Tons) from 2021
- o Mr. Parker mentioned that salt prices are sometimes lowered around 4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Also a comment was made that Mr. Mouradian presentation of the financial information gave a clear and detailed picture

#### Proposed Summer Meeting Schedule

- o The following Summer Schedule was agreed upon which reduces meeting twice per month to once per month:
  - Tuesday - June 13<sup>th</sup>
  - Tuesday - July 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Tuesday - August 8<sup>th</sup>
- Mr. Bershad made a motion to adopt summer schedule with the idea that it can be changed if needed.
- Mr. Parker seconded
- Motion passed 3-0

#### Water Rate Discussion

- o Handouts were made available showing High usage and low usage- helpful to discuss how to structure rates. Water rates have not been raised since October 2018 and inflation has risen 19%. A proposal of 6% increase was presented and eliminating the minimum \$50.00 rate fee and replacing with actual charges. A \$50.00 bill for a quarter will now be \$55.00 a quarter. Mr. Bershad voiced a concern of eliminating the minimum charge but also pointed out that this new rate increase is lower than surrounding towns. Mr. Day pointed out that the increase is needed

to cover the department's cost, which all members agreed upon. Mr. Parker thought that the increases were reasonable and all Board Members believed that the new rate structure was fair. More discussions will be needed before a new rate structure will be determined.

#### Trash & Recycling Implementation

- o March bill has been received. The Trash By-Law failed at Town Meeting. (35 to 136)
- o Trash & Recycling will no longer be on the DPW Agenda with the exception of updates to the Board of results from Audits and tonnage cost in the Superintendent Updates portion of the meeting.
- 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 need to be placed at curbside by 7AM each morning.

#### Project Updates and Superintendent's Update:

- o Warrant passed (120-40 Range) spending \$50,000 to continue exploring a new DPW Facility. RoseAnn Mapp asked questions to help lead the discussion to project more information to the residents. Mr. Dumont had a lot of nice comments about how we are approaching the project. The next step is to form a DPW Building Committee.
- o Road work – Route 140- 4 days edging and 2 days tree work
- o Water meter replacement program working quite well over 150 meters replaced. Sending 50 letters at one time to request water users to schedule appointments.
- o Last meeting in May consultant coming in for a presentation on downtown stormwater
- o Crowley Road Source- shifting to a series of smaller wells instead of one production well. Wrapping up due to restrictions of Turtles May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup>
- o Town Clean-up best turn out ever – 95 % of Sterling roads cleaned
- o Brush and Leaf open 8 AM to Noon Saturdays at sand pit off George Peeso.. Last Saturday is May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- o May 6<sup>th</sup> DPW Open House was a success!

#### Future Agenda items:

- o Water Rates
- o Next round of pavement management plan

Motion to adjourn at 8:32 PM

Next posted meeting date TBD



Andrew Parker, Chairman  
Department of Public Works Board