

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
171 Worcester Rd
Sterling, MA

May 23, 2023

Present: Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, Susan Genereux, Richard Maki, Joseph King, Tony Zahariadis and Amanda Spann

Zoom: No One

Meeting called to order at 6:59 PM

Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, and Deane Day present

Mr. Bershad made a motion to approve the Minutes of May 23rd with one change. Mr. Parker should be listed as the Chairman of the DPW Board.

Mr. Day seconded

Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: A resident from Johnson Road, voiced her concerns of speeding on this road.

Discussion of possible solutions: South side only placing flexible delineators, posts, signs – intersection ahead or speed bumps. Mr. Parker suggest placing the delineators and was hoping that Amanda could come back and give the Board an update at a later date.

261 Leominster Road Water Issues

- Storm water, ground water and rain water is causing overflow onto road and freezing in the winter. This drainage problem has been ongoing for a number years and stopping the discharge of the water is of utmost importance. Mr. Zahariadis has checked to make sure the D-box has not been crushed. The D-box is in good shape, but the water is still not draining properly.
- Mr. Mouradian had the soil tested and found that the soil was not conducive to draining. Based on calculations draining into a 12 x 12 x 6 foot pit would infiltrate water at approximately 2 GPM. Mr. Day pointed out that the paving of the road cannot be completed until this problem is fixed. The paving project of Pratts Junction is being postponed which will give the DPW extra time to test a larger pit across Pratts Junction.
- A motion was made by Mr. Day to put a larger pit in and Mr. Parker amended it to put a larger pit within reason and observe the results before moving forward.
Mr. Bershad seconded
Motion passed 3-0

Water Rate Discussion

- Handouts were made available showing adjusted rates to minimize the spike in percentage increase for the lower users. Rates have not been raised since October 2018 and inflation has risen 19%. On the low end a four dollar increase and on the high end is a nine dollar increase per quarter. 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 increase will be determined and then a public hearing will be scheduled.

Upcoming new PFAS Regulations

- Forever chemicals - States will have to act within the next 10 Years address the new standards. These new regulations are on Mr. Mouradian's radar. Testing and treating the chemicals will change within the next 2 to 3 years. Hand-outs explaining the new standards were given. As the state moves forward, Mr. Mouradian will update and keep the Board informed. Sterling is one of 149 other communities that these new regulations will affect.

A three minute break was taken

Project Updates and Superintendent's Update:

- Road Work – Milling Route 62 has begun- starting at Greenland and now past Wilder
- Road work – Route 140- 4 days edging and 2 days tree work and is slated for mid-June. We are hopeful it will be completed by July.
- Water meter replacement program working quite well over 150 meters replaced. Sending 50 letters at one time to request water users to schedule appointments.
- Consultant coming in for a presentation on downtown stormwater moved to June
- Crowley Road Source- Some of the new test wells are in. Wrapping up due to restrictions of Turtles May 1st to September 1st
- Corrosion Control Study – Consultants scope signed and are working on base plans. Meeting this Thursday to go over site specifics
- There is a need to meet with Town Counsel to discuss betterments for Campground Water main replacement
- No truck updates
- Will take over a year to fill equipment orders
- Second Week prep for Memorial Day- the DPW crew really stepping up – trimming and mowing
- Night two of line painting will be completed tonight. Parking on the corner of Emma's making it difficult for pedestrians to cross street safely. Granite edging for the sidewalks
- Soft ball fields completed and will come back to do Houghton softball fields the following week- Money came from the Recreation Department

A minute break was taken

- Mr. Parker is getting a twelve foot drag for the DPW to use for the fields
- A New 2022/2023 Curbside collection calendar is going out with the next SMLD light bills.
- Next DPW meeting is June 13th
- Memorial Day – Reminder why we are celebrating and want to thank the Men and Women for their sacrifices
- Mr. Day commented on summer help. Mr. Mouradian mentioned that we could use a couple more people- must be 18 years of age or older
- Mr. Parker noted that he witnessed a Casella driver help an elderly women he saw struggling with bringing her buckets to the curb.

Future Agenda items:

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

Motion to adjourn at 8:31 PM

Next posted meeting date 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