

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
171 Worcester Rd
Sterling, MA

July 11, 2023

Present: Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, Michael Tomaiolo, Susan Genereux, Richard Maki, Laura Ricci and Pamela Dell

Zoom: No One

Meeting called to order at 7:01 PM

Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, and Deane Day present

Mr. Bershad made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 12th as written
Mr. Day seconded
Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: A concerned Citizen came before the Board to discuss the following:
Citizen petition in place for a "No Stopping Sign" in regards to afternoon school pick-up on
Boutelle Road

17 Mortimer Road Tree Request

Resident requested the ability to take down an alive white pine tree which is blocking her line of sight when pulling out of her driveway. Board agreed to hear her request and review the State's policy regarding the removal of healthy town tree. Also as a result of this discussion the Board believes that any request to remove a tree or trees moving forward would be a case by case basis.

Public Hearing -Water Rates

- A Public Hearing to raise water rates started at 7:15 PM.
- Mr. Parker asked audience if there are any public comments on the new water rates-none.
- A motion was made by Mr. Bershad to end the Public hearing at 7:20 PM.
Mr. Day second the motion.
Motion passed 3-0
Mr. Bershad made the motion to accept the new water rates as written starting on Oct. 1, 2023
Mr. Day seconded
Motion passed 3-0

FY'23 Year End Financials

- Final Financial report for FY'23 – spent 99.3 % of the DPW budget. Goal is to use this format to balance out the budget by balancing the overspent line items. Regional recycling budget was paid with grant money. The Trash and Recycling Collection went over because of the recycling market. The local roads budget - \$250,000 additional to the chapter 90 money had a remaining balance of \$1,474.33 but is already earmarked for another road project. Matching the Chapter 90 funds helps to purchase the necessary piping and other materials needed for the road maintenance projects that are being done now without cutting into the operating budget.
- The Water budget came in under budget by \$4,442.38 and we did not have to tap into our reserve fund. All DPW Board Members were grateful to Mr. Mouradian for sharing such a thorough budget plan, enabling them to have more meaningful discussions about the direction the DPW is going and how they can use this information for planning future projects.

Cross Street Parking

- The additional parking will help add some additional spaces in the Downtown area. Mr. Day pointed out that the Fire Dept. uses this area for training and suggested using the other end near School Street, still creating at least 6 additional spaces. This will need further discussion in coming meetings.

South Meadow Village-Millie's Way water system ownership

- A comprehensive package was provided to the Board and after a short discussion Mr. Mouradian stating he will be working the Developer to change language to address the private ownership of the condo association and the expectation of the Town's responsibilities for the water maintenance and future responsibilities. An informative meeting is planned to explain to the current residents of the changes and will keep the Board informed.

Project Updates and Superintendent's Update:


- Road Work – Boutelle is completed
- Road work – Meetinghouse Hill Road- prep work started today, working on driveway aprons the next step is completing berms.
- Dana hill milling completed and went well. We were able to fix a few spots further down the road on Muddy Pond as well.
- Drainage issues for Downtown delayed but will keep everyone informed.
- Water Meter replacement program working quite well and continuing to make good process.
- Redstone water main moving along and is ongoing.
- Crowley Road Source- Pump test scheduled for the fall
- Road side mowing in progress and will continue
- Casella using summer interns to check recycling material going well. Please put plastic bags in trash not recycling bins
- Truck #4 is now up and running
- Auctioning off Truck #5 instead of Truck # 18 at this time.
- Truck #9 working on specs- looking at F-550 chassis similar to Truck 19
- Wheeled Excavator is ordered and the delivery is scheduled for the end of July.
- Road plates maybe delivered next week (4x10, 6x10 and 8x10)
- Weather has caused delays in regular day to day work -Crews out cleaning catch basins
- Quotes for line paving coming in and bids for crack sealing needs
- Water bills going out this week
- New wood guard rails will be installed at Fairbanks Street

Future Agenda items:

- 5 to 10 year Paving Management Plan
- GIS System
- Next DPW meeting is August 8th

Motion to adjourn at 8:14 PM

Next posted meeting date TBD



Andrew Parker, Chairman
Department of Public Works Board