

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
171 Worcester Rd  
Sterling, MA

September 12, 2023

Present: Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, Michael Tomaiolo, Susan Genereux, David Smith and Mr. Maki

Zoom: Sarah Parker

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, and Deane Day present

Moment of silence for Mr. Robert Temple, who recently passed away. He worked for the DPW for 42 years and dedicated his life to helping the veterans. He will be greatly missed.

Mr. Bershad made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 8<sup>th</sup> as written

Mr. Day seconded

Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: Kind words for Mr. Temple, a mentor and a friend.

#### 17 Jewett Road – Water Meter

- There was a high water usage over a period of time due to resolution errors entered into the software, going back to 2020. Mr. Tomaiolo has gone through numerous water accounts making the necessary corrections to avoid this happening moving forward. The meter has now been replaced with an Eaton reader so it will be easier to monitor this meter. The billing issues has been resolved to the satisfaction of the owner and renter, both opted not to come to tonight's meeting.

#### South Meadow Villag-Milie's Way water system ownership

- Mr. Mouradian attended the Zoning Board of Appeal's Meeting earlier this evening. The appropriate changes were made and the Town does not own the water infrastructure to the South Meadow Village. This is a private neighborhood and the Home-Owner's Association will be responsible for maintaining all water infrastructure within the development including hydrants. Any repairs will have to be inspected by the Water Department and they will need to comply with the Sterling Water Department's standards. There are no plans for expanding this project.

#### Year to date financials

- The hand-outs provided cover expenses through WT #5. One time purchases include \$50,000 for line painting and \$9,000 for flashing stop signs. Budgets are right on target.
- The high expenditures for water is mainly restocking inventory and the Leominster Water will be issuing a credit for past billing.
- Board members agreed that they are still grateful for the information and how organized the information is presented to them.

#### DPW Board meeting schedule

- Scheduling changing Board meetings to once a month. Mr. Parker feels that the once a month meetings have been more production. The one concern that each Board member had was not giving the residents the time, but given the attendance of the Board meetings this should not be a problem. If the situation calls for it a meeting can be scheduled with forty-eight hour notice.

Project Updates:

- Highway team doing a great job! Justice Hill Rd. installed 13 pipes and a few more to go, pushing towards the cut-off. Lazaro- 1000 ft. reclaimed along with Lucas Road and will be capped by tomorrow, weather permitting. Will start to reclaim again the week of the 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Lazaro won the bid for Complete Streets Grant- Maple Street Sidewalks. Granite curb asphalt sidewalks. ADA compliance. Hopefully work will start in the spring.
- Main Street Project trying to fine tune it. Still evaluating – trying to keep the drainage in the road and not on private property. The design numbers have not changed since the 80's and the terrain has changed.
- Working with neighborhoods off Redstone to replace meters. Program going well, replaced forty meters in a couple of days.
- Corrosion Study will start Monday with jar testing. Mix our water with new chemical and see how the reacts.
- Crowley Road testing is also set to begin now the turtle restrictions have been lifted.
- Redstone moving along nicely- Rugg Road to Lancaster is complete hydrants active. The next phase will be put out to bid over the winter and will not start until July 2024.
- Truck #6 – revisited and was told next week
- Truck #9 – Truck chassis ordered- old Truck #9 will be traded in.
- Wheeled Excavator delivered
- The wide area mower that was approved at last meeting was delivered. Tech came out for training. Great machine is really going to work well for us.

Superintendent's Update:

- Flooding- North -west part of Town. The DPW recorded 1.4 inches of rain while Princeton recorded 6.17 inches of rain. Flooding came after an hour of rain. Route 140- river near Burbee Road was quite powerful. Detoured from Heywood toward Beaman Road to Route 140 for people trying to get home to Leominster, Athol and Gardner. Fire, Police and the DPW worked together. Lazaro came in and regraded Justice Hill Cutoff, and helped getting to the West Sterling pump station road. Holden, Sterling and West Boylston helping Princeton tomorrow.
- Stop lines painting will happening in the next couple of weeks.
- Issues with water bills getting out, so we waived late fees for the July billing and resent bills to everyone who had a balance due and a letter explaining the problems.
- Sterling fair went well- Thanks to Mark Pruneau for coordinating deliveries to and from the fair
- Old Truck #5 went up for auction.
- Brush dump opening up in October. The dates are October 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> and November 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup>. Hours of operation are 8AM to Noon behind the Police department.
- Mechanics getting trucks ready for inspections and improving drop in sanders.
- Pricing for closed boot systems for three trucks will save over \$40,000 in salt cost. Gate width is the one thing that can't be changed and another savings was recalibrating each truck.

Future Agenda items:

- Downtown parking
- Cross street parking
- GIS System

Motion to adjourn at 8:25 PM

Next posted meeting date Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup>



Andrew Parker, Chairman  
Department of Public Works Board