

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
171 Worcester Rd
Sterling, MA

October 11, 2023

Present: Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, Michael Tomaiolo, Susan Genereux, Richard Maki, R.D. Mapp, Kathy Brown, George Brown, Laura Ricci, and Carolyn Gagnon

Zoom: No One

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, and Deane Day present

Mr. Bershad made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 12th as written

Mr. Day seconded

Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: A resident wanted to commend the DPW for their road work this past summer and placing necessary signs around town. Taft Road is on a short list for roadside mowing.

Greenland Road Traffic Study

- Mr. Mouradian gave a quick update of safety concerns of Mrs. Brown pertaining to truck traffic on Greenland Road between Boutelle Road to Muddy Pond Road. Handouts were made available of a traffic and speed count completed by Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. Mrs. Brown noted that this study was completed during the summer and didn't include school bus traffic and wanted to know what the next step in the process to make Greenland Road safer.
- The Board was given numerous hand-outs from Mr. Mouradian and Mrs. Brown and more questions have arisen. The Board would like to take more time to research, review and look into past accident records to help on how best to resolve these concerns. The Board stated that there is no easy solution and thanked Mrs. Brown for all her work, research and the information given to them. All parties agreed to continue to work together to make the road safer.

Trash & Recycling Update

- A year into the new program – reduced average trash tonnage by 10 tons a month. Recycling tonnage is consistent but the quality of recycling isn't a consideration in the graphs. Mr. Bershad mentioned that the Town of Sterling is doing quite well after attending an audit. If anyone has questions on what is recyclable or what is trash please visit the Department of Public Works on the Town website. You will find a video provided by Casella, a smart recycling guide and trash/recycling calendar. Please make sure your trash bins are placed road side by 7:00 AM on your collection day. Mr. Mouradian asked if the Board wanted to provide extra recycling at the DPW to help with the Holiday wrappings.
- Mr. Parker made the motion to continue the service
Mr. Bershad seconded
Motion passed 3-0

FY'25 Capital Discussion

- A Capital Plan is due in middle of November. This list provided is just to get the discussion going. Truck replacement, Cemetery maintenance, Columbarium, mowers, pavers and updated pavement management plan were among discussions for the DPW. The standard of work being done the DPW Crew and Water Crew has been elevated and Town residents should be made aware of their progress.
- Water main replacement and truck replacement. Additional money for meter project, new well site and corrosion control upgrades were discussed for the Water department.

DPW Superintendent annual review and compensation

- The Board was unanimous when praising Mr. Mouradian for his work, commitment and dedication he has provided over the past two years. His communication skills and open door policy has assisted the Board to making better and more informed decisions. He has made the DPW more transparent and is always striving for ways to make the DPW and Water Department more efficient. Mr. Mouradian's open door policy is not just for the Board but is extended to each employee. Mr. Mouradian has proven himself as a team player and welcomes future challenges.
- Mr. Mouradian thanked the Board and stated that he enjoys his job and working with his crews.
- Mr. Day made a motion to bring Mr. Mouradian to a grade ten step nine.
Mr. Bershad seconded
Motion passed 3-0

Project Updates:

- On October 30th there is to be a Transportation Improvement Program Meeting (TIP) includes the DOT, Fire Chief, Police Chief and the Superintendent for the Route 62 and 140 project.
- Highway team doing a great job! Justice Hill Cut off is binder all the way to the Princeton line.
- Lazaro has been replacing piping under driveways –increasing the size
- Lucas is completed with cross pipes. Grinding and paving still to be done.
- Maple Street sidewalk project will not be completed until the Spring of 2024
- Corrosion Study - Jar testing – 2 day process adding chemicals into our water to see which ones are best for water. Helping to complete permitting process that has been sent to the State.
- Crowley Road testing has begun now that the turtle restrictions have been lifted. Andy Chapman has been down there working on two wells. Pump test next step.
- Redstone moving along nicely- Phase one complete another 900 feet completed. Three culverts replaced.
- West Sterling Generator project kicked off on Friday. The project should be ready for bid in December.
- Truck #6 coming apart – replacing front tires

Superintendent's Update:

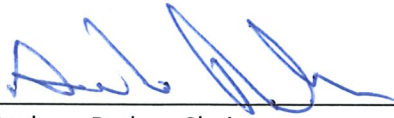
- Stabilized damage from rain damage from September 11th. Working on paper work for reimbursable money. Chief Hurlbut – emergency manager has been very helpful in tracking expenses.
- Justice Hill Cut Off – replaced nineteen drainage pipes
- Applied for salt reduction grant- will know by November
- Tree removal – 17 Mortimer Road approved
- Stop line painting early next week
- Safe Routes for School Arrival/Dismissal Observations included in package
- Quarterly Water Bills were printed last week and reflected new water rates- very consistent now
- Truck #5 auctioned off- \$5,050. Small trailer - \$410
- Brush and Leaf dump opening up in October. The dates are October 21st, 28th and November 4th, 11th, and 18th. Hours of operation are 8AM to Noon behind the Police department.
- Special Town Meeting Monday, October 16, 2023
- DPW will be participating in the Downtown Spooky Walk, Monday, October 23rd
- Model for Town drainage should be designed for half full pipes- eliminate water draining through backyards.

Future Agenda items:

- Chase Hill- speed limit
- Columbarium
- GIS System

Motion to adjourn at 8:40 PM

Next posted meeting TBD



Andrew Parker, Chairman
Department of Public Works Board