

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
171 Worcester Rd
Sterling, MA

November 14, 2023

Present: Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, Deane Day, Ryan Mouradian, Paul Gerardi, Michael Tomaiolo, Susan Genereux, David Rembetsy, Richard Maki, Kathy Brown, Peter Johnson, Jeffrey Hebb and Roger LaPerle

Zoom: Brian Doherty

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM

Andrew Parker, Blaine Bershad, and Deane Day present

Mr. Day made a motion to approve the Minutes of October 11th
Mr. Bershad seconded
Motion passed 3-0

Public Session: Mr. Maki wanted to thank Ryan and the DPW Crew completing Phase I of the drainage work at the Town Beach. Also, Mr. Maki wanted to thank the Board for their consideration of a columbarium at Hillside Cemetery. The columbarium is typically a more affordable option than a burial. Mr. Bershad wanted to acknowledge Mr. Mouradian for his presentation to the Dull Men's Club at the Senior Center, Thursday, November 9th. The presentation was very positive and well done.

Greenland Road Traffic Study

- Mr. Doherty from Montachusett Regional Planning Commission was available to answer questions in regards to the results from the traffic study that was taken over the summer to determine the amount of heavy truck traffic on Greenland Road between Boutelle Road to Muddy Pond Road. Police reports of accidents were also provided. The truck exclusion would only be for cut through vehicles, not vehicles doing business on that portion of road, and finding an alternative route that would be safer were considerations of the discussion that followed.
- The board members expressed concern with the alternative route provided, and that it would push heavy vehicles past the school to Bean Road and out to Worcester Road, due to the alignment of the intersection at Boutelle Road and Muddy Pond Road.
- Mr. Parker made a motion to not pursue a Heavy Truck Exclusion for the section of road in question.

Mr. Day seconded

Motion passed 3-0

Chace Hill Speed Limit Discussion

- Traffic study has been completed- in seven days there were 9,000 cars that traveled on the road and the average speed was 40 mph. The 85th percentile speed was 45 mph. When the State approves a change of speed limit they typically use the 85th percentile to decide the speed. The speed limit over the bridge is now 20 mph which Mr. Mouradian suggested changing the 20mph over the bridge to 35 mph. Several residents voiced their concerns about the speed of the traffic and made a request to lower the speed limit. Discussion ensued amongst the board and residents. The board agreed to continue to look into options to calm the traffic.

FY'25 Capital Discussion

- A detailed FY'25 Capital budget was presented along handouts that opened more discussions. Projects include Route 140 and Route 62 intersection and Swett Hill Drainage upgrades. Bodies for the new Truck#9 replacement which is versatile with the ability to switch different bodies quickly. Truck #34 replacement which now has over 115,000 miles. Cemetery maintenance- particularly the stone along 62 and the wall along Chocksett Cemetery and the addition of a Columbarium at Hillside Cemetery. Money for a mower will replace our existing

mowers with small mowers that are more efficient and nimble in smaller spaces as the cemeteries and downtown spaces. A small asphalt paver will greatly improve the quality and size of pavement repairs we make. 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 of aware of their progress.

- For the water capital, water main replacement and truck replacement. Additional money for the new well site and corrosion control upgrades were discussed. Capital budget due end of the week and operating budget not due until January.

Year to Date Budget

- Handouts through Warrant #9 – Four months into budget. DPW and Water in good shape.
- Mr. Bershad suggested that we increase the budget for Misc. Drainage for next year. Most of the work being completed is tied into the paving projects. Proper budgeting for chemicals and electrical have helped to have a more accurate budget.

Project Updates:

- Roadway Safety Audit completed Route 140/62 intersection
- Road Work- Lucas Road had binder and top completed today-paving to begin tomorrow Justice Hill Cut-Off
- Main Street -redesigning drainage- focusing on water lines-eliminating one of the two water lines
- Meter replacement moving right along- getting rid a lot estimate reads
- Crowley Road testing has begun- pumping 96 hours straight pumping and 500 gallons a minute taking water quality samples
- No updates for Truck # 6 – still waiting

Superintendent's Update:

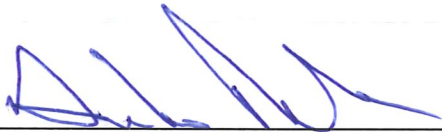
- First Snow & Ice Event yesterday- went quite well.
- \$20,000 grant for salt reduction- Outfitted 3 trucks for ice operations
- Thank You note from Town of Princeton for help given last month
- Christmas overflow trash program- A dumpster will be provided Wednesday, Dec. 27th and Thursday, Dec. 28th. Details can for found on the DPW Website
- Last Brush and Leaf dump November 18th. Hours of operation are 8AM to Noon behind the Police department.
- 3 Employees started a training program to obtain their CDL-A license.
- Removed flexible delineators from Johnson Road

Future Agenda items:

- none

Motion to adjourn at 8:57 PM

Next posted meeting TBD



Andrew Parker, Chairman
Department of Public Works Board