

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
171 Worcester Rd  
Sterling, MA

Minutes of April 13, 2021

Present: Deane Day, Paul Lyons, L DeCiero, Paul Gerardi, Susan Genereux, Blaine Bershad, Gregg Aubin, Jack Chandler, Michael Tomaiolo, Erica Lotz, Cathy Harragian

Via Zoom: Arden Sonnenberg, Jennifer Burney, Sherri Bean, A. Keegan, Kellie Hebert, Jessica Rubio

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm

Deane Day, Blaine Bershad, Gregg Aubin present

Minutes of March 23, 2021 were read. Deane Day made a motion to accept the minutes as read. Gregg Aubin seconded the motion. All in favor 3-0.

Public Session:

Erica Lotz- Stantec Engineering came to introduce herself and explain to the Board her resourcefulness as she has been working with the department for the past twenty years. Currently Stantec is under contract doing water studies. Erica conveyed to the Board that as two critical retirements are taking place May 1st in this department, she is making herself available should questions come up. Blaine Bershad indicated that he would like to have information that Erica could share regarding planning, the numbers as it pertains to developing well fields and the Water System Master Plan.

Cathy Harragian- Historical Society Commission thanked the department for what has been going on in the cemeteries. Cathy went on to say the work that has taken place over the past year: tree trimming and erosion control has made a world of difference. Cathy did express that there are some items (Chocksett Cemetery tree trimming, Civil War Monument settling, Oakhill Cemetery stonewall and unsafe drainage issue) that are important to the Historical Society that she would like the department to address but are not pressing at this time.

Jennifer Burney and Aaron Keegan of MRPC discussed their recent site visit that took place with the DPW Superintendent and the Town Planner. They gave an overview of the Complete Streets project and also discussed fifteen potential projects that are safe and accessible for all modes of travel/transportation.

Jessica Rubio stated to the Board that all on her street, Hilltop Drive, were in agreement to have the dangerous tree cut down. She stated that the neighbors have the same concerns as she has. Gregg Aubin stated there is no objection to take down the tree and that Jessica Rubio has permission to cut it down. Blaine Bershad made a motion to give Jessica Rubio permission to take down the tree, Deane Day seconded. All in favor 3-0.

Blaine Bershad made a motion to schedule a DPW Board meeting on Tuesday April 20th @ 7pm to discuss and appoint an Interim DPW Superintendent and a Water Operations Foreman. Paul Lyons stated he wants what is best for the town and thinks the Interim Superintendent should come in while he is still here in order to sit with him for a few days to go over some of the upcoming things pertaining to the department.

#### Superintendent Report Water

- There was no money to plan for the meter situation that arose during the year. Funds in the amount of \$58,218 were spent for meters and \$20,000 was spent for meter replacement out of this year's operating budget. There won't be any money until after town meeting to go ahead with the continuation of replacing meters.
- The Risk and Resiliency Study is due by June 30th. Funds in the amount of \$26,000 were spent out of this year's operating budget. There is more than half to pay on this study.

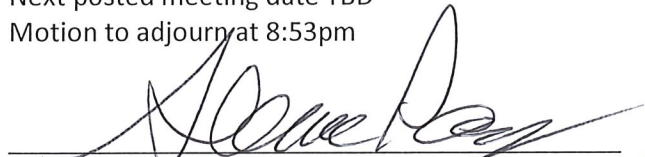
- Pump station day tank in West Sterling is almost done. Funds in the amount of \$10,000 were spent out of this year's operating budget.
- The cost to have a new well field up and running would be \$2,125,000.
- The Corrosion Control Study mandated by the DEP which has to be finalized by the end of this year will cost \$34,000.
- The West Sterling Well 4 screen had to be unplugged before hot weather comes upon us. The static level was at seven feet. The screen was surged and cleaned and the Well was put back into service. This unanticipated situation incurred a cost of \$10,000 to this year's operating budget.
- We are at a Level 1 Drought in Central Mass. Guidelines need to be followed to watering one day per week per household. Watch the website for further restrictions.

#### Superintendent Report DPW

- Chapter 90 had four projects at a cost of \$600,000 with the DPW doing some of the work at a cost of \$472,000. Lazarro is reassessing the culverts- repricing Redstone Place and part of Matthew Lane. Crack Filing price is \$50,000. Clinton Road is in need of it and the road can be saved with crack filing. The other two roads will have to hold off a little longer.
- Pavement Management System - Green International Affiliates makes recommendations on it, ways to do it, and uses a high resolution camera in the process. The cost is \$26,000 for the package and for the perpetual upkeep using Chapter 90 funds.
- Accepted/unaccepted roads using the Pavement Management System looking up information for the town it showed eighty miles of accepted roads and thirty miles of unaccepted roads. Not sure if this information is accurate or if it is outdated. Unaccepted roads are not eligible for Chapter 90 funding.

Next posted meeting date TBD

Motion to adjourn at 8:53pm

  
 Gregg Aubin, Chairman *Deane Daly, vice-chairman*  
 Department of Public Works Board