

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
171 Worcester Rd
Sterling, MA

Minutes of March 9, 2021

Present: Deane Day, Paul Lyons, L DeCiero, Geoff Donohue, Paul Gerardi, Susan Genereux, Blaine Bershad, Gregg Aubin, Jack Chandler

Via Zoom: Arden Sonnenberg, Richard Maki, Kellie Hebert, Lynne Sheppard, Richard Sheppard

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

Deane Day, Blaine Bershad, Gregg Aubin present

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

Public Session: Dick Maki stated he sent a letter to the DPW Board regarding Rte. 140 & 62 asking the Board to consider hiring a consultant at a cost of \$5000 to begin the process to see what we have to do to improve this area and perhaps the option of using Chapter 90 funds for this purpose. Gregg Aubin commented that would be a step in the right direction for a consultant to have a design to see where we are going with this. Lynne Sheppard asked if there could be a traffic light there for stop and go. Paul Lyons explained there are requirements necessary to have a red, yellow, green light. The state has to agree to it, road cuts, sensors, timers all with costs and is a long process.

Lynne Sheppard asked about the Storm Water consultant fees. Paul Lyons explained that Stantec is helping with the MS4 permit and that this is the fee to cover the third year and part of the fourth year of the permit. This has been worked on for the past two years and it was a year behind when Paul Lyons took over as Superintendent. Lyons has had to play catch up to get things up to speed and is getting the five year plan caught up.

Gregg Aubin stated that he was not on board with funding the consultant services for the DPW Superintendent search. He stated it was a lot of money for what we can do ourselves. Deane Day stated don't need to spend the money. The Town Administrator stated that she would find a way to pay for it. Blaine Bershad explained there were two parts to the consultant services; to analyze the operations within the next twenty five days and the second part to search/recruit for the position eliminating the need for a search committee. Gregg Aubin expressed there is no need to restructure at this time, the new Superintendent can do restructuring and they need to get a Superintendent recruited. Blaine Bershad stated the town needs to deal with the salary issue of the candidates. He went on to say how do we get everyone to understand that the position is not posted with enough money. Blaine Bershad stated there will need to be an interim or someone to step up. Paul Lyons expressed his concern that a working foreman isn't going to help; it needs to be an Assistant Superintendent to come in right now for the Water Department and that on the DPW side there is not a need for an interim because it is on autopilot. Paul Lyons explained per the Personnel by Law the Water Foreman position was posted at the low to midrange and an authorization to pay more money for the water position needs to be done now because it is a higher level position that is required to run this Water Department. Paul Lyons went on to state any one of you guys can run the DPW as an interim. Gregg Aubin asked Deane Day his opinion on spending money for a consulting firm. Deane Day stated we ourselves did it before to fill positions. All three Board members preferred to have a search committee. The Town Administrator explained that the consultants would make a recommendation of the rate of pay and responsibilities of the position and it seems backwards to her without a full understanding of how to structure the position. Town Administrator expressed that she doesn't feel that anything can be done without a professional consultant and she is suggesting for a small amount of money to have a qualified experienced professional assist in the process. Lynne Sheppard stated the position of the DPW Superintendent is a big responsibility and it is time to readjust the By Law and the pay of

the position. Gregg Aubin expressed to assemble a search committee tonight to get the ball rolling and then meet to go forward from there. Blaine Bershad made a motion to form a Search Committee for the DPW Superintendent position. Deane Day seconded. All in favor 3-0.

Superintendent Report Water

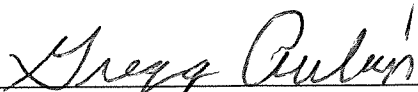
- Paul Lyons stated that per the Town Accountant a vote needs to be taken and approved for the \$40,000 Reserve Fund money to carry the Water Department through until the Town Meeting for the purchase of radios for installs and for KOH. Deane Day made a motion to transfer \$40,000 from the Reserve Fund to be used to carry the Water Department through until Town Meeting. Blaine Bershad seconded the motion. A vote was taken. All in favor 3-0.
- Paul Lyons relayed to the Board that the radio installs were going along well.
- Tata and Howard is working on the DEP mandated Risk and Resiliency Study. This study determines how at risk our system is should there be a major disaster and how we would put things back together again.

Superintendent Report DPW

- Paul Lyons suggested looking to the future regarding the Rte. 140 and 62 area and to obtain a cost of said situation.
- The truck that went to Aldrich's is back up and running; per Aldrich's there was no frame damage on the truck
- The Lazaro Award of Bid for the Ch. 90 project has been signed and returned to the department. Next is waiting to hear from Lazaro where we are on the schedule.
- Gregg Aubin asked if there was any available funds in Ch. 90 to do some crack filling; Paul Lyons stated there was. Paul Lyons will get costs and measurements of the roads in need of such repair. Paul Lyons suggested that the department move forward and to not stop crack filling.
- Blaine Bershad expressed his excitement about composting and explained that it gets food waste out of solid waste tonnage. There is the thought to partner with Bob Spence to do the composting. The department will do a soft launch; we already have in our fleet the two most expensive pieces of equipment needed the loader and the screener. Per Blaine Bershad other towns are inquiring to get in on this.
- Arden Sonnenberg thanked the department for the great year, awesome job the staff has done, and she expressed that it means a lot.

Next posted meeting date TBD

Motion to adjourn at 8:26pm



Gregg Aubin, Chairman
Department of Public Works Board