

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2018

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2018 OCT 12 P 12:06
TOWN OF LUDLOW

Members Present: Thomas Haluch, Bill Rodrigues, Barry Linton, Alex Simao, Stephen Santos

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Steven Frederick

Mr. Haluch called the meeting to order at 06:00 pm. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

6:00 Appointment Sean McBride, Recreation Commission, to discuss Whitney Park maintenance. Mr. McBride thanks the board for having him on their agenda. He is here on behalf of himself and the other 2 members of the board. Wants to discuss the decline in parks and field surfaces. Before meeting he drove by and said the debris and trash is disgraceful. Apparently DPW did some landscaping work and beautification projects by the gate. It is now over run with weeds. On his way to a Tuesday night meeting, one of the neighbors was out weeding it. That is unacceptable. A long time ago it used to be a premier playing facility for baseball, football & soccer. It is no longer the case. It continues to get neglected & overlooked. Something has to be done. Although other communities may have better resources than what we have, our parks are atrocious compared to them. Our options are very limited. Our charter is not only maintaining the parks, but running the camps and after school program. Haviland Pond is another issue. It looked beautiful early in the spring. Now in August it is over run with weeds & grass. These areas are trophy's for people traveling in & around Ludlow and it gives the impression that the Town of Ludlow does not care about its residents. We have to do something about it. Mr. McBride felt it was more important to meet with the board in person instead of sending a letter because he thinks it's important for them to work together. Mr. Linton said we have been short handed all year. Down 4 guys and only had 2 summer help for about 3 weeks. Mr. Haluch said we did not get the financing for it till about 3 weeks ago. We used to have 7

guys there, now we have 2. Mr. Santos said Mr. Chair we have 6 guys there. Told Mr. Frederick that we have the 2 Mikes, Ed Nowak and Barry Haber mowing. Mr. Haluch said we now have 2. Mr. Santos said the parks have not been touched in the past 5 weeks. He brought a pile of pictures. He was @ Whitney last night for U15 and there is a refrigerator on the pitchers mound. He said he sent the board and Mr. Frederick an email about Chapin Street. There was 18" weeds behind the pitchers mound. Mr. Simao said those don't grow overnight. Mr. Santos went to all of the fields and not one of them is any better than the other. Mr. Haluch said he knows they weren't allowed to put any weed killer down because the operations supervisor said no weed killer. Mr. Santos said if you scarify the fields you don't need weed killer. Mr. Frederick said the motor for it was not bought until July because it was not in the budget. Mr. Haluch said Mike was on vacation for about a week and a half, now you're down to 1 guy. Mr. McBride said he gets it because they also have far less summer help @ Westover than they've ever had, yet they continue to maintain aesthetics and the grounds because that's the product they're putting out. It's not fair to the kids that are playing sports. He understands that they are getting less but as a town and board have to learn to work with less. Mr. Linton said that last year they decided to get a company in there for the 4 steps to get the fields back. Being short handed is no excuse but it's reality. Now that we have the scarifier back hopefully we can get the diamonds back where they belong. Mr. Frederick said we had some issues with Waste Management miscommunication regarding trash. Mr. Haluch said sometimes Mr. Frederick does not even see the people in charge for a week or more. They don't come into the office. Mr. Frederick said only a few weeks ago the irrigation lines were fixed and the people digging the test holes broke them. He was under the impression Chapin was not going to be playable because of that. He then got an email from Debbie Gates asking to get Chapin up to speed. Mike Almeida says that is all squared away. He rototilled, scarified and cleaned it up. Mr. Haluch asked Mr. Santos what is the issue with Chapin St. He said he has no issue with Chapin other than it's all sand. Mr. Frederick asked Mt. Vernon Group, the architect for the school, to go fix the test holes they dug because we could not mow around them. He waited 2 weeks for them to do it and it never got done. So we fixed them ourselves. Mr. McBride asked that we do a better job. Mr. Simao said he is aware of the conditions of the fields and pond and needs to look at what we can do to make it better next year. Maybe have a meeting before next

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year's budget meeting. Mr. Haluch said we have taken the schools on with half the staff we used to have. Mr. Santos asked Mr. McBride why we have to lose Whitney's U15 field for fall ball. Mr. Linton asked Mr. McBride if we can put a fence around the bleachers. Mr. McBride left meeting. Mr. Haluch asked Florence Garrett, the 6:40 appointment to step up. She is in attendance with one of her neighbors, Carol P. Here to request Helena Street be paved. First she brought to board's attention that there is not enough parking places in the office parking lot. She came before the board years ago and got a petition signed by all the neighbors asking that continuous black top be put down. She stopped in Petrolati's office a couple weeks ago and his assistant told her to come to a meeting. Carol's husband brought pictures into the office a couple weeks ago. The drain at the end of the street is constantly filling with water. Mr. Linton said in the spring we had planned on paving but funding fell through and it had to be pulled. It is back on for the fall. They left the meeting.

6:30 appointment did not show up. Mr. Frederick said they would discuss Michele Tourville fence installation @ 161 Hubbard Street. Neighbor took down a short piped fence and put up a decorative aluminum fence. Looks like last section of fence is encroaching on neighbors property. She wants us to tell the neighbor to take the fence down. Mr. Simao motion to forward to the Building Inspector and CC Board of Selectmen. Mr. Linton second. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

Letter from Olga Maia Amaral regarding monument damage at Island Pond Cemetery. Mr. Haluch read letter. Mr. Santos motion to send to Wilbert Vault for payment. Mr. Simao second. Mr. Linton asked to have John Chase write letter confirming. All in favor. Mr. Santos said we should have some type of incident report.

Letter from Diane Pytko regarding overgrowth of town property abutting 30 Barrett Street. Mr. Haluch read letter. Mr. Santos asked for input from the Director. Mr. Frederick said he told Kenny he was not in favor of cutting the woods in that location. He resident did come into office and he did tell her she could cut back from her property but not that she should not have bought house. He advised her the write letter to BPW. Mr. Santos said we should table this until a couple board members go out and look @ it. Mr. Haluch asked Amy Priest to send resident a letter letting her know the Board discussed it and we will take a

closer look before a decision is made. Mr. Simao motion to table till next meeting. Mr. Linton second. All in favor.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Cady Street project. A. Pereira asking for extension of time. He does not know how much more time he needs. Mr. Linton motion to grant A. Pereira 2 months extension. Mr. Santos second. All in favor.

Open position. Candidate failed hiring process. Suggesting putting back out. Mr. Santos asked if we could take the next eligible person. Kenny suggested it go back out. Mr. Santos motion to re-advertise PW-2 position. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

Center Street project. Saved 2 trees that were originally supposed to come down at Haviland Pond. Were able to keep the fence. MA DOT coming down Thursday to check out set up for signs. No pole issues to date. 1 meter box needs to be moved. Drainage work continues. Mr. Frederick asked Beta to give better explanation of their bills. Every bill has shop drawings. Mr. Santos asked about the private property signs. Mr. Frederick will get back to it this week.

Miller Street resurfacing. Columbia Gas put 4" of binder and matched bottom of the existing pavement. One patch not done yet. Do we want to leave section till next year? Mr. Haluch said we should let it go and see what it looks like in the spring. Mr. Santos asked if CMA was going to rip it out or fix next year. Mr. Frederick said it's up to the board. Mr. Frederick asked if we wanted them to leave it, let it set and have them compensate us for milling along the way. Mr. Santos motion to send letter to Columbia Gas requesting compensation for milling & paving of trench path on Miller Street, Ventura to East and Parker to Oak Knoll. Mr. Rodrigues second. All in favor.

Crack sealing. We are on the schedule for October. Kenny & Steve will come up with a prioritized list. We have approximately 11 miles.

Road resurfacing. Mr. Frederick sent Board members an estimate for list of streets that they came up with. Came to about \$300,000. We have approximately \$690,000 in Chapter 90. Mr. Haluch said it's a good approach to get some of these secondary streets done. Mr. Santos said one was left over from last year, Parkerview. Mr. Simao said they should sign that list today and get Parkerview added as a separate one. Members signed.

6 wheeler. Replacement cash value is \$125,909.99.

Putts Bridge. Do we move forward with aluminum or have metal one fabricated. Mr. Santos would like to move forward but would like to prevent it from happening again for the 4th time. Can we put a piece of guardrail and protect the control blocks? Mr. Santos motion to repair under Chapter 90 and put a piece of guardrail. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

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Sewer projects. Mr. Frederick sent an article to do Grimard Street next year and try to come up with budget numbers. Mr. Linton would like to be moving ahead with another project next year. Thinks we need to get approval in the fall and go to bid this spring. Mr. Santos asked what we're doing with Westover Pump Station. Mr. Frederick said we're fixing Chapin Street right now. Mr. Haluch said let's just with Grimard for now. Everyone good with that.

Single stream. Waste Management wants to charge \$49/ton. We're looking at about \$75,000/year. Steve will attend DEP meeting September 6. Mr. Santos suggested a BOS member and Ellie attend the meeting with him. We are getting \$11,000 from sustainable materials recovery program.

Mr. Simao motion to accept directors report. Mr. Linton second. All in favor

Mr. Rodrigues says edge of road is settling in front of 220 Church.

Mr. Linton asking for solution to Howard Street drainage problem. Mr. Frederick said we'll have to package that with Colonial & Roosevelt. Tree on 67 Mero. Mr. Frederick will put it on the list.

Mr. Simao has nothing.

Mr. Santos asked if we got prices back for the lines on Holyoke Street. Mr. Frederick said price was higher than he thought. Tower Road test pits. Driller coming in week of 9/10/18. Sinking road in front of Uncle Bob's. Mr. Frederick has no solution yet. Are we going to try tree clearing this winter? I&I study. No word from letter we submitted yet. Can we be proactive instead of reactive?

Mr. Haluch asked about Mr. Charest @ Woodside Drive. His place got flooded again. Can we weed whack or clean it up? Lyon Street easement to town forest. Can we get a brush hog out there?

At 7:50 Mr. Simao made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rodrigues second. All in favor.

NOTES ACCEPTED:

Thomas Heluck
CLW
By J 2

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Amy Kuntz

Clerk