

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2019

Members Present: Tom Haluch, Barry Linton, Bill Rodrigues, Alex Simao, John Davis

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2019 OCT 25 P 1:30  
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Members Absent:

Also Present: Mike Suprenant, Ken Batista, Amy Priest

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Mr. Haluch called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Center Street project. Scheduling meeting was held yesterday. Palmer Paving will begin in 2-3 weeks. We will have binder over the winter. Top will go on in the spring. We got both of the bills for the initial sewer changes and other work. It came up to \$59,295.60. Money came from the enterprise fund. State did not pay for temporary patch. Mr. Haluch asked if the police bills were being paid through State funding? Mr. Suprenant did not see anything in the detailed estimate. We received a few Bridge reports. Mr. Suprenant would like the Board to move forward on the one next to the fire station on 21. It is not critical, but will be within the next 4-5 years. We should look into funding from the small bridge program. Meeting with MA DOT will be at the end of the month for bridge on Piney Lane. Would like to get funding for 2 or 3 at a time. Mr. Suprenant will attend a recycling meeting Thursday. Mr. Suprenant testified on the \$18 Billion Bonds Bill. There is \$100 Million in the bill for paving national highway routes (21). They are not proposing any increase in Chapter 90. We had an incident at Chapin Street Pump Station. It was leaking and repaired immediately. Wet well has been cleaned. We will need to do some repairs @ Westover Pump Station. The building will probably need to be replaced. We will need to go to Capital Improvements for some repairs to Transfer Station. Mr. Suprenant put out some feelers for an estimate for a pavilion @ Recreation Department. Also working on estimate for toilets, basketball and tennis courts. We have been approved for the changes to the Personnel Policy for the 2<sup>nd</sup> mechanic and increase in salary for Engineering Intern. Sewer rate hearing will be at the next meeting. Excess of \$97,500 in the budget for indirect expenses. Until that point, we are losing money. We took \$200,000 at Annual Town Meeting of

retained earnings to offset sewer rate. \$934,758 was the retained earnings certified by DOR as of June 30, 2019. Minus \$200,000 that was already appropriated to the budget. Also, minus another \$60,000 for work done on Center Street. Mr. Linton thinks the \$200,000 might be already taken from the budget because it was for a project. Mr. Suprenant will go over it with the Town Accountant. Purple bags revenue has been very successful. It is not offsetting the cost of disposal, but it is helping. The cost of the bags is about \$20,000/year. There is a net of about \$40,000. Mr. Simao motion to accept Director's Report. Mr. Linton second. All in favor.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Top installed on Old Coach Circle, McKinley and Taft. Crews are out doing driveway adjustments. Once that is done we can go back and do shoulder work. Palmer Paving pushed us back to November 8 for binder on Bondsville Road. Murray is schedule to grind on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Then Palmer Paving will come back the 11<sup>th</sup> for the top. Still dealing with Verizon on Nash Hill Road. Last paving date to do the shim on Cady Street. Still waiting for agreement from Chicopee for Bluebird Acres. It has been with attorneys for at least month and a half. Indus Industries, formerly known as Crack Seal, doing the crack sealing on project streets we had listed. Will be using Chapter 90, about \$40,000. Hampden County Sheriff's Department is starting a pilot program for tree work. One of the C.O.'s had worked for Northern Tree. Northern Tree donated bucket truck, gear and equipment. They are going to try to do some work on Randall Road. After they are established, Kenny would like to get them on some of the side streets. Also, would like to get them to do some work for the tree planting program. Will be marking out foundations @ Island Pond in the next couple weeks to get ready for Veteran's Day (approximately 25). Update from Universal Pump, who rebuilt the pump @ Westover Pump Station. There were rags wrapped up in the impeller. Someone putting shop rags in the sewer. They also found a short in the wiring, which they also repaired. Terry from Healey has the pump and will get it installed next week. Their bill was \$3,200. 2 men are checking pump station daily. Snow plowing vendors. We have 2 contractors from last year that will not plow for us this year. It will hurt us because we will lose 6 loaders, a tractor backhoe and a 450. Mr. Linton asked if we lost them because we were not paying enough. Kenny said that was one thing that came up. Another concern was the salt in the machines. No other contractors came in. We will be short-handed this winter. Mr. Linton motion to hire same guys as last year. We also lost 2 long time employees to retirement and will have to train new people this winter. Mr.

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Simao asked about stumps. Kenny said he has started marking out. We have about 60-70. Mr. Simao asked about water by Red Barn on Holyoke Street. Mr. Simao asked about line painting. Kenny spoke w/ Highway Safety again. They did not give him something in writing to let us know when they would come in. Mr. Simao motion to send Town Attorney. Mr. Linton second. All in favor. Mr. Simao motion to accept Operations Supervisor's report. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS: Director/Town Engineer position. Mr. Haluch said that if we posted now and gave a 30 day time limit, we could make a decision. Mr. Simao asked what the starting salary would be. Mrs. Priest said it was posted by Human Resources. She will have to check the rate. Mr. Rodrigues motion to post position. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Cemetery report: Sales were \$8,700. Kenny said we have 3 spots left.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Simao asked about progress with new cemetery. Mr. Suprenant has spent 8 hours drafting plans. It will take another 16 to get enough together to plan it out numbered. Mr. Simao said at the last meeting they received a list of surrounding communities prices for plots. He thinks we should take a look and make changes. Mr. Haluch said they also need to decide if they will take anyone from out of town and make a separate price list for that. Mr. Simao asked about Simonds Street. Kenny dig safed it yesterday. Mr. Simao asked Mr. Suprenant to contact the tax payer to let him know what's going on. Mr. Rodrigues asked about trees that were taken down by recent storm. They were moved back but not removed on Tower Road, Church Street and Center Street by Lyon & Miller. Mr. Rodrigues asked Kenny how many people go with him to mark out dig safe. Mr. Haluch said it seems like a big expense to have more than one guy marking out dig safe. It might make more sense to take one of the other guys out with Kenny if he needs to. Mr. Rodrigues motion to have Kenny take someone else, other than the Assistant Engineer, when he goes to mark out dig safe. Mr. Davis second. All in favor. Mr. Davis said a guy on Lyon Street keeps getting water. Kenny said he took care of it for Joe Drobot last week. We created a swail. Mr. Simao asked about sewer fees we are paying to City of Springfield. He asked for a report. Kenny will look into. Mr. Haluch asked if all the berm got backed up with loam and seed @ the football field behind the old DPW. Kenny will check.

NOTES AND COMMENTS:

At 7:01 P.M. Mr. Simao made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel then to adjourn. Mr. Linton second with roll call. Barry-Yes, Alex-Yes, Tom-Yes, Bill-Yes, John-Yes.

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NOTES ACCEPTED:

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*John Barry*  
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*Amy Kuntz*  
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Clerk