

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEETING MINUTES
October 22, 2019

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: Mike Suprenant, Ken Batista, Amy Priest

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

Mr. Haluch asked Mr. Suprenant to bring the public meeting to order for setting the sewer rate. Mr. Simao asked to take Cristine Ribeiro, 153 West Ave, who showed up, but is not on the agenda. She brought bills for check valve that was installed. It is more than quoted because they found asbestos. Mr. Haluch asked for pictures of completed work. Ms. Ribeiro said Mr. Linton showed up when work was being done. Mr. Suprenant said we should have been called for an inspection. Mr. Simao motion to reimburse homeowner \$2,950. Mr. Linton second. All in favor. Mr. Suprenant said if the Board wants him to, he will have a conversation with the contractor about calling for inspection. Mr. Batista said he did call and say he was doing it on a Saturday. Mr. Suprenant said the Operation Supervisor issued the trench permit. Mr. Batista said he is the only one that can because he is the only one sworn in. Mr. Rodrigues motion to have Director sign the sewer and trench permits. Mr. Davis second. All in favor. Mr. Linton motion to open public hearing to set the sewer rate. Mr. Simao second. All in favor. Board members reviewed 3 proposed prices. Mr. Suprenant said there was a serious shortfall in the amount of revenue from last year's rate by \$30,000. The current rate of \$3.30/100 cubic feet is not sustainable. The indirect charges of \$97,500 did not include health insurance and pension, which is required. Mr. Haluch asked if the increase was related to the additional work at the pump station? Mr. Suprenant said there were additional charges that will be coming that we were not aware of. Also, additional charges for waste water treatment, almost \$100,000. Mrs. Priest said it was included in the target number. Mr. Suprenant said there is no other towns in our area in the \$3 range. Everyone else is at least \$4.00. Mr. Simao asked about BOD. Mr. Suprenant said the BOD and suspended solids are part of it. Mr. Suprenant said there was one year it was more. Mr. Haluch said it was because it cost more money to treat it and break it down. Mrs. Priest said it's the intergovernmental-sewer line on the spreadsheet. Mr. Haluch asked Mr. Suprenant to call Springfield Water tomorrow for

ball park figure on what they will be charging for pump station. Mr. Suprenant said the Board of Selectmen opened the classification hearing but will be unable to raise the sewer rate is set. Mr. Haluch asked if we could create a proposed rate tonight that can be adjusted when we receive the final information. Mr. Linton thought we still had \$600,000-\$700,000 in retained earnings from the fund. Mrs. Priest said that in her notes from last meeting, retained earnings were \$978,000. Mr. Simao will call Mr. Suprenant tomorrow for the surrounding town rates for reference. Mr. Linton motion to set sewer rate @ \$3.80, increased \$.50/100 cubic foot. Also, set to \$80/person on the wells. Mr. Simao second. All in favor. Mr. Suprenant said that if we update Munis software, we could go to quarterly sewer billing. Mr. Linton motion to close public hearing. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Chris Moore re: vehicle damage due to falling branch on intersection of Holyoke and West Streets. Mr. Linton motion to submit claim to insurance. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Suprenant said there may be some room @ the cemetery for another row against the fence between sections V & W. Mr. Suprenant presented the sketch. 36 graves can be added in section W and 42 graves can be added in section V. Mr. Simao motion to add plots to section W. Mr. Linton second. All in favor. Human Resources Manager will not post the 2nd mechanic position until union approves change. Human Resources Manager has advertised the Engineering Intern position. Mr. Simao verified we have \$15,000 in the budget. PW-2 position that has been vacated by Bill Thompson has not been posted by Human Resources Manager. Both she and union have a problem advertising work week as Tues-Sat. Union says past practice is to pay OT on Saturday. Mr. Linton motion to hire 2 part time people 20 hrs/week. Mr. Simao second. All in favor. We have been notified by Human Resources Manager that mechanic out on Workers Comp has been denied by MIAA for any further benefits. We have been notified by Human Resources Manager that Gregory Leblanc has filed FMLA effective 9/17/19. Mr. Suprenant received it yesterday. He was notified 2 weeks ago that a doctor's note has been received. Mr. Haluch asked if it was normal to not be notified for a month. Mr. Suprenant said he was notified verbally 2 weeks ago that there was a doctor's note, but not FMLA. Mr. Suprenant said there is no indication as to when he will return. Mr. Suprenant said he is not allowed to see any of the paperwork, just verbal information from Human Resources Manager. Mr. Suprenant said FMLA must be recertified every 30 days. Mr. Suprenant attended the Regional Services Disposal meeting on 10/10/19. We are currently paying \$77.50/ton for disposal. Contract ends 6/30/20. Arlene Miller is leading the effort to stabilize the cost of trash disposal. Should have more information w/in the next 30 days. The recycling contracts we received will

cost the Town over \$125,000 more than we are currently paying starting next July. He will meet with Town Administrator and Accountant to discuss. Mr. Suprenant said almost twice as much to recycle as it is to throw it away as trash. Mr. Suprenant said there is a review meeting on the 31st for the Senior Center. Architect is Dietz and Co. Engineer is Malone and McBruin. There is also a plan from Colvest Group who is proposing a bank right next to Starbucks. Stormwater looks ok. Mr. Linton of Little Senior Center meeting because of jury duty. Mr. Suprenant will attend. Mr. Simao said that he would rather not see the block lines in front of bank. Mr. Linton will see what the Safety Committee says. Stormwater Management agreements. Zoning bylaws require that an agreement be recorded. The first one he's seen is in the submission package for the Senior Center. Mr. Haluch asked to get some input from Planning Department and Building Inspector about this. Mr. Suprenant has not heard anything from Conservation Commission or Mike Pietras about Electric Park drainage problems. Mr. Suprenant presented pavement samples that were brought to DPW. Instead of mill and fill, this is roll out and fill the cracks. Cost is competitive to mill and shim and overlay. We are going to bid this process this year. Mr. Haluch suggested communicating with communities that have used it before we go for it. This is to prevent reflective cracking. Second sample is treated with a fog spray. It's to get some more life out of pavement before we have to crack seal. It's about \$1.00/SQY and equivalent to mill and fill. Mr. Simao motion to accept Director's report as read. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

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TOWN OF LITTLE

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: 1 driveway left on McKinley Ave will be completed tomorrow. All that's left on McKinley and Taft is shoulder work. Bondsville Road still on schedule for reclamation week of Nov. 4. Palmer Paving pushed us back to Nov. 11 for binder and Nov. 14 for top. Still have issue with telephone pole on Nash Hill Road. Charter Communications needs to move their utilities off the pole. Looking to have final paving on Nash Hill the 14th also. Pavement markings have been restored on Holyoke Street. Old thermo ground out, new thermos installed. No cost associated. Did 110 dig safes for stump grinding. Beaver is \$1,400/day to come in and grind stumps. Have approximately 5 days worth of work. Our crew will do the loam and seed. Looking to begin the week of the 4th. Kenny contacted 3 area companies for quotes for the brush pile in the back. Prices do not include grinding of logs. About half dozen trees damaged from storm last week. One crew worked overnight that night. Another crew worked 3-4 days cleaning up. One additional contractor applied for snow plowing. He has a 1 ton dump and skid steer. Kenny suggests with the lack of snow equipment, we should probably take the applicant with his skid steer. With the shortage of employees, it may be necessary to go to an outside vendor for sidewalks. Westover Pump Station was repaired but Healey was backed up with work so they will be here Friday to re-install the pump then will have Amp come in and re-connect the pump. By Friday, the pump

station should be back up and running. Mr. Linton asked about the driveway on Auburn Street. Kenny said we will have to have a paving contractor come in and do that. Simao asked about Simonds Street. Kenny said it has been staked out. We will do that when we do the shoulder work on McKinley and Taft. Mr. Linton motion to accept Operations Supervisor's Report. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

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NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Simao asked about vehicles going into the compost facility without a sticker. Kenny said we have no one to staff the facility. Mr. Simao suggested making one entrance so that it is monitored. Mr. Linton would like to get prices on the annual bid for mowing all the cemeteries. Also said fertilizer should be put in the annual bid. Mr. Rodrigues asked about Rood Street. Kenny said we have not had a chance to meet with Springfield Water. Mr. Haluch asked about Mr. Charest on Woodside. Kenny has not heard anything from him.

At 7:53 P.M. Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

NOTES ACCEPTED:

John

Bill Rodriguez

By: AJ

Amy Kurtz

Clerk