

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 3, 2019

Members Present: Barry Linton, Alex Simao, John Davis

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Members Absent: Thomas Haluch, Bill Rodrigues

Also Present: Mike Suprenant, Amy Priest

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Trash fees meeting that was supposed to be held this morning has been postponed until Thursday. Mr. Suprenant will let the Board know by Thursday what the trash fees look like. He is looking at another alternative. Right now it looks like our current vendor is the low bidder. It will be an increase this year of \$4.50/ton. This is for the disposal contract which ends June 30, 2020. State contract for recycling will have to be decided by the Town by January 31, 2020. It's estimated to be over \$300,000/year increase. Mr. Linton said we should plan a joint meeting with Selectmen. Mr. Suprenant said he would like to do it December 17. Mr. Suprenant sent email to Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator letting them know. The first part of this snow storm, the crew did a good job. The second half was not our stellar moment. About 40% of our hired equipment in the first 3 hours of the storm broke down and was out for the duration of the storm. That is the principle reason a lot of the side streets were not plowed until late this afternoon. Mr. Suprenant apologized to the tax payers of the Town that we did not do as good a job as we would have liked. Some personnel was not available and Mr. Suprenant will ask the Board for its backing in a policy he would like to issue. If employees do not answer their phone after 3<sup>rd</sup> call, there will be disciplinary action that may include time off without pay. Mr. Linton said he thought the union contract said that during an emergency they are required to show up. One employee had a small child at home and could not come in. Once his spouse came home, he came to work. From now on, anyone that is out sick during a storm will have to produce a doctor's note saying they were being treated for a serious illness. Mr. Suprenant said there were 6 employees out. 1 is out of town on vacation. 1 was on vacation and is currently working. 2 are out sick. 1 did not answer the phone. Mr. Linton is ready to back him up. The rest of the Board agrees.

APPOINTMENT: Vitaliy Gladyshev regarding sewer line @ Focosi Lane. He would like waiver of regulation so he can dig couple hundred feet because he had a late start to the construction. He would like to get power, water & sewer to at least the 2 houses he

has under contract. Mr. Davis' concern is who will maintain the road when it's dug up, especially since we just got a snow storm. Columbia Gas does not want to do anything in the winter months. Mr. Gladysch would like to start with the water and sewer tomorrow. Mr. Linton is willing to extend until Friday December 13. Mr. Simao motioned to allow him to dig in the road until December 13, subject to him meeting all the requirements and the asphalt until spring. Mr. Davis second. All in favor. Mr. Gladysch asked if it would be a big deal if he did all 3 at once. Mr. Davis said as long as it's maintained during the winter. Mr. Gladysch said the DPW was supposed to supply the materials. Mr. Suprenant said we could probably get that by Monday.

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DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Shim coat has been put in on Cady Street. Council is meeting tonight in Chicopee and they are going to vote on reimbursing us. Still trying to deal with Springfield Water about the settlement on Rood Street. Annual bid is out. We have several bidders so far and it has been sent to the Central Register. They will be opened on December 12 and will be ready for review for the meeting on December 17. Hopefully we will have all the contracts back by the first meeting in January for signature. We added several items in the annual bid, including fertilization and additional mowing. Barry Haber came in the meeting asking Mr. Suprenant if he had any slips for intersections that need to be done or complaints that he can clean up. Mrs. Priest went out to get a list for him. Mr. Suprenant said tomorrow will be a big day for clean-up. Mr. Simao asked about the guy doing the sidewalks. Mr. Suprenant said the contractor just stopped and left. Mr. Suprenant said he has someone out there with a snow blower right now. We borrowed the school department's snow blower in the garage. Mr. Suprenant said we did not have a 2<sup>nd</sup> bidder on sidewalks. Mr. Suprenant said we have tried using the Bobcat but it is not working properly. Mr. Linton asked why the contractor left. Mr. Suprenant said he did not say anything other than he thought he was damaging his equipment. Mr. Suprenant said he also was called early last night and he did not come right away so the snow got ahead of him. Mr. Suprenant said he will get together with Kenny to make a plan for the future. Mr. Suprenant complimented some of the guys who stepped up, Tim for example, to do repairs on equipment. Jamie has helped also. Mr. Davis said during a storm we need a mechanic. Mr. Simao motioned to accept Director's report. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

Mr. Suprenant said Kenny is not at meeting tonight because he plowed all night last night. He went home around noon. Sander went over to Town Hall because of the meeting tonight. Mr. Suprenant said we were expected to get 3-5", but we got 17". Mr. Suprenant said lower West Street area had not been touched until 3 this afternoon. Mr. Simao wants to know where the breakdown was. Wants to know why side streets were not plowed. Says we don't have enough hired help or personnel. Mr. Linton asked if we can get to the Selectmen by the 17<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Priest will call Ellie to schedule. We should

probably meet again next week. Mr. Suprenant said that would be good so he can give a better report on the storm. Mr. Simao asked about the job posting for the Mechanic. He looked online and he did not see it. Mr. Suprenant said he has asked Human Resources several times but it is not done yet. There is also a PW-2 position still not posted. After speaking with Town Administrator, Mr. Suprenant is under the impression we could get as many people as we wanted through the Senior Abatement Program. He figures we could use at least a dozen throughout the year. He thinks 2 people are needed at the transfer station. Mr. Simao said on Friday he saw a car with trailer full of shrubs go into the compost facility. Even though we were closed, the gate was wide open.

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OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: None.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Simao asked about how to get on the robo call for trash messages. Mrs. Priest said to call the Selectman's office. Trash is delayed 1 day this week. Stanley, Barna, Libby area they were not able to get to today, so they will go back tomorrow. Mr. Suprenant said you can also go on to the Town website under Blackboard. Mr. Linton has a bill from Fletcher Sewer & Drain about blockage on 647 East Street. Says the problem is in the sidewalk. Mr. Suprenant said the problem is in the building sewer, but the main is clear. Problem was identified a few years ago. This is not the first time it's happened. Homeowner just gave us the bill now. Mr. Suprenant does not think it's the Town's responsibility, as the main is clear. Mr. Linton thinks the problem is within the 10' that we own. Mr. Simao motion to postpone until next meeting until Kenny can check it out. Mr. Davis second. All in favor. Cemetery commitment was \$7,450. Mr. Haluch will need to sign. Sewer bills are set to be mailed by Collector's office by December 6.

At 6:53 P.M. Mr. Simao made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

NOTES ACCEPTED:

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*Amy Kuntz*  
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Clerk