

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 10, 2019

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Members Present: Thomas 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.

972. CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Sally Condino-Kelly requesting reimbursement for mailbox damage due to snow plowing operations. Mr. Linton motion to reimburse resident \$50. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: (APPOINTMENT) Peter Lapointe, Colvest Group, requests waiver from DPW regulations for construction. They have a letter of credit for Massachusetts Bank in lieu of warranty security. Mr. Lapointe confirmed he produced the bond for 1 and cash for other. Mr. Linton asked where the road cut is. Mr. Lapointe said one is right where Joy's used to be, the other is adjacent to the house that was demolished. The only reason MASS DOT has given them permission to do what they're doing is because they have not done the top course yet. Springfield Water says they cannot use the existing water line because it's too old. They've instructed them to open the road so they can terminate the connection at the corporation. They have agreed to a 2" tap at the same location. That line is intended to feed the new Kentucky Fried Chicken, which there is a signed lease for. The 2<sup>nd</sup> connection is a new tap to serve a future multi-tenant retail building on 485 Center Street, which was residential re-zoned commercial. Both can be completed in a 2 day span. MASS DOT is insisting they backfill with flowable fill. Their plan is to replace Friendly's with an Urgent Care. It would not have sprinklers in it. Sewer line coming into property is 6". Mr. Simao asked if he was looking to complete work by April. Mr. Linton motion to grant permits needed as long as DOT is on board. Mr. Rodrigues second. All in favor. Mr. Suprenant said this Thursday night, the Planning Board will be reviewing the People's Bank building. Mr. Suprenant suggested right turn only out of parking lot. Mr. Haluch said it seemed as if People's Bank was adamant against it. Mr. Simao said there has been 37 accidents at that intersection, which is why Safety Committee brought it up.

Trash and recycling update. Mr. Suprenant scheduled to meet with USA Recycling. They are interested in giving us pricing on disposal. They are a much closer haul for Waste Management. The group of 13 communities that was led by Arlene Miller has received

revised proposal with slightly better prices from Community Eco Power, formerly known as Covanta. Chicopee entered into a favorable trash agreement with Republic. The City of Springfield recycling bid results should be available tomorrow. He is also working on prices from K&W. A bill passed recently that limits a town's ability to negotiate without public bidding.

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Site plans. There is a proposed car lot @ 135 Carmelina's Circle. Mr. Suprenant has no comment. It does not effect the DPW. There is the final site plan for Wendy's. Final approval will be Thursday night. Traffic is off of Center Street, utilities are off of Stivens. Mr. Linton said that Wilbraham requires every restaurant to pump the grease traps 4 times a year. We should put something similar into our regulations.

TOWN OF LODLOW

Center Street sewer pipe replacement. Final change order has been prepared to get the contractor paid. Mr. Suprenant said the money is coming from the sewer enterprise fund.

Storm report. This past storm cost the Town \$73,630.42.

Focosi Lane sewer. Materials cost is \$1,450.20. The builder went to SWSC today to get a permit.

Annual bids scheduled to be opened Thursday December 12 @ 10:30 a.m. About 24-25 bidders.

Budget process has begun. If individual Board members want to speak w/ him about the budget, he'd be happy to do so.

Mr. Simao motion to accept Director's report. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Sidewalk work on Newbury and Canterbury is complete. Varandas did the work and it came out pretty nice. There was some negative feedback from some residents. During Festa people would park on their lawn and this would alleviate that problem. Final pavement was installed on Bondsville Road. Shim was done on Cady Street on November 14. Springfield City Council was meeting to accept the agreement to reimburse us for the work. It was under \$20,000. The only work we have left for the spring is shoulder restoration on Bondsville and Nash Hill Roads. Palmer Paving went to Holyoke Street to take a look @ area by Red Barn. We could put a catch basin because there is a gas line in the shoulder. Also trying to address the drainage issue on Colonial Drive & Munsing Street. 647 East Street sewer problem. Fletcher found grease in the lateral, which they cleared and camera-d. They found a belly in the front yard and another low spot closer to the tree belt. He thinks it was repaired when Springfield did the 16" water main. Video was poor quality so it will probably have to be camera-d again. Property owner was talking about replacing the entire service. We would participate in the public way work. Storm report. First crew came in about 1 p.m. Sunday afternoon to pre-treat. 2<sup>nd</sup> crew and hired help did not show up until 10 p.m. Hired help left about 7 a.m. Monday. 2 of our personnel were on vacation and 1 was out sick. We had a loader that we hired that broke down and was

not available during the storm. A section of the plow on the Volvo broke and had to be welded. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the storm, the first crew stepped down and the 2<sup>nd</sup> crew maintained the roads till midnight. That's when we had the hired help come back. Most everyone left at 5:30 Tuesday morning. 7 of our personnel were missing during that storm. 3 hired trucks broke down from the previous storm. During this storm we lost 3 F450's and 2 front end loaders. The people that were here concentrated on main roads. We had to hire 2 outside contractors to help with sidewalks. The gentleman we hired to do sidewalks decided he didn't want anything to do with it after the first storm. The 2 hired contractors worked around the clock to get sidewalks ready for school the next day. Monday's total was 6", Tuesday was an additional 14". Kenny wants to thank our personnel and hired trucks that did come in. Some guys were here a solid 48 hours. He got 2 hours sleep in 3 days. Hopefully we will have a better response during the next event. Mr. Haluch asked what our policy is for our personnel who are committed to plow and decide they don't want to. Mr. Suprenant said in some instances this was blatant disregard. They will be written up. He says Public Works employees are First Responders and need to show up in an emergency. Mr. Haluch said we need to develop a consistent policy. Mr. Suprenant said he is proposing the policy be that if anyone refuses to answer their phone, the first offense be a day off without pay, 2<sup>nd</sup> offense be even more severe, 3<sup>rd</sup> time could be termination. Verbal will be given to everyone as fair warning that this is the department's policy. He wants to work with the union to have a very strict policy on emergency situations. Mr. Suprenant said the staff that did come in performed better than could be expected. Kenny said that if he is spending 8 hours in a truck plowing snow, then he is not able to be doing the job he's supposed to be doing, which is making sure jobs are getting done. Mr. Linton would like to commend the guys that did come in and work and the others should be embarrassed about what they did. Mr. Suprenant would also like to compliment the clerical staff for taking phone calls and making lists for Kenny and they worked well with the crews in solving problems. They took a lot of abuse. Mr. Linton told Mr. Suprenant what Chicopee is paying for loaders so maybe we bump up the rate to keep them in town. Kenny said we need to start replacing some of the people that retired. We lost both Lee and Paul who would be here till the very end. Mr. Suprenant said the advertising has not happened yet. Need to work with Human Resources. Mr. Linton motion to advertise PW-2 and maybe deal with part time positions in our budget next year. Mr. Simao second for discussion. Wants to know how many positions we have and how many are posted. Mr. Suprenant said we have a PW-2, PW-3/2<sup>nd</sup> mechanic and an engineering intern. Intern is still advertised. Mr. Suprenant emailed both STCC and UMASS and he has gotten a couple responses. PW positions have not even been posted with the union. Mr. Simao asked if we're paying enough for a mechanic. Mr. Linton saw a mechanic's position in a DPW in the Worcester area advertised around \$29/hour. Mr. Linton said it needs to be advertised before Board meets again. All in favor of the motion. Kenny said we were supposed to have Duke's

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come in last week for root treatment but it will have to be pushed back to this week.  
Mr. Simao motion to accept Operations' Supervisors report as read. Mr. Davis 2<sup>nd</sup> Aid in favor.

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Cemetery commitment for November \$7,450.

NEW BUSINESS: Executive session scheduled for Tuesday December 17 with Board of Selectmen. Mr. Linton suggested we postpone until we have all the information we need. Mr. Suprenant said the deadline to get back to Arlene Miller is January 13, 2020. Mr. Haluch asked if we have language in the annual bid about surety. Mr. Suprenant said the bid bond is 5% or certified check. We have added a few items. We broadened the types of equipment we would rent so it's not so narrowly focused. Mr. Haluch asked what the deadline is for the Director/Town Engineer position. Mrs. Priest said it was Friday December 6. Carrie received 2 applicants. Mr. Simao asked if we should schedule appointments for them or if we should wait to hear from Carrie. Mr. Haluch said we wait for Carrie. Mrs. Priest said there is only 1 applicant with a stamp. Mr. Haluch said the next meeting is Monday December 23.

At 7:30P.M. Mr. Linton made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

NOTES ACCEPTED:

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Clerk Amy Kuntz