

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MEETING MINUTES
February 4, 2020

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TOWN OF LUDLOW

Members Present: Thomas Haluch, Barry Linton, Alex Simao, John Davis

Members Absent: Bill Rodrigues

Also Present: Mike Suprenant, Amy Priest

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

#978

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Robert Kopec requesting an abatement to the sewer bill for business Chrela, LLC located at 556 Center Street. Mrs. Priest said the sewer bill was given \$100 abatement last year and BPW advised him it would be in his best interest to install a water meter. He has not done that yet. Mr. Linton motion to send letter stating his sewer bill will not be abated unless he installs a secondary water meter. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

#979

Letter from James Street requesting reimbursement for mail box damage due to snowplow at 56 Main Blvd. Mr. Linton motion to pay \$50 to resident for mailbox. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: Resident came in not on the agenda but wanted to ask the BPW a question. Wants to know if there is a place she can go online to find procedure for when DPW is doing a work order that involves a resident's property. For example, if one of our crew needs to do work and they cut somebody's property bushes. What is the procedure to notify the homeowner? Mr. Haluch said we would not be on private property. Mr. Linton said 10' off the street line is the right of way. It could be a work order from the Safety Committee. They would send a letter to the homeowner. If the homeowner did not do anything, we might have to send our crew to trim it back. Resident said there is a town bylaw that says you can't have anything planted that will obstruct the view within 25' of an intersection. Resident says she does not want to get into details tonight about what happened, but she will write it up and ask to be put on agenda 2 weeks from now. Resident's names are Lisa Labonte and Joe Lodaca. Mr. Suprenant said that policy is to cut within the public way unless it meets the town bylaw requirement.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Solid waste disposal agreement with Community Eco Power is being reviewed by Town Counsel. Question that came up at the last meeting is addressed. Any trash that has to be sent to the backup facility in Pittsfield if the

Springfield facility is out of service will be transported at CEP's expense, not the Town. BPW will be asked to sign this agreement at the next meeting on Feb 18, 2020. BOS is reviewing the recycling contract because the article at the fall town meeting was for the BOS to enter into agreement for recycling up to 10 years. They are reviewing the dual stream recycling contract and will be talking in detail about what has to be done over the next several weeks because we will have to do a lot of public education. Mr. Linton said he and Mike met with Ellie, Kim Collins and Derek DeBarge and we as a Board have to decide if we're going back to dual stream because it is the cheapest option and also rubbish would all be in purple bags and that would generate close to 1 million dollars to offset million and a half that this will cost us. At the next meeting they would proposed the \$25,000 revolving fund increase to \$150,000. We would go to a 25 bag roll. We might sell them here. Mr. Linton said we should also put together a letter to the condominium people because they have dumpsters and it might be cheaper. Mr. Linton motion for rubbish collection to go to completely pay as you throw purple bags across the board and go back to dual stream recycling. One week would be bottle/cans next week would be paper/cardboard. Mr. Simao second for discussion. What is the price for the bags? Mr. Linton amendment to motion for purple bags to stay the same @ \$2.25. Mr. Linton said there will have to be a lot of education, like robo calls every week, put stuff on the website and in the Register. All in favor. Vote 4-0.

Nicole Parker, resident also on Finance Committee at meeting. Says this will impact our residents no matter what. She just left Selectman's meeting about the track where there is about 150 people there who do not care that we're already putting a Senior Center in and a new school. They don't know trash is going up. Mr. Linton said if we decided not to do rubbish collection, a homeowner would have to pay \$400-\$450/year for a dumpster. Ms. Parker said it is approximately \$30/month for outside contractors. She hopes we can do something in the future with containers. Mr. Suprenant and DPW Business Administrator attended a pre-bid meeting for Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund. Round 26 applications are due on March 20. Massachusetts Historical Commission has only \$800,000 available and Mr. Suprenant expects Western Mass will get \$120,000 of that. Individual project grants appear to be limited to between \$7,500-\$50,000. Consequently, if the BPW wants to submit an application we will have to drastically reduce or downsize the scope of proposed work on First Meeting House. We can update the application that was submitted in 2017. Mr. Linton would like to look at that application. Mr. Simao asked if Mr. Jablonski, the gentleman who has been doing the plans, can come to the next meeting. Only 30% of the grant can be towards handicapped bathrooms. They want the bulk of the project to go towards preservation. Municipal Voluntary Programs grants applications are due on April 10. It would help the Town plan and in the future be eligible for grants to mitigate vulnerabilities due to flooding, drought, excessive snow and ice storms and other natural disasters. Mr. Suprenant would like to meet with Assistant Town Engineer, Town Planner and

consultant that would be paid for by the planning grant to develop a plan that can be turned into specific projects to be constructed using future MVP grant funds. Other towns are getting grants in the amount of \$400,000 because they've already done their planning. Articles are due for Town Meeting warrant on February 14. We will submit routine articles for Chapter 90. Does BPW want an article for MPPF? Mr. Linton would like to ask for another \$250,000 so we can finish off Grimard Street then go to West Orchard. Mr. Suprenant said at some point we will have to address the storm water outflows. Mr. Suprenant has issued work orders on Haviland Pond lifeguard chairs, tree trimming @ Island Pond Cemetery, finishing shoulder work on Nash Hill Road, additional stump grinding, loam and seeding. Mr. Haluch said they did a good job on what they did. Cutting brush on easement between Woodside and Pinewood Road. Focosi Lane road opening. Mr. Suprenant will send a copy of the cease and desist order to the Building Commissioner. We will proceed with patching at the expense of the applicant. There is a \$2,000 performance and \$2,000 guarantee bond. Mr. Simao asked Mr. Suprenant for figures at next meeting for possible bond increases. The BPW Annual Report is due this Friday. Kenny, Assistant Town Engineer and Florence are all working on it. Mr. Simao asked about tree trimming work order at cemetery. Mr. Suprenant said section W needs to be trimmed, not taken down to make room for more plots. The extra lots we marked out have started to be laid out. Florence is ordering markers. Mr. Linton asked about the chevron signs. Mr. Suprenant said the angle brackets are on the way. Mr. Linton would like to go back to Safety meeting next Thursday and say the chevrons are up. Mr. Simao motion to accept Directors report. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: We've had several locations where there have been repetitive sewer blocks. After rendering the services of Fletcher to video the line the following observations were made. Behind 44 Center Street there is a 6" sanitary petrified clay sewer main that runs from Winsor Street to Park Terrace. There are several locations where the main is broken. Approximately 50' of pipe will have to be replaced. The main is currently installed about 1' away from the resident's cinderblock wall. The sanitary lateral @ 482 East Street had a break. Also, there are Fernco flexible couplings that stretched due to settlement. Sanitary lateral at 647 East Street is slow draining with parts of it within the public way under water. The camera was unable to make it to the main. It also appears that lateral is AC pipe requiring an abatement company for the removal of any broken pipe. Mr. Suprenant has talked to Kenny and the plan is to do it in house. We might have to hire someone to pump the sewers. Mr. Linton said if it is not something we can do in house, put a plan together and get 3 estimates. Rocky Mountain Wood Company will be on site this week to begin grinding the wood pile @ the compost facility. It could take up to a week. Chips become property of the contractor and hauled off the site. Continued mild weather has allowed crews to loam and seed areas where stumps have been ground. We have been busy completing

tree service reports. We have been addressing deficiencies at the capped Holyoke Street landfill. We got a cap replaced before the Tighe & Bond report was filed so it does not indicate it in the report. As part of our MS-4 reporting, nearly 100 outfalls will have to be inspected. Those that have flow will have to have samples taken and tested. To date we have identified 4 locations where there has been failure around the outfall causing severe erosion at the end of the pipe. Please see attached photos. They are Susan Drive, River Street, Miller Street near the bridge to Wilbraham, Tait Street. Columbia Gas would like to do some replacement work in the public way. With the mild weather, Columbia Gas has access to hot bituminous every day through a vendor in Brockton. They mostly doing stuff that is mandated by the Department of Public Utilities. They will send in the applications when they're ready to do it. SWSC would like to install 2 automatic flushing stations. One would be on Stebbins Street, other would be on the center of the cul-de-sac on Bowles Avenue. They would be metered and tied into our sanitary sewer system. Property owner @ 59 Lockland Ave is requesting removal of silver maple along Greenwich Street side. Tree has dead wood and branches are commonly damaged during storms. Roots have caused issues with the sanitary sewer lateral. Picture attached. All members will go by and look at it. Then will hold a public tree hearing. Mr. Simao motion to accept Operations Supervisors report. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

CEMETERY REPORT: January 2020 is \$5,200.

Director of Public Works/Town Engineer employment contract signed by the Board with changes previously noted.

Mr. Linton motion to approve sewer abatements and sign them. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

January 21, 2020 minutes signed.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Simao asked about job postings. Mr. Suprenant said we have 2 open positions. Mr. Suprenant said he is not aware that they have been advertised. Mr. Haluch asked if our own procurement specialist can advertise them. Mr. Suprenant will ask the Town Administrator. Mr. Simao asked about engineering intern position. Mr. Suprenant said he got one response from a student at UMASS. Mr. Haluch asked to bring them in for an interview. Mr. Simao asked for updated budget at the next meeting. Mr. Simao asked about the signs on Center/Cherry Street. Mr. Suprenant said he asked the state contractor about those signs as well as temporary pavement markings at the turnpike.


At 7:05 P.M. Mr. Simao motion to adjourn. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.


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NOTES ACCEPTED:









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