

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2020

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Members Present: Thomas Haluch, Bill Rodrigues, Alex Simao, John Davis 2020 MAR 27 AM 11:08

Members Absent: Barry Linton

TOWN OF LUDLOW

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.

PUBLIC SHADE TREE HEARING: 59 Lockland Avenue. Kenny said they previously had sewer issues because of the tree. It is a silver maple. Looks like it was planted by seed. There are no objections. Mr. Simao motion to remove the tree. Mr. Rodrigues second. All in favor.

APPOINTMENTS: Lisa Labonte, 51 Alden Street. At meeting to have conversation about something that has happened on her property twice. About 8 years ago, a 20 year old Wisteria vine was growing on a large pine tree and DPW workers came by and cut the vine. DPW cut what they thought was poison ivy and they were supposed to be @ 30 Alden Street. Resident was compensated at the time. At the end of January, DPW was @ 67 Alden Street taking down a dead Town tree. He then came to a tree and raised the boom to trim or take the tree down. The employee told woman's husband that they had a work order to address a safety issue. Resident says Asplundh was just there a couple weeks ago and they trimmed down by the neighbor's house. Resident then called to find out who issued the work order and was told there is no work order. Resident wants to know why we were trying to cut her private tree without any communication and why she was told there was a work order when there wasn't. Also wants assurance from the Board that they will not try to go after her tree again. Kenny spoke w/ the crew that was out there. It is a public shade tree, not private. Resident says the arborvitaes that were planted are on private land also. Kenny said the tree was not to be cut down, they were going to trim the branch that was hanging over the road. Mr. Haluch confirmed the tree is a public tree. Resident said she will hire a surveyor to assess whether it's her tree or not. She says that if she goes by this, then the arborvitaes she planted would be public property too and that's not going to fly. Mr. Haluch said that based on the magnitude of the concern, we won't be back out there, she does not need to have it surveyed. We will keep a safe distance from tree and arborvitaes.

Mr. Suprenant said we did receive a letter of resignation from one of our employees. He had an incident last Friday. Mr. Suprenant sat down with him this afternoon and he asked him to take some time to think about it. He is a good worker. Mr. Suprenant is not recommending accepting the resignation. Based on the description he was given, it was just a breakdown. He will get back to the Board with appropriate details in a couple weeks. All of the open positions have been posted and advertised for the next 2 weeks. For the intern position, we are going on an employment board at all of the colleges in the area. There have been no applicants for that position. The summer help ad will be in this week's Register. This year we can hire 5 because of the increase in minimum wage. Mr. Suprenant said the 2 open full time positions are a PW-2 and PW-3/Mechanic. Mr. Rodrigues asked if when Mr. Thompson was promoted he got his 4G. Mr. Suprenant said yes. Mr. Suprenant said some of the larger items in the annual bid had to be re-advertised based on the advice of Town Counsel. Bid opening will be just before the next meeting. We forgot to put one small item in Combuys. It is a new thing and was missed in error.

Mr. Simao asked if tree stumps were being worked on. Also, he saw they are siding the houses on Focosi Lane. He thought they were issued a cease and desist order. Mr. Suprenant drove by to confirm they are working on the houses. He went to Justin's office and he was not there. He forgot to call him. He will follow up tomorrow. Mr. Suprenant said we should talk about whether or not permits need a performance and/or guarantee bond and how much. He found out this week that one or two of the contractors have a permit bond, which you have for the whole year for all the permits you take out. Mr. Rodrigues asked if we have any light duty employees right now. Mr. Suprenant said we have 2 employees on light duty. Mr. Rodrigues asked about the rules about overtime if you're on light duty. Mr. Suprenant said we have asked the question to workers comp. Human Resources has been working on it because we don't have direct contact with workers comp. Mr. Rodrigues said employees should not be given the phone or overtime when on light duty. Mr. Rodrigues said the only light duty should be at the Transfer Station, according to Mr. Batista. Mr. Batista agreed. Mr. Suprenant said the situation that is being talked about is very complicated. Mr. Rodrigues motion that effective tomorrow, anyone on light duty is not allowed to carry the pager or work overtime. Mr. Simao second for discussion. He thinks we already have that in the rules. All we're doing is asking Kenny to enforce it. All in favor. Mr. Simao asked for an update on the budget for the next meeting. Mr. Haluch said he wants to make sure we get the fertilizer down as soon as we can. Mr. Simao thinks it's too early. Mr. Batista said that if you're putting down pre-emergent weed killer for crab grass you only get 16 weeks out of it. Mr. Davis asked about Springfield Water on Rood Street. Mr. Batista said that is a joint venture with Palmer Paving. Mr. Davis said Nash Hill looks very good. Excellent job. Mr. Suprenant said Nash Hill should be done by the end of the day tomorrow. Mr.

Rodrigues asked why there is only 2 workers there. What happened to the rest of the crew? He saw 3 workers driving around in #69 doing nothing. It was one day last week. Mr. Batista said he keeps track of every day. If he knows the day he can find out. Mr. Suprenant assigned that crew to do Nash Hill. Mr. Batista said he looked into renting a machine from Rubber Tire Excavator and have one of our guys run it. It probably would have been done a lot quicker.

At 6:34 P.M. Mr. Simao motion to adjourn. Mr. Davis second. All in favor.

NOTES ACCEPTED:

John Dan

Bill Rodrigues

Clash

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2020 MAY 27 A 11:08
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Amy Kuntz

Clerk