

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2020

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

Members Absent:

Also Present: Mike Suprenant, Ken Batista

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

APPOINTMENTS: Robert Kopec to discuss the Center Street Project design and construction at 556 Center Street. He has never been happy with the design that DOT has decided for his property. His elevation is so much higher than the sidewalk is now. He has stone landscaping out front and they got rid of the curb against the landscaping. If there was a curb, when the Town came by with a Bobcat it would have something to hit against. Right now there is nothing. Landscaping and flood lights were all damaged during the last storm. Stone ended up on his cars. Mr. Kopec said that he met with Mr. Suprenant 2 or 3 times and also brought up to Leo Goncalves of Jack Goncalves & Sons, Inc. Mr. Kopec says that Mr. Goncalves said the Town should have taken another 6" to put a curb in. Mr. Kopec has also met with MA DOT 2 or 3 times. Mr. Haluch suggested a fence. Mr. Kopec said he will not do that. Mr. Suprenant said that if they approach MA DOT, they will ask Goncalves for a price to do the work, and they will in turn ask the Town to pay for it. The other option is to wait until the Project is done and then we can do something. Mr. Rodrigues asked how many feet long the property is. Mr. Suprenant said a little over 100'. Mr. Kopec thinks the only solution is to put a granite curb back in. Mr. Kopec said all along the street land was taken from other properties, except his. He was previously paid \$2,000 for an easement on his land. Mr. Suprenant suggested that Mr. Kopec put in writing exactly what he wants done and he will submit it to the State. Mr. Simao thinks we should help him write it. Mr. Linton motion to install granite curbing with a 6" or 8" reveal to correct both the grading problem and landscaping problem. Mr. Kopec said that there will have to be land taken so he would like someone to come out and re-assess. Mr. Suprenant said that will have to go to Town Meeting, which is in May. Last day to get items on the warrant is next Tuesday. If we can come to some agreement on the value of the land it may not have to go to appraisal. Mr. Linton suggested we at least get the article in and put on the agenda. Mr. Kopec asked the Town is self insured for damage to vehicles or is there other insurance? Mr. Linton said we have insurance. He would submit an estimate to BPW and it will be forwarded to the insurance company. Mr. Linton motion to put an article on Town Meeting to take the land as discussed at 556 Center Street because it

wasn't taken originally for the purpose of putting in a granite curbing. Mr. Simao second. All in favor. Mr. Kopec requesting the Board to reconsider their decision regarding a request for an abatement to the sewer bill for the business Chrela, LLC, located at 556 Center Street. He came before the Board 8-9 months ago regarding the first portion of the bill. He was using a lot of water before but the sewer did not get utilized. He now has the current bill. He said that Board previously met and they decided he was not due an abatement because he did not put in a meter for the water usage for the sprinkler system. He has not used the sprinkler since the day he was at the last Board meeting. He is looking to make sure the Town isn't unjustly enriched by him for billing him \$500 for something he did not utilize. He believes it is a mis-calculation due to the sprinkler. He could not make it to the meeting the bill was discussed. He is this meeting for an appeal. He has copies of bills from the last 10 years showing he has never been in excess of \$150. He feels it is unjust enrichment and looking for an abatement. Last bill was negotiated down to \$100. He is also looking for a waiver of \$50 fee. Mr. Simao asked what the time frame is to file for an abatement. Mr. Kopec said he was told it's 2 years. He would like to start re-watering because the neighbors on that street like it. Mr. Simao motion to approve request for abatement and waive the fee. Mr. Suprenant asked if he would put the meter in before May. Mr. Kopec said yes. Mr. Suprenant said when the meter is put in, let the DPW know and we will get a hold of Springfield Water. Mr. Linton second. All in favor. Mr. Linton asked Mr. Kopec to take a look at his water bills. He may have a leak that is contributing to his high sewer usage.

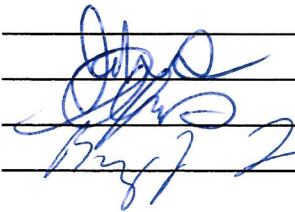
CORRESPONDENCE: #980 - The Board of Selectmen voted to open the Warrant for the May 11, 2020 Special Town Meeting until March 17, 2020. Mr. Suprenant asked if the Board wanted a place holder for some of the retained earnings for sewer enterprise. Mr. Linton motion to put \$150,000 at Special Town Meeting into the Sewer Enterprise Fund for projects. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.


#981 - Letter from Linda Leduc claiming vehicle damage due to a large rock on Bondsville Road. Mr. Linton motion to send to insurance company. Mr. Simao second. All in favor.

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR'S REPORT: Pinewood detention basin clearing has been completed. After it was cleared, we built a check dam so if any sticks go down the hay bales will stop it. Estimate we got for it was \$8,700. Hampden County Sheriff's Department has an arborist program and with their help we had 5 inmates with a correctional officer and in 3 days the work was done. Kenny would like to send a letter to Nick Cocchi thanking him. The arborist program is a teaching program so they would like to come into Town with their own bucket truck and their own instructor and crew and show them how to take a tree down. It would not be done with speed but with accuracy and education. This week we will be starting the next round of stump grinding. 40 have been marked out. BT Tree Service in Ludlow will be doing the work. They bid the annual

bid at \$100/hour. Last year we paid \$175/hour. They have about 3 days worth of work. Mr. Suprenant suggested that every 3-4 months we give a copy of the list of trees that need to be done to the Board. Springfield Water & Sewer Commission have committed to milling 800' of the northbound lane of Rood Street. They would like to use our annual bid contractors for everything. Project would involve milling, adjustment of the water gates and paving. Tier 2 reporting was completed and submitted electronically to the State Emergency Response Commission. We provided our Emergency Planning and Fire Department with a copy. The report helps communities plan for a chemical emergency. Duke's Root Control came in and did sewer main treatment. We did Park Place, Park Terrace, Lower Whitney, Whitney Street between East and Lower Whitney, Meadow Street and still need to complete Rogers Avenue and backyard lines on the county streets and Haviland Street. It is a 2 year warranty. We have been getting 5 years out of treatment. Mr. Batista said we should look at the headstones at some of the outside cemeteries. We looked into having someone come in and address some of the older headstones that have fallen or need to be restored. Mr. Suprenant will look into setting up a program to gather funds for restoration and maintenance of historic headstones, and will send it to Town Counsel for review.

NOTES ACCEPTED:





Clerk

