

Board of Public Works
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2021

Members Present: Stephen Santos, Keith Ouellette, Daniel Soares, Alex Simao, John Davis

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Ann Converse, Ken Batista

At 6:00 PM Mr. Santos called the meeting to order.

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:00 PM: Mark Manganaro to discuss the sewer connections to 592 & 596 Center Street. Mr. Manganaro wanted to clear up any confusion there was from a previous meeting over this matter. This process began in October of 2020 where a permit was pulled for connection from Sroka Lane to the office at 592 Center Street. It was late in the year so work was postponed until May 2021. Prior to starting the work, Mr. Manganaro asked about using 8 inch pipe vs 6 inch pipe and he was told by his contractor to call the DPW as there may need to be a manhole on Sroka Lane. About a month later Mr. Manganaro reports that he pulled a sewer permit for 596 Center Street as well. Mr. Manganaro was asked to get new plans for the additional sewer work. Mr. Manganaro is not looking for the town to absorb any costs or have this become a public sewer. Mr. Simao asked about the property at 590 Center Street. Mr. Manganaro reports that the house will be getting knocked down and when asked he did say that he could potentially look to build something there at some point in the future. It is zoned for Agricultural Moderate Density which has about 50 different uses associated with it. He plans on possibly building businesses on it. The private way would stay a private way. The frontage for 596 Center Street is actually on that private way. Mr. Ouellette asked how many acres the land is. It is 2.70 acres. Mr. Ouellette is not in agreement with the proposed plan due to potential future businesses. Mr. Santos reports that the biggest concern is that the proposed sewer would be going through 2 private properties/multiple parcels before going into the public way. Mr. Santos reports that the Board is having issues with some things that were approved by previous boards. Mr. Santos feels that the sewer main should be in a public way to avoid any problems in the future. There was conversation regarding connecting to Center Street vs backyard connections. Mr. Manganaro doesn't agree with decisions being made now with speculation of what could happen in the future. Mr. Soares questioned Mr. Manganaro on whether he feels that the Board should not be thinking about the residents of the town when making their decisions. Mr. Ouellette feels that because something was done in the past does not mean it should be done now if it's not

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what's best for the Town. The concern is that others could connect into the sewer line thus creating possible problems in the future. Mr. Ouellette wants to look after the residents of the town for the future. Mr. Manganaro is asking about how he can proceed. Mr. Santos stated that any time you connect more than 1 parcel into the sewer, it has to be a sewer main extension. Currently the only permit approved is for 592 Center Street for a service. **Mr. Ouellette made a motion to stay with only the service for 592 Center Street. It was seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor. Vote 5-0.** Mr. Manganaro is now asking about using 8 inch pipe vs. 6 inch pipe in case he wants to revisit the sewer extension in the future. Mr. Ouellette said that he believes the Board can't stop Mr. Manganaro from using 8 inch pipe. Mr. Santos says that he would have to use a doghouse manhole with an invert with an 8 inch lateral out. The pitch would need to be at .80. An abatement will have to be done as well. **Mr. Ouellette made a motion to approve the change to an 8 inch pipe to just prior to the connection at 592 Center Street with a 6 inch PVC with a change of direction at clean out with .80 pitch and have a doghouse manhole installed on Sroka Lane with an invert. Mr. Simao seconded the motion. All in favor. Vote 5-0.** The appointment ended at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

#1036: Mr. Santos read a letter from the Conservation Commission regarding flooding issues in the backyards of Higher Brook Drive. The Commission is requesting that the weir on Rosewood subdivision be cleaned out, along with catch basins on Higher Brook Drive. Mr. Santos reports that he went out to take a look at things and that the weir seems to be working properly. He spoke with Mike Pietras and Jason Martowski and let them both know he was not comfortable doing anything with the weir as it seems to be working properly. There has been about 8 inches of rain thus far in July, but none the less the wetlands seem to be working well. At this point everything seems to be working properly so there is nothing to do differently. **Mr. Simao made a motion to file the letter from the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor. Vote 5-0.**

#1037: Mr. Santos read a letter from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Office of the Attorney General regarding Open Meeting Law Withdrawal. In December 2020 Mr. Suprenant filed a complaint that the Board of Public Works violated an Open Meeting Law. On January 15, 2021 the Office of Attorney General received a response from the Board of Public Works. On July 6, 2021 Mr. Suprenant reported that he was satisfied with the response from the Board and therefore withdrawing his complaint. The Office of Attorney General is now considering this matter closed. **Mr. Simao made a motion to accept the letter, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. All in favor. Vote 5-0.**

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Mr. Batista reports that over the past few weeks there have been several people on vacation, but the crews have been able to get out there and mow and maintain athletic fields. They did put the summer help over at Island Pond Cemetery to try and push along the weed whacking. Mr. Ouellette asked how Mr. Batista would feel about using Round Up around the headstones to cut down on weed whacking. Mr. Batista reports that while he has seen it done at other cemeteries, he does not find it attractive. Mr. Santos did bring up the fact that we typically have Trial Court that helps with the weed whacking, but that we currently don't have their help. There was discussion around possibly increasing minimum wage money, but that would cut down on how many hours we can use someone as there is a budget. **Mr. Ouellette made a motion to increase the rates for summer help up \$1.50 to \$15.00 per hour, seconded by Mr. Soares. All in favor. Vote 5-0.** This increase will be effective immediately.

Mr. Batista reports that we now have 4 employees that have their 4G license and we are now rotating them in the roadside mowing schedule. We have been concentrating on the service reports and the high-speed roads.

Mr. Batista reports that the crew is also out marking fields. They will be marking out Nick Silva Field next week. The over seeding and aeration last year seems to have paid off as the field is looking good. He feels that we should do it again at the end of the season this year, as well as the park on West Street. Really makes a difference. The DPW has rented an aerator for this, but Mr. Santos states that Mr. Linton at Westover Golf Course is willing to let us use theirs.

Mr. Batista reports that he has also had crews out working on some flooding issues and trying to stay on top of that. Mr. Santos brought up the issue at the end of Beachside Drive. Mr. Batista states that he went down there and checked out the catch basin. There was discussion that perhaps there needs to be a leach basin in the middle of the road. There have been a few more issues recently due to the amount of rain we've been getting. The leach basins are cleaned and maintained and seem to be working properly. Mr. Batista reports that we've had a recent issue with flooding over at Electric Park. It's been a while since we've had an issue there. Again due to the heavy rain there was some flooding. It now seems to be ok and catch basins seem to be working properly. Mr. Santos reports that they have been watching that area due to future development around the area. Everything seems to be maintained well.

Palmer Paving is having a difficult time completing our current construction project due to all the heavy rains. They will attempt to finish up later this week. All that is left is Pondview Drive. Hill Terrace and Reynolds Street including the berms are complete. Mr. Batista reports that we still have to go out and address some driveways, the edge of the road and seed it. Mr. Batista would like to thank Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

as they had 4 crews out there to complete the work in a timely manner. Eversource Gas finally got their crews out there to complete their work.

Mr. Batista reports that during the week of June 28th we had some flooding issues at Wedgewood Drive. At the low edge of Wedgewood Drive right off Simonds Street there is an infiltration system that consists of 6 catch basins, along with 9 leaching chambers in the ground. When the system gets taxed, it floods. The system was checked and everything was clean. There was about 18 inches of water during that time. There was an issue at 144 Erin Lane as well due to the water going through the back yards. There was a resident whose daughter drove through the 18 inches of rain and had some damage to her car. Mr. Batista has been in contact with Stacey Baker over at MIIA who states that the town will not be liable for any damages.

Mr. Batista reports that he drew up some drainage plans for Parkview Street and Mountainview Street. He did identify that there is an old 8 inch forced main that runs down Parkview and Mountainview Street. It may be a tight squeeze to get some of these infiltrators in on the Parkview side of the street. We need about 10-12 feet to get them in. Mr. Batista spoke with Arrow Concrete who are about 2 weeks out. Mr. Santos reports that this will help with the heavy rainfalls going forward.

Motion to accept the Operations Supervisor Report was made by Mr. Simao, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

PW-3 Job Posting: Mr. Santos reports that he spoke with Carrie Ribeiro in HR. She reports that the position was posted externally yesterday and that there were no applicants internally. The ad will expire July 23, 2021. There was some interest from an applicant but nothing official yet. There are 3 PW-3 positions available. They are looking to change one of those positions to a mechanic. There is a PW-1 position financed but at this time there is no information on that.

Update to LATOSS III Clerk Position: The applicant that was originally offered the position had some issues with giving notice at her current job. There were some red flags raised for Ann Converse, Mr. Simao and Carrie Ribeiro so a decision was made to not move forward with her. Ann reported that an offer was made to the 2nd applicant agreed upon by her, Mr. Simao and Carrie Ribeiro. She will be going through her physical on Thursday and anticipated start date is July 26, 2021. Mr. Santos reports that he has a few concerns but will voice them later. He also felt that the Board should have been notified with the change of applicants so that they could have reviewed her resume. Mr. Simao stated that while the 3 of them were given the authority to choose the applicant, he feels that going forward the Board should have the final say.

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Motyka Street & Rogers Avenue Drainage: The 8 inch pipe was put in today and things should be all set. The sand bags are still there and there is more clean-up left to do. Hopefully this should take care of the problem. If not, the next step would be for the resident to provide an easement which would give us some options to put drainage in.

New cemetery: The application for site plan approval from the Planning Board needs to be filled out. Jim Goodreau will help Mr. Santos fill it out. Paperwork for Conservation Commission was filled out so that should be all set.

Rood Street: Mr. Santos reports that he reached out to Ken Vedovelli at Springfield Water and Sewer Commission and apparently, it's kicked up to the Engineering Department.

NEW BUSINESS:

Motion made by Mr. Simao to sign minutes from April 21, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Soares. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

Motion made by Mr. Simao to sign minutes from May 18, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

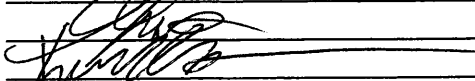
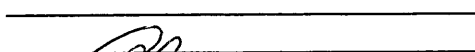
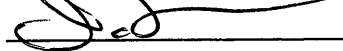
Mr. Simao asked about the crosswalk on East Street by Walgreens. The material has been ordered and it is being put through under contracted services.

NOTES AND COMMENTS:

Board signed invoices

Motion was made by Mr. Simao to adjourn meeting, seconded by Mr. Davis. All in favor. Vote 5-0.

NOTES ACCEPTED:



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