

Board of Public Works
Meeting Minutes
July 27, 2021

Members Present: Stephen Santos, Keith Ouellette, Alex Simao

Members Absent: Daniel Soares, John Davis

Also Present: Ann Converse

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

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPOINTMENTS:

None

CORRESPONDENCE:

#1038: Mr. Santos read a letter from the Board of Selectmen that on July 20, 2021 they voted to open a warrant for the October 4, 2021 Town Meeting. The Special Town Meeting will be held at the Ludlow High School starting at 7:30 PM. The warrant will officially be closed on August 17, 2021. At this time the DPW does not have anything to submit for the warrant. **Mr. Simao made a motion to accept the letter from The Board of Selectman for the Special Town Meeting. It was seconded by Mr. Ouellette. All in favor. Vote 3-0.**

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR REPORT:

Mr. Batista's report stated that the crews have and will continue to address washouts along the edge of roads until they are completed. There is road side mowing daily. We are also out mowing cemeteries, parks and athletic fields. The crews are also working on tree service reports. Athletic fields have been lined and prepared for games as required by scheduling. Mr. Santos did report that there were 3 washouts that they are still working on and there could be some state reimbursement for that.

Palmer Paving has completed the paving on Reynolds Street, Pondview, Hill Terrace and May Road. DPW crews will address driveways as needed and loam/seed the edge of the road in the project area. Mr. Santos reports that he asked Mr. Batista to get ahold of the Annual Bid Contractor for the rubber tire excavator instead of trying to do it with the skid steer or loader to get him out there for a couple of days to help get it done.

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On Sunday July 18, 2021 the Chapin Street Pump Station had an issue where the panel in the dry well overheated and caused both pumps to shut down. That day the station had pumped 400,000 gallons of water in a 24-hour period. Amp Electric responded to check the issue. The ventilation fan was turned on to help circulate the air in the dry well. Suez was also contacted and informed of the failure. Mr. Santos read some email correspondence between Mr. Batista and Mike Williams of Suez on July 20, 2021. Mr. Batista described in detail what had happened and also informed Mr. Williams that Amp Electric had recommended that the panels be moved up out of the dry well so we asked them for a quote. In response Mr. Williams felt that moving the panels up out of the dry well would be a good option. Mr. Santos reports that he did contact David Goncalves as he is doing an I & I study for that whole area. We do have some infiltration there but we do have sub pumps that are being pumped in there. The Friday before it was pumping 135. We were going to measure the wet well because when the pumps went off the sewer and water keeps coming in because we have the storage in the wet well. When the pump backs up we do have the man holes in the street that can hold quite a bit of water. It is unclear how accurate the 400,000 gallons is as some rain water must have gotten in there. We found 340,000 conservatively because we do have a flushing station on Bowles Avenue. It does go out 4 times per month. Mr. Santos spoke with Larry Griffin who states that for the month of July it pumped 920,000 gallons of water. On a normal day we pump 60-70 thousand gallons. At this point Jim Goodreau will be contacting Mr. Griffin to get a printout of the flushing schedule. Mr. Ouellette asked if Amp had given a quote yet for the panel to be moved. Mr. Santos said that they haven't yet but that in the past a different electrician had looked at it and that he believes he was told it would be between \$5,000-6,000. The panel probably won't need to be replaced. The cost would be for the labor to do the work. Mr. Ouellette feels that if it will make things safer than it would be worth the cost.

The residents of Leland Drive have cleaned the cul-de-sac and are asking if a berm could be installed around the cul-de-sac. They are also asking if stone could be installed instead of grass to cut down on maintenance. One of the residents offered to do some of the work if the town put in the berm and provided the stone. Mr. Ouellette feels that he sees that as a temporary fix as after 3-4 years weeds start to grow and then it won't look nice. He does agree that the berm is a good idea however. The concern is that the stoned area will become a town problem once the residents don't want to maintain it. Mr. Simao feels that grass would be a better option. They agreed that the berm will be completed and then grass seed will be planted in the fall.

Mr. Batista reported that he has 22 vacation days to use before his September 28, 2021 anniversary.

Mr. Simao made a motion to accept the Operations Supervisor Report, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. All in favor. Vote 3-0.

OLD BUSINESS:

PW-3 Job Posting: Mr. Santos reports that 5 resumes came in and the posting closed last Thursday. The Board Members were given copies of the resumes for review. Out of the 5, 1 applicant did not have the needed licensing so it probably doesn't make sense to bring them in for an interview. Mr. Santos reports that Mr. Soares has agreed to do the interviews with Mr. Batista and Carrie Ribeiro and bring it down to 2 candidates for the rest of the Board to interview. **Mr. Simao made a motion to have the interview committee interview Shawn Santos, Spencer Bertini, Matthew Olquist, and Philip Levesque. Mr. Ouellette seconded the motion. All in favor. Vote 3-0.**

New Cemetery: Sherman & Frederick came out as the Planning Board wanted a site plan. Nothing needs to be filed with Conservation Commission. Ellie Villano had to submit the plan to the Planning Board as property owner. The meeting will be on August 12, 2021. As soon as the meeting in August happens, Mr. Santos plans on getting someone to start leveling the ground. He doesn't want to start before the meeting in case someone has an issue at the meeting, seeing that it is a public hearing. Once construction does start, it will be closed for parking for the reservoir.

Rood Street: We received the Inter-governmental agreement from Springfield Water & Sewer. It wasn't generic enough as it was specific to Rood Street. There is also a moratorium on Holyoke Street that they have to patch.

Focosi Lane: Mr. Simao wanted to make sure that the town roads are going to be repaired properly and before the end of the year. He reports that it seems as if the contractor is almost done with the project in that area. There is a bond in place as well.

Mr. Simao reports that he had a resident reach out to him that owns a 4 family house in town. They are concerned with the timetable for trash pick-up ending before they can set up private services. It was discussed that the residents can bring their trash to the transfer station if they have a sticker and as long as they use purple bags until private service is set up. No changes to the current plan will be made as it is part of the Waste Management contract that they do not pick up trash at 4 family homes.

Mr. Simao was asking what a resident should do if they have a specific issue with trash pick-up. Do they call our DPW office or is there another number to call? Ann Converse reported that residents have been calling the DPW office. We have given some the Customer Service number for Waste Management, or we have also been emailing the dispatch at Waste Management directly with concerns. Mike White is the Supervisor for the town account that we can reach out to as well. The response from Waste Management has not been good. The Board feels that there needs to be better communication with the Town on their part. There have been a lot of complaints lately even before the trash fee was implemented.

NEW BUSINESS:

Leaching catch basin on Philip Street: Mr. Ouellette received a call from a resident complaining of water in her basement. The resident feels that since the leaching catch basin was installed across the street 3 years ago the water has been worse. Mr. Santos reports that he also spoke with the resident. He has since had a vac truck over there pumping out the leach basin and took out approximately 750 gallons of water. The catch basin was cleaned out. Everything was dry at that point. The DPW crew went back 2 hours later with the vac truck to see if a pump could be set up but there was only about 8 inches at the bottom of the leach basin. The pump was not set up. The following day they went back again and the water was about 4 feet from the cover down. The leach basin itself is 7 feet. Mr. Santos did speak with the resident again and felt that a big concern is that we had just had 12 inches of rain. A few of her neighbors also had water in their basement. The ground water levels are extremely high at this time. There is a sewer line in the road which is clay which also acts as a drain. Mr. Santos also explained that the wetlands behind Whitney Street Park are also very saturated at this time. As the ground water level goes down, the water in the basement will subside. There is a plan for the whole area that the sewer and the base elevation for the foundations have to be above the ground water level. This area has been a concern in the past. A few engineers have looked at the area in the past. Mr. Santos had David Goncalves come look at the area and did some soil samples. At this time there is nothing that can be done to rectify the ground water level. Mr. Santos will have the DPW keep an eye on the catch basin.

BPW Representative to the Long Range Planning Committee and Safety Committee: We currently have a representative for Safety Committee but not Long Range Planning Committee. **Mr. Simao made a motion to table this until next meeting when all the members are present. Seconded by Mr. Ouellette. All in favor. Vote 3-0.**

Mr. Santos read a letter from a resident in regards to having "No Parking During School Hours" signs on Parkview and Mountainview Streets replaced. Mr. Santos reports that he had Mr. Batista order 12 new signs and they will be replaced as soon as they come in.

NOTES AND COMMENTS:

The Board signed invoices

The Chairman signed the Cemetery Commitment for June 2021 for \$7275.

Mr. Ouellette states that he heard from several residents of Lyon Street that they are very pleased with the work done in fixing the washouts on the street.

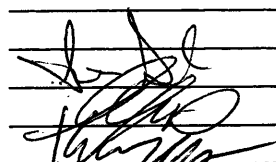
Mr. Santos read an email from Mr. Soares in which a resident had concerns over trash service being stopped at 4 family homes.

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Mr. Simao asked about the old Chapin Street School and whether athletic fields are still going to be placed there? Is there going to be a sprinkler system? Mr. Santos understands that it will be one soccer field only with an irrigation system. Mr. Simao wants to make sure that there isn't going to be any cost to the DPW. As far as future maintenance, the DPW will be responsible for the plowing and the salting. The school will be responsible for the sidewalks.

Motion was made by Mr. Simao to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Ouellette. All in favor. Vote 3-0.

NOTES ACCEPTED:



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