

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

A JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE and TOWN COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 4, 2023 at 6:00 PM VETERANS ROOM
Minutes

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: DPW Councilor/Chair Michael Marketti - Councilors Joseph Daou, Gus Steeves
Citizen Members Kevin Splaine, Steve Lazo absent (excused).
Also in attendance Town Manager Michael McCall, DPW Operations Manager Phil Harding.
3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of December 12, 2022.
Motion by Daou, second by Steeves. Vote 4-0 approved.
4. Citizens Forum: Sofia Williams, resident of Guelphwood Road, spoke about the potholes
and other problems on the road. She said she has been a resident and taxpayer of
Southbridge for 35 years, and the road has not been paved in all that time. She would like
the DPW to address the problems. Phil Harding said DPW would get to the road first thing
the next day and repair the potholes. There were further discussion about the condition of
Guelphwood Road and a senior housing project on the road.

Russ Labarge of Old North Woodstock Road spoke about the ice on the road in front of his
driveway, making the road condition dangerous. He also presented pictures of the ice on
the road. Phil Harding said DPW has been up there to look at the issue. It is an ongoing
issue, and DPW has been dealing with it for years. Phil said the area needs drainage work
and there's problems with catch basins.

Roland LaRoche of Briarwood Ave., spoke about the problem with trash around town. He
wanted us to toughen up our bylaws to crack down on illegal dumping and offered other
ideas to clean up the town. He also spoke about illegal dumping of mattresses and spoke
about landlord responsibility. There was further discussion about the issue of trash, blight
and illegal dumping.

5. Review/Discuss the Town Manager's appointment of Nathan Pollone as DPW Maintenance
Man/Equipment Operator for an indefinite term effective immediately, pending the
successful completion of pre-employment physical and background screening and State
Ethics. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for confirmation. Motion by
Splaine, second by Steeves. Vote 4-0 approved.

Discussion: Phil Harding spoke about the applicant and said he has finished all of his pre-
employment conditions. Mr. Splaine said he highly recommends the applicant, who he has
known for 21 years.

6. Review/Discuss application for no-cost Speed Feedback and School Zone Speed Limit
signs through Mass. DOT's Safe Routes to School Program. Entertain a motion to Town
Council for approval and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents.
Motion made by Daou, second by Splaine. Vote 4-0 approved.

Discussion: Peg Dean spoke about the joint effort by the DPW, Police and the Schools to defer to police as to where to place the one pair of signs. It was decided to place it at the Charlton Street School intersection. Mass DOT would install the signs. There was further discussion about the type of speed signs, cameras and their effectiveness in slowing down traffic.

7. Review/discuss approval to award Timber Harvest 1 to Anderson Timber to pay \$27,388.00 for the purchase of timber, with favorable recommendation from North Quabbin Forestry and entertain a motion to Town Council for approval and to authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents. Motion made by Daou, second by Steeves. Vote 4-0 approved.

Discussion: Town Manager spoke about the bid to see who would take the lumber, and Anderson **was the lowest bid* [was the highest bid]. Councilor Steeves spoke about the area that he has walked. Splaine said it was a good price for the timber.

8. Review/Discuss the hiring of a Construction Inspector position at DPW and possibly vote to recommend to Council. Motion made by Splaine, second by Daou. Vote 4-0 approved.

Discussion: Chair Marketti spoke about the changes he and the HR Director made in the title of the position and description of duties. Ms. Dean spoke about a MS4 Stormwater inspector which was removed from this position, and she feels this position is needed. There was further discussion about the need for a full-time Construction Inspector and a separate full-time Stormwater Inspector. There was also discussion about the process for putting the position out to bid and the time frame for hiring.

9. Discuss lights at the downtown intersection at Main, Elm and Central Streets. Postponed until we hire a DPW Director.
10. Discuss road improvements in town. There was no discussion as members felt we had already discussed road conditions during citizen's forum.
11. Adjourn: Motion made by Steeves, second by Daou. Vote 4-0 approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Subcommittee Chair, Councilor Marketti