

# TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

## A JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE and TOWN COUNCIL WEDNESDAY March 29, 2023 at 6 PM VETERANS ROOM Minutes

1. Call to Order 6:00 PM
2. Roll Call: DPW Members: Councilor/DPW Chair Michael Marketti - Councilor Gus Steeves; Citizen Members: Steve Lazo and Kevin Splaine. (Councilor Joseph Daou absent)  
Also in attendance: Phil Harding, DPW Operations Manager; James Merchant, WWTP, several residents and town employees.
3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2023  
Approved
4. Citizens Forum: George Chenier spoke about the lights out on Main Street. Phil Harding, Operations Manager, spoke about the electrical problems and the lights that are burned out. The issue will be resolved soon. Steeves asked about the status of the handicap ramp at the town hall. Harding spoke about the money issues and said he will look into it. Splaine said there was \$99,000 in the Capital Budget for the ramp. Councilor Adams said the budget numbers might need to be updated. Mr. Pioppi spoke about his offer to help with oversight on projects in town.
5. Review/Discuss the Department of Public Works' request to declare as surplus a 2002 Ford F350 and entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for approval. Motion by Lazo, second by Steeves. Vote 4-0.  
**Discussion:** Harding spoke about the vehicle and trade-in value. Splaine asked how much equipment we have at DPW in surplus and asked if we could do them all at once? Harding spoke about getting more information about equipment. Steeves asked about the photos of the truck with vehicle numbers that don't match? Harding said the truck has a body from another vehicle. Steeves asked what was wrong with the truck? Harding said the vehicle doesn't run. Steeves asked what we could get for the truck? Harding said \$4,200 estimate. Councilor Lazo suggested these sales should go into the Capital Stabilization.
6. Review/discuss a transfer request for \$6558.08 from #600440-583000-89500 Sewer Capital Reserve to #600440-583000-23581 Sewer Capital Equipment to provide additional funding for a new fleet truck. Entertain a motion to Town Council for approval. Motion by Lazo, second by Steeves. Vote 4-0.  
**Discussion:** James Merchant of WWTP said they requested \$65,000 last year for the truck, but the director only put in \$60,000. This will be a sanding truck to replace the old one. Splaine asked about the delay costing us more money and asked how this is happening?

Merchant said he is new on the job and the Capital purchasing process is new to him. He is trying to prioritize how to spend the capital money. He said we overshot what he could spend and he doesn't have time to invest in spending the money. Harding said at DPW the cost went up almost immediately. Steeves asked why the Director only put in \$60,000 if it was budgeted at \$65,000? Merchant said he did not know. Councilor Adams asked if they were looking to get rid of the old truck due to insurance issues? Merchant said as soon as they replace the old truck they will surplus it. Mr. Pioppi said using the truck for sanding is the quickest way to shorten the life of a truck. He suggested not using it for sanding. Splaine asked what type of truck this was? Merchant said a F250. Marketti suggested all Capital requests come to Capital Planning Committee. Vote was to send it up to the Council

7. Review/discuss a transfer request for \$1000.00 from #610450-576100 Water Legal to #610450-524200 Water Data Processing to cover increased costs for Global Data Systems. Entertain a motion to Town Council for approval. Motion made by Splaine, second by Lazo. Vote 4-0

**Discussion:** Steve Gregoire, Water Dept., said this covers copiers, firewall, basically anything data related. The budget didn't cover the increase costs. Steeves asked if Water Dept. could be tied into the town's IT Dept. Gregoire said this does go through the town's IT. Councilor Adams asked about the fund left over in the account.

8. Review/discuss the status of the Construction Inspector position.

**Discussion:** Splaine asked that we postpone this item until April 18, 2023 to get more information. All in favor.

9. Review/discuss the status of Road Improvement Program for 2023.

**Discussion:** Harding said right now the only work planned is West St. and South St. West St. started on the 27th with the temp water line. South St. to start on the 10th. North and Mechanic to start later. No other information about the Road Improvement Plan. Splaine asked about the West St. gas line and Main St. repair. West St. to be worked on soon and no definite answer on a timeline for Main St. Splaine also asked about the no parking cones. To be installed. Steeves asked about the Main St. repair? Councilor Adams said there is an agreement on Main St. Mr. Pioppi said he also thought there was an agreement on the Main St. repair. He felt the work needs better oversight. Councilor Adams said he's had some complaints about roads and asked that no one interfere with the road work. Councilor Lazo suggested that complaints go directly to the Town Manager. Councilor Lazo spoke about the massive disruption with resignations, which delayed road work. There was further discussion about other roads needing work, including Ellis Road and Guelphwood. Councilor Adams suggested engineers look at Ellis Road. He also found out the TIP project has been delayed until 2025. Steve Lazo spoke about Dresser Hill Road and asked where it was at? Harding said he has not had time to look at it.

10. Adjourn 6:50PM. *Respectfully submitted by Subcommittee Chair Councilor Marketti*