



**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE**  
**A JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE and TOWN COUNCIL**  
**MONDAY MAY 15, 2023 at 6:00 PM**  
**VETERANS ROOM**  
Minutes

1. Call to Order

2. **Roll Call:** DPW Members: Councilor/DPW Chair Michael Marketti - Councilors Joseph Daou, Gus Steeves. Citizen Members: Kevin Splaine, Steve Lazo (absent).

3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 1, 2023. Approved.

4. **Citizens Forum:** Rolande LaRoche asked about fixing sidewalks in front of the Cornerstone Bank on Main Street, and reported on an incident where his wife tripped on the uneven sidewalk. Kevin Splaine said he has asked for a report on how much is in the sidewalk account. Councilor Lazo spoke about the plan for fixing sidewalks. DPW Director Benoit explained the sidewalk budget. Councilor Daou spoke about funding for sidewalks. Councilor Adams spoke about capital funding. George Chenier spoke about funding projects that never get done.

5. Review FY2024 Water Enterprise Budget and entertain a motion to vote to submit to Council as presented. Motion made by Daou. Second by Splaine. Vote 4-0.

**Discussion:** Members went through the Water budget line items.

6. Review FY2024 Sewer Enterprise Fund and entertain a motion to vote to submit to Council as presented. Motion made by Steeves. Second by Splaine.

**Discussion:** Members went through the Sewer budget line items. Vote 4-0

7. Discuss/ Recommend accepting three (3) no-cost Speed Feedback and School Zone Speed. Motion made by Splaine. Second by Steeves.

**Discussion:** There was discussion about this item coming before the subcommittee previously. Councilor Adams said he thought the previous agenda was to apply for the grant. This is to accept the grant. Vote 4-0

8. Discuss/review whether to appropriate \$350,000.00 from #610450-583000-23583 Technical Support Capital Budget to fund "raw water quality improvement" project. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval. Motion made by Daou. Second by Steeves.

**Discussion:** Steve Grequire spoke about the planned project to dredge and clean the reservoirs in the future, to remove heavy metals from the water and use less chemicals for treatment. He also hopes this will improve the color, odor and taste of the water. Steeves asked about the polymer issue. Splaine asked about the core sample and depth of the reservoirs. There was further discussion about the project and the account number. Vote 4-0

9. Discuss/review award of the engineering design, bid, and DEP permitting of the polymer feed station to Tighe and Bond for a fee of \$38,500.00 to be paid from project account "Water

Filter Plant Polymer station upgrade,” account number pending. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend award to Tighe and Bond. Motion made by Splaine. Second by Daou.

**Discussion:** There was discussion about the account number. Steve Gregoire spoke about the project. Steeves asked about the timeframe to complete the project. Vote 4-0

10. Discuss/review Amendment No. 3 for \$81,000.00 for Additional Construction Phase Services for the South Street Water Transmission Main Improvements and Road Reconstruction Project, entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents. Motion made by Daou. Second by Steeves.

**Discussion:** DPW Director Benoit explained this was for the construction oversight the Change Order adding extended time to the project. Splaine asked about the contract and full time oversight that was approved, and felt Tighe and Bond was not on the project full time. Town Manager Blanchard said this was for added oversight due to delay in the project requested by the town. There was further discussion about the delay and project cost. Splaine made a motion to postpone. Daou second. Vote 2-2, vote fails. Main agenda vote 1-3. Steeves YES, Daou, Marketti, Splaine NO. Negative vote.

11. Discuss/review Change Order 4 for \$134,805.00 for the South Street Water Transmission Main Improvements and Road Reconstruction Project, entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents. Motion made by Daou. Second by Steeves.

**Discussion:** DPW Benoit explained this is for the sub-drain issues on the project and explained the problems. Splaine asked about the position of the drain and asked about paving and the width of the road. Mr. Pioppi said he thinks there will be a curb or catch basin. Vote 4-0

12. Update on Ellis Road and possibly vote to add drainage to the road project using funds from the North St./Mechanic St. projects. Motion made by Daou. Second by Splaine.

**Discussion:** DPW Director Benoit said they are putting in drainage and explained the type of drainage and the project in general. Connie Pion, a resident of Ellis Road, spoke about the water drainage problems on her property and asked that something be done to alleviate the problem. Steeves asked about the extra cost. Daou had questions about the design and bidding process. There was further discussion about the project. Vote 4-0.

13. Discuss Road Improvement Plan and possibly vote to recommend roads for improvement in 2023.

**Discussion:** Chair Marketti suggested the subcommittee recommend roads for improvement this year. There was discussion about on-going road projects, bridge projects, and future plans in town. There was no action taken.

14. Adjourn 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Council Chair Marketti.