

A JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE and TOWN COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY JUNE 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM
RICE ROOM
AGENDA (Draft)

1. Call to Order 6:00 PM
2. Roll Call: Councilors Marketti, Daou, citizen member Splaine. (Councilor Steeves and citizen member Lazo absent, excused). Also in attendance were DPW Director Richard Benoit, Council Chair Daniel, Councilor Lazo. Several residents of Southbridge.
3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of May 15, 2023. Approved.
4. Citizens Forum: Rolland LaRochelle spoke about sidewalk repair in town and asked how it is determined what gets fixed? DPW Director Benoit said he would respond. Councilor Daou responded that Pleasant Street was repaired by private business owner.
5. Review/discuss Water Department's request to designate as surplus 2 Allen-Bradley PLC- 5's (Programmable Logic Modules) as they have been in storage since an upgrade project in 2012. Items to be actioned at a later date. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval. Motion by Splaine, second by Daou.
Discussion: Benoit spoke about the old system and need for upgrade. The department would try to sell to smaller towns who still use this system. Possibly get \$1,000 to \$2,000.
Vote 3-0 in favor.
6. Review/discuss whether to recommend Town Council approve a change order for \$179,000.00 to VHB's design contract for the TIP Project #608778 to complete the Right of Way work for TIP #608778 and TIP #608862 and required curb ramps for TIP #608862 using funds raised at the May 23, 2022 Town Council meeting for "TIP-Construction Phase and ROW Acquisition Costs Hook & Hamilton. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval and authorize the Town Manager to sign all related documents. Motion made by Dao, second by Splaine.
Discussion: Benoit spoke to Peg Dean about this project but did not have much information. Peg Dean could not attend tonight's meeting. Splaine asked why we need appraisals? Daou asked for details. Benoit said he could not answer specific questions. Splaine made a motion to postpone until Peg Dean could attend the meeting to answer questions, second by Daou. **Vote 3-0 to postpone.**
7. Review/discuss the installation of speed bumps on Therese Ave. Entertain a motion to vote to recommend to Town Council for approval. Motion by Splaine, second by Daou.
Discussion: Police Chief Woodson explained the speed bumps for Theresa Ave., and said this is for a specific elderly area. He also said there will be signage alerting people of the speed bumps. Benoit said he has discussed this with the Chief. Splaine asked what kind of speed bumps? Woodson said they were looking at temporary speed bumps. Daou asked if there would be flashing lights to alert people? Woodson said they will put some kind of flashing lights but he wasn't sure what kind yet. Daou suggested looking for grants. A resident of the area said there is flashing lights up there not working. Woodson said he would look into it. There was further discussion about the type of speed bumps and increased traffic. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**
8. Review/discuss the installation of a 4 way stop sign at the intersection of Pleasant/River/Walcott Streets. Entertain a motion to vote to recommend to Town Council for approval. Motion made by Splaine, second by Daou.
Discussion: Chief Woodson spoke about the need for stop sign at the intersection and a

recent accident there. This would also include flashing signs to alert motorists. Splaine asked if the intersection qualified for the installation of lights. Woodson said lights would cost too much. Benoit said the intersection would not qualify. Resident Julian asked what type of flashing alert signs would be installed and could they make flashing LED lights? Woodson said LED lights could be added. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

9. Review/discuss adding signage in the area of 64 Oliver Street for a child with autism. Entertain a motion to vote to recommend to Town Council for approval. Motion by Daou, second by Splaine.

Discussion: Chief Woodson spoke about the need for the sign. Daou asked who made the request? Woodson said the parent of an autistic child. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

10. Review/discuss a DPW transfer request for \$1500.00 from #001499-521000-0499 Electricity-DPW, \$200.00 of which will transfer into #001499-521000-0001 Electricity-Variou, and \$1300.00 into #001499-521000-0425 Electricity-Town Hall. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval. Motion by Splaine, second by Daou.

Discussion: Benoit spoke about solar credit transfers and payments that are underfunded. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

11. Review/discuss a DPW transfer request for \$81,000.00 from #001499-51100 Salaries and Wages to #420000-530000-63750 South St water transition main to cover Amendment #3 for the project and reserve funds for road improvements. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval. Motion made by Splaine, second by Daou.

Discussion: Benoit said this is for a change order that was voted on by the council but was unfunded. Splaine spoke about being told there was no funding available to pay for a construction supervisor, but now there's money available for all of these transfers. Benoit said this funding is from this years budget. After this Fiscal Year there will be no funding available. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

12. Review/discuss a DPW transfer request for \$160,000.00 from #001499-51100 Salaries and Wages to #003499-589900-9133 Road improvements fund to reserve funds for road improvements. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval. Motion made by Daou, second by Splaine.

Discussion: Benoit said he was hoping to have some incidental funds available for construction projects. Chenier asked how long the funds will be available? Benoit said this would be like a revolving account. Splaine asked if there was a way to designate the funds for specific uses? Benoit said there is a way to make it road improvement funds only. Daou said it would still have to come to the Council. Benoit said he is allowed to use up to \$10,000, after that, it needs to come to the Council. There was further discussion on the spending policy. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

13. Review/discuss a DPW transfer request for \$3000.00 from #01499-553600 Maintenance of Streets and grounds to #001499-524000 Repair and Maintenance of equipment to cover DPW generator repair. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval. Motion made by Splaine, second by Daou.

Discussion: Benoit explained that this is to repair a radiator that is leaking. The quote of \$10,000 to replace the radiator and associated parts at DPW was made in March, and the company is holding that quote. He is looking for funds to cover the cost. **Vote 3-0 in favor.**

14. Review/discuss a Change Order. for a Time Extension for the West Street Infrastructure Improvement Project. Entertain a motion to Town Council to recommend approval. Motion made by Daou, second by Splaine.

Discussion: Benoit explained that this is a zero cost increase to extend the time frame

for the West Street project. Splaine asked the reason the project is being pushed off? Benoit said the explanation he received was from last September and was for piping delay. Splaine said according to the letter the pipe delay was last year, and he also said there are times when he drives by and no-one is working on the project. Daou asked if there is going to be any more delays and should there be penalties? Benoit said this should be done in September, and any penalties need to be in the contract.. There was further discussion about the delay. Julian said the reason could be for school closings and parents picking up their kids. Vote 2-1 in favor (Splaine voted NO).

15. Update on Road Construction projects, including Ellis Rd., South St., West St., and Main St. repair.

Discussion: Benoit gave the committee an update on South Street and final walk-through. Main Street to be repaired by Lynch on July 9th and 10th. Splaine asked about the punch list. Benoit provided the list from last November. He said it was negotiated by the previous Town Manager, Interim DPW Director and VHB. The town to pay for 1/4" of the milling, 2" mill rather than 1-3/4" mill. Daou asked who was responsible for the repairs and why we are paying anything? Benoit explained the milling should be deep enough to get under the final paving layer. He does not know the final cost and what is covered. Councilor Lazo said the project needs to be finished up. He feels the agents representing the town did not do a good job negotiating, but would like it finished before winter.

Ellis Road update, Benoit said the work is going well. More drainage to be added. Mr. Pioppi is honoring his word on the project. Daou said it's about time to find a good contractor and said it is a good job. Splaine asked about the total cost. Benoit estimated \$644,000 but said he would provide the cost. Splaine also asked about lack of catch bags in the catch basins on West Street. Benoit said he would look into it. There was further discussion about job openings at DPW.

16. Paving on the following streets that were opened up by the utility company: Everett St., Country Club Place, Field St., Durfee St., Oakes Ave., Sayles, High, Winter, Water Streets. Splaine asked when these roads are going to be paved? He explained the problems with the temporary paving and asked about a time-line. Chenier also asked about Everett Street. Trenches are not filled-in properly. Benoit said he agrees with the concerns and he is trying to address those concerns with National Grid. He also spoke about paving options.

17. Paving on Hudson Ave. per resident's request. Daou spoke about the problem with the road, which is a private road, but the residents pay taxes. Benoit spoke about the form that needs to be filled out. Marketti said he drove up to Hudson Ave. and provided the form, a petition by residents on a private-way, signed by the abutters. He presented it to Benoit.

18. Update on open trench permits and inspections. Splaine asked about the trench bylaws and asked if at the Director has had a chance to review? Benoit said he has taken a look at it and made some suggestions for changes to further protect the town. Splaine spoke about some problems recently on Main Street. Marketti spoke about Paige Hill and Central Street. There was further discussion about problems with the roads and contractors. Benoit said eventually we need to enforce the rules.

19. Removed

20. Removed

21. Adjourn 7:40 PM

Respectfully submitted by Councilor Marketti