

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

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

July 28, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call Councilor/DPW Chair Michael Marketti - Councilors Joseph Daou, Gus Steeves
Citizen Members: Steve Lazo and Kevin Splaine. Also in attendance, Councilors Adams and Lazo. DPW Acting Director Matt Desjardin.

Motion made to suspend the rules to add Agenda item #9b: Discuss Road Improvement projects throughout town. Motion made and second, Splaine/Lazo. Vote 5-0

Chair announced the the Town Manager would be running late so he is moving agenda item #5 to the end of the meeting (after agenda #9) so that the Town Manager can speak to the agenda.

3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2022. Splaine/Lazo. Vote 4-0-1

4. Citizens Forum: None

6. Review/discuss the appointment of Kevin Splaine to Department of Public Works Subcommittee for a one-year term effective immediately through July 31, 2023, State Ethics in good standing. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for confirmation. Lazo/Steeves
Discussion: Councilor's commented on his background and good work Mr. Splaine has done while on the subcommittee. Vote 4-0-1

7. Review/discuss the appointment of Steve Lazo to Department of Public Works Subcommittee for a one-year term effective immediately through July 31, 2023, State Ethics in good standing. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for confirmation. Splaine/Steeves
Discussion: Councilor's commented on the history and good work Mr. Lazo has done while on the subcommittee. Vote 4-0-1

8. Review/discuss the proposal from Tighe & Bond for design services related to Cohasse Reservoir Pumping Station Improvements for \$29,000. Entertain a motion to recommend that Council approve a contract with Tighe & Bond based on this proposal, to be funded from Project Account #63710- Cohasse Water Pump Replacement, and approve the Town Manager to sign all related documents. Lazo/Steeves.

Discussion: Interim/Acting DPW Director Matt Desjardin explained that the Account was set up in 2016, and last month the pump went down. Matt explained that water is being pulled from the

reservoirs without the use of the pump, but with drought concerns and lower water levels, the pump will be needed in emergency situations to pull from Cohasse Reservoir. Matt also said that after talks with Mr. Gregoire of the Water Department, he would like to start the work ASAP to avoid potential emergency situations. Councilor Steeves asked why the town started pumping water from Cohasse Reservoir? Matt answered that it was the easiest way to get water from the reservoir to the water plant. Mr. Splaine asked how old the pump is? Matt said it was installed in the 60s. Vote 5-0

9. Review/discuss the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP) contract with MassDOT. Entertain a motion to recommend that Council ratify the WRAP contract and approve the Town Manager to sign all related documents. Splaine/Steeves.

Discussion: Matt recommended we ratify the WRAP contract based on harsh winter last year. Approximately 260,00 in funds are available through this program. Matt would like to use the funds for line surfacing with thermoplastic tape. Kevin questioned when funds would be available. Matt confirmed once the contract is received and verified. To Gus, this is a one time program and is available once contract is signed. Vote 5-0

9b Discuss Road Improvement projects throughout town.

Discussion: Update of projects in Town. Kevin reported Cisco and Roger Streets went well. The worst area is on Worcester Street from United Lens to the Knight of Columbus building. Questions asked about whether Everett Street should be dug up or wait until next year. Discussion on request for update on Main Street issue. Matt advised would he should have proposal by end of week. Scott Lazo stated there is money available approximately (1.1 million) from the sales of Wells apartments and questioned why that money could not be used for roads. Steve Lazo stated project could not be extended 90 days (December) as asphalt companies close in November. Matt confirmed he would be recommending extension to next year through Town Council. Matt confirmed Ellis Road on schedule. Steve Lazo questioned money appropriated for Guelphwood area. Discussion ceased for arrival of Town Manager.

5. Review/discuss the Town Manager's appointment of Jonathan Camosse as Town Engineer Assistant for a three-year term effective immediately through June 30, 2025, State Ethics in good standing. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for confirmation. Splaine/Steeves.

Discussion: Town manager questioned job description term of 3 years. Scott Lazo confirmed there are many positions with term limits. Town manager stated in reply to Councilor Daou that position is for Town Engineer Assistant. Town Manager stated Mr. Camosse is currently working for the DPW (plowing), taking courses, seeking his BA degree. Town Manager based on recommendation of Matt Desjardin put forth his support to Mr. Camosse.

Councilor Daou again questioned experience for road construction. Matt noted he has a basic understanding of road construction. Scott Lazo questioned HR's support for least qualified candidate. Splaine confirmed that this agenda item to appoint this DPW position never came before the DPW subcommittee. Vote 1-3-1.

10 Adjourn: Splaine/Lazo Vote 5-0