

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

A JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE and TOWN COUNCIL August 18, 2022 at 6:00 PM VETERANS ROOM Minutes

1. Call to Order 6:00 PM

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

[Also in attendance were Council Chair Daniel, Council Vice Chair Adams, Councilor Rivas, Town Manager McCall, Finance Director Harnois. Residents George Chenier, Kory Chenier, Maureen Doyle.]

3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2022. Splaine/Steeves Vote 5-0

4. Citizens Forum: Committee member Splaine stepped down from Committee to speak.

Discussion: Splaine directed his questions to the Town Manager who stated he is still taking applications for the DPW position and as well as the DPW Engineering position. Splaine spoke further regarding status of Main Street walk through. The Town Manager spoke with VHB regarding what needs to be done to satisfy the Town. Splaine indicated the 1 year warranty is nearing and The Town Manager confirmed VHB will do what needs to be done to satisfy the Town. Splaine also spoke of the poor condition of the road from South Street to the Sturbridge line. Splaine also of calls from the business on Chestnut Street and an elderly resident on Chestnut Street regarding the 6 inch drop where a 6-inch telephone was removed and 3 months later has not been addressed.

5. Discuss and vote on transferring the money from the sale of the Wells Building Real Estate Project #65220, Sale of Real Estate, Balance in account of \$1,277,500.00 to Road Paving Construction and Reconstruction Fund Project #64843, to pay costs of paving roadways throughout town, construction and reconstructing roadways.

Discussion: Conversation began by Chair Marketti stated he believed the Wells building as sold for 1.3 million in 2020. Steeves asked about the cost of Everett Street and it was noted that National Grid had not completed working there. Steeves then asked about Dresser, Dennison and Newell. It was confirmed Dennison Lane would cost 1.3 million. Chenier spoke with regards to Everett Street and stated Heather had previously noted National Grid could complete the road for the \$45,000. Chenier stated he had no idea where that figure came from. Adams stated he recommends the Council use some of the monies (250,000) in the capitol account along with the 1.3 for sidewalks and some roads this year. Rivas echoed the previous speakers. The Town Manager confirmed there are priorities in town with infrastructure, building need and as

example the Fire Station costs are high with inflation, labor. Also, Marijuana sales have not been as anticipated. He cautioned not to use the money from stabilization. Treasurer Harnois stated the monies from the sale of the Wells building is in an appropriation account and would require a 2/3 vote of the Council. Marketti confirmed with Karen there are funds left over and not touched by DPW (such as 140,000) for sidewalk repairs. Marketti questioned Town Manager questioning why we are not spending 1.5 million this year as the council agreed to borrow 1.5 million per year for roads. Adams stated he was in favor of doing the sidewalks this year.

Motion to postpone until next meeting, which is August 30, 2022 Lazo/Splaine. Vote 5-0

6. Adjourn 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Subcommittee Chair Councilor Marketti