

JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE/TOWN COUNCIL
8:10 PM, August 30, 2022, Town Hall Veterans Room
Minutes

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call: DPW Members Councilor/DPW Chair Michael Marketti, Councilors Joseph Daou, Gus Steeves Citizen Members Steve Lazo and Kevin Splaine.
Also in attendance: Council Chair John Daniel, Vice Chair Dave Adams, Town Manager, Michael McCall, Interim DPW Director Matthew Desjardin and several residents.
3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2022.
Approved 5-0
4. Citizens Forum: None
5. Discuss the Town Manager's appointment of Gregory Nikolla as DPW Maintenance Man/Equipment Operator for an indefinite term effective immediately, State Ethics in good standing. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for confirmation. **Discussion:** Matt recommended Gregory Nilolla as DPW Maintenance Man/Equipment Operator. He is currently custodian for the School Department. Steve Lazo stated he knows the candidate and will be a great plus for the DPW. Motion made to confirm Gregory Nikolla. Lazo/Splaine. Approved 5-0
6. Discuss Change Order #3 to Ludlow's contract for South Street Water Transmission Main Improvements & Road Reconstruction Project. This change order would extend the substantial completion date to 6/23/2023 and the final completion date to 9/18/2023. There is no contract value increase associated with this change order; the minor costs associated with winter shutdown (structure adjustments and asphalt shimming) will be covered by an allowance under the existing contract. **Discussion:** Matt stated one of the reasons for delay is a valve was delivered 3 months late. Also DPW opted to push completion into 2023 to allow for winter settlement. Entertain a motion to recommend approval of this change order to Council. Daou/Splaine. Approved 5-0
7. Discuss Change Order #1 to the contract with Pioppi Construction for Road Improvements 2022. This change order would add the mill & overlay of Coombs & Moon Streets back into the scope of the project for the Bid Alternate #1 price of \$134,915.50 to be funded from the Winter Recovery & Assistance Program. This change order would also add unit costs for gravel and dense-graded crushed stone, extend the final completion date to May 19, 2023, and add milestones for certain work to be completed by the end of the 2022 paving season. Entertain a motion to recommend approval of this change order to Council. Approved change order for Coombs & Moon Street. Lazo/Splaine. Approved 5-0

8. Discuss deer overpopulation and hunting in the Town's watershed lands. Entertain a motion to recommend that Council votes to allow deer hunting in the Town's watershed lands starting on October 17, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2022. **Discussion:** Matt confirmed no vehicles in the lands where 6-10 deer need to be taken. The forestry consultant stated 6-8 deer per square mile and it is unknown as to the number of deer in the Town's watershed. Approved for hunting in the Town's watershed lands. Splaine/Lazo. Approved 5-0
9. Discuss Tighe & Bond's proposal to add full-time construction observation services to the West Street Improvements Project for an additional fee not-to-exceed \$103,000.00, to be funded from Chapter 90. Entertain a motion to recommend approval of this contract amendment to Council. **Discussion:** This was previously voted down by the Council. It was determined per discussions by Councilors Adams and Lazo it could be resubmitted. Lazo/Steeves. Motion fails 1-4
10. Discuss transfer of \$3,177.00 from account #001499-511000 (DPW - Salaries & Wages Permanent) to account #001499-518300 (DPW – License & Stipends) to cover increased license and stipend costs prescribed by new union contract. **Discussion:** Matt confirmed the new contracts had increased stipends and this transfer was to cover the increased license and stipend costs. Splaine/Lazo. Approved 5-0
11. Discuss Change Order #1 to West Street Infrastructure Improvement Project for \$100,000 to add an allowance for paying flaggers when police and traffic constables are unavailable to fill details. The Chapter 90 cost estimate for this project already includes \$200,000 for police details, up to \$100,000 of which would instead be used to pay Ludlow for flaggers as required. Entertain a motion to recommend approval of this change order to Council. Lazo/Splaine. Approved 5-0
12. Discuss and vote on transferring 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. **Note:** This agenda was postponed at the August 18, 2022 DPW Subcommittee meeting to the August 30, 2022 DPW Subcommittee meeting. **Discussion:** A roundtable discussion regarding transfer on money from the Wells Building Estate and whether the funds should be allocated to the Roads or to the Capital Stabilization Funds. Daou noting the deterioration of the Town Hall with bricks falling posing a threat. Splaine stated there are funds in various accounts that have been there since 2016 and that those funds should be used for a new roof, handicapped access and other town hall issues. Matt noted they should send out for bid and hire a general contractor to handle the project of repairing the Town Hall. Steve Lazo agreed the brick is following apart. Town Manager recounted his contact with citizen on the handicapped ramp and noted perhaps consolidating Town hall issues and using stabilization funds. Citizen Doyle asked if ARPA funds could be used. Motion made to transfer funds from Wells Building Real Estate Project Act. #65220 to Capital Stabilization Funds Act: #0842. Steeves/Daou. 5-0

13. Discuss Road Construction projects update: Ellis Road, North and Mechanic Street, Main Street. **Discussion:** Splaine asked to have the pot holes on Main Street fixed. The Town manager stated he has requested an update from VHB regarding repaving of Main Street from Notre Dame to Everett Street with one week to respond to last Attorney. Again Splaine requested fixing the potholes on Central Street and in front of the Post office using existing DPW to fill the potholes.
14. Discuss status of Town Manager's Road Improvement Plan for 2022, proposed and approved by a 9-0 vote, at the January 14, 2021 Town Council Meeting, Agenda #20. Chairman Marketti questioned the Town Manager regarding the repair of \$1.5 million the Town had allocated each year to repair roads. Town manager indicated the DPW Director Blakely was working best first as noted in the Road Improvement plan for 2022. Marketti noted that .5 million was still open in the Road improvement plan for this year. Town Manager stated the roads were allocated by the previous DPW Director who left the Town before completion. The Town manager noted Heather put road improvement plan early this year but stated the Town has 18 openings to fill with applicants with no one meeting the expectations. Matt stated nothing was set up for this year whereas Chairman Marketti confirmed a vote was taken by the Council for continued paving per the road improvement plan for 2022. Matt stated he has insufficient help to start or oversee any new project due to effective date of his departure. With additional funds for roads, the Town manager reported that the cannabis income anticipated did not meet expectations.
15. Status of the hiring of a DPW Director. HR Adriana stated they had one candidate who did not qualify as he is from Rhode Island and does not have a Massachusetts license.
16. Status of the hiring of a Town Engineer Assistant. Town Manager stated he discussed with Matt about a recommendation. Matt indicated he would not recommend from inside staff. After a few heated statements, Councilor Daou stated these negotiations should be town council and manager only.
17. Adjourn: Lazo/Splaine 5-0.