

TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

A JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE and TOWN COUNCIL September 20, 2022 6:00pm, Veteran's Room Minutes (draft)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM in the Veterans Room
2. **Roll Call:** Committee members Councilors Mike Marketti (Chair), Gus Steeves, Joe Dao (absent). Citizens Steve Lazo and Kevin Splaine
3. Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of August 30, 2022. Lazo/Splaine 4-0
4. **Citizens Forum:** Maureen Doyle, Problems when exiting town hall parking lot due to cars parked on street. All agreed to refer to the Traffic Commission. John Pulawski, concerned about lights at the bottom of Woodstock Road. Gus Steeves, Charlton Street light is too slow.
5. Discuss the Town Manager's appointment of Vernon Jackson Jr. as Interim DPW Director. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for confirmation. Splaine/Lazo 4-0

Discussion: Town Manager McCall announced that Mr. Jackson, who recently retired from the Sturbridge DPW, would be available for several days per week to serve as the Interim DPW Director. Councilor Steeves asked if the full time position has been advertised. Town Manager confirmed. Councilor Lazo asked about a time frame for Mr. Jackson's serving as Interim DPW Director. Town Manager said there is no time frame, but Mr. Jackson will serve until a new DPW Director is hired. Councilor Steeves asked if Mr. Jackson would be willing to serve after a new DPW Director is hired? Town Manager said he would ask.

6. Discuss the Town Manager's appointment of Peter Provencher as DPW Maintenance Man/Equipment Operator for an indefinite term effective immediately, Pending successful completion of State Ethics. Entertain a motion to recommend to Town Council for confirmation. Lazo/Splaine 4-0.

Discussion: Town Manager McCall read comment from Mr. Desjardin concerning qualifications of Candidate. Kevin Splaine asked if the candidate has a CDL license? Town Manager offered to inquire during the meeting. Motion made and withdrawn to postpone agenda, as Mr. McCall confirmed the candidate has a CDL license.

7. Discuss bid results from Oxford Treated Salt Cooperative's FY23 treated salt bid. Entertain a motion to recommend that Council ratifies a contract with the responsible and responsive bidder offering the lowest price, Leed Group, Inc. d/b/a Leed Salt, and authorize the Town Manager to sign related documents. Entertain a motion to recommend approval to Council. Lazo/Steeves 4-0

Discussion: McCall announced that Mr. Desjardin recommended Leed Group. General discussion about the cost of salt going up within the last year.

8. Discussion of trench By-law or regulation change. General discussion concerning updating the town's "Conditions and Restrictions for Street Opening Permit." Chair Marketti handed out a sample of a more detailed Application Form. Councilor Steeves asked if Mr. Desjardin offered his own changes. There was none provided. Members agreed this was a good starting point. Kevin Splaine said the the main problem is there is no oversight. Would recommend no application fee but adding a penalty. Councilor Steeves asked if a two-tier fee could be applied? George Chenier said it would be better to wait until a new DPW Director is on board. Also agreed the problem is no oversight. Councilor Lazo spoke about the Inspector position. Mr. McCall spoke about redefining the Inspector position.
9. Discussion of ongoing road improvement projects in town. Splaine spoke about the problems on the South Street water main project. There is no erosion control. Pipes are filled with rocks and sands. Splaine also spoke about the lack of erosion control on the dirt pile across from Lensdale Gate on East Main St.. Splaine also commended the good work on Moon and Coombs St. Steve Lazo asked about Main St. McCall said there is an agreement with Lynch to repair and resurface Main Street. George Chenier spoke about the memo on the Main St. project, asked about the scope of the repair. Also asked about extending the warranty. Councilor Lazo commented about the experiences we've had with the roads, and the good professional work on Moon St. and Coombs St. Councilor Steeves asked for an update on North St., Mechanic St. and Ellis Road. Town Manager read an email from Mr. Desjardin concerning plans for those streets. Chair Marketti spoke about the crosswalk lights downtown Main Street, overgrown weeds off Morris St., and poor condition of Gardner St. Steve Lazo spoke about Dresser Hill Road potholes.
10. Adjourn. Motion to adjourn at 6:55 PM Splaine/Lazo 4-0