

**PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 10, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee of the Watertown Town Council was conducted on Monday, April 10, 2023, at the Watertown Town Hall in the Town Council Chambers, 61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to Order at 6:00 P.M. by Subcommittee Chairman Ken Demirs.

2. Roll Call

Present: Robert Desena, Ken Demirs, Robert Retallick, Gary Lafferty

Also Present: Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works; Danielle Greenier,
Administrative Assistant

Absent: Rachael Ryan

3. Minutes

Robert Desena made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting. Robert Retallick seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Participation

None

5. Correspondence

None

6. Old Business

7. Hungerford Avenue Reconstruction

Mr. Lukowski stated Highway currently working on catch basin/drainage work. Road didn't have catch basins. Twelve catch basins to go out to bid, seven to be replaced by Highway. Have three or four left to be completed. Lots of ledge in area. Six inch water main on Frederick St awarded to contractor and road to be paved once Hungerford Avenue complete.

8. Pavement Management Program – ARPA \$1.5 Million

BETA study shows backlog of \$45.3 million for road work. Full depth reconstruction, mill and overlay to be funded by bonding over 2-3 years due to debt ceiling. Chip seal, crack seal and structures to be funded by ARPA. Goal to

spend as much as possible in first 18 months. Dosch King agreed to hold prices from 2 years ago. Will use Dosch King and Seymour Sealcoating for chip seal. In future, will have 5 year bid. Depending on funds, plan to do additional chip seal and crack seal at end of summer, early fall. Cannot begin yet due to ARPA funds not being available. Pricing for work coming in lower than BETA estimates, more work can be done with funds. Chip seal and crack seal take a couple days to a week to complete, quicker than full depth reconstruction and mill and pave. Some roads will need crack seal before chip seal to insure water cannot infiltrate road. Drivers must go 15mph on chip sealed roads. Signs will be placed on roads to advise drivers. Roads chosen for work, mostly chosen by BETA Study.

9. Buckingham Street @ Echo Lake Road Beautification

Work is ongoing, being used as fill-in work for Highway Department. Corner will be filled in using fill from other projects instead of bringing to the transfer station. May take excess material from installing water main on Fredrick St. Additional tree work to be done, located in triangle of electrical lines, cannot get to. Watertown Foundation wants to donate upwards of \$25 thousand towards project. Will install sidewalks and lighting. Working with Economic Development to get seals updated on 10-20 year old sign. Good Old Boys may donate services for tree work for recognition. Catch basin in middle to be covered with filter fabric, is not needed, not at low point for drainage. Could be used in future by digging out and removing filter fabric.

10. Woolson Street Bridge Project

Funding being tracked, 3 and a half weeks of eight week timeline have elapsed. Contract signed by contractor and Town Manager, notice to proceed issued by Mr. Lukowski. Work was able to start. Platform was put in for utility company to put in telephone pole. Two additional trees were taken down due to location. Vac truck was used to try to find 36" aqueduct from Waterbury. Was not found at 10 feet. It is buried very deep, as it should be. Aqueduct supplies 80% of water for Waterbury, and 100% for Water and Sewer, but not Fire District. Bridge will be shut down in June for many months to bring in new bridge.

11. New Business

12. Sprucewood Bid Opening – April 11, 2023

Twin pipe in drainage between two houses going out to bid. Currently have \$70,000 to \$80,000 in account to lay 130 linear feet of pipe. Highway was going to do this, but focus shifting from less construction, to more maintenance. Bid opens April 11 at 11:00.

13. CTDOT Route 8 Diversion Plan Meeting – April 18, 2023

The Connecticut DOT notified Watertown and Thomaston about meeting. It is unknown what meeting is regarding. Meeting to be held at Fire Department.

14. Household Hazardous Waste Day - Middlebury – April 22, 2023

Household Hazardous Waste day will be held in Middlebury on August 22, 2023. Event is held three times a year. One employee from Watertown sent for support. Other dates to be held in middle of summer and beginning of fall. Event is free for residents, towns are charged for their residents.

15. Guernseytown Bid Opening – April 25, 2023

Bid opening for Guernseytown Reconstruction is April 25, 2023. Currently tracking revisions. Contractors submitting RFI's – requests for information. Project is 80/20 funding. State and federal funding is 80%, the town is funding 20%. It is unknown if funding will be a reimbursement, or up front funding.

16. Main Street – Lights, Sidewalks, Rotating Flashing Beacons

Street light added at Mobil station to allow traffic to get out near Saint John's. Sidewalk will be added from Starbucks to Saint John's wall. Wall at Saint John's will be replaced with a new wall further back to get sidewalk in. Rotating flashing beacons (RFB's) to be added to help cross walks. RFB's are yellow strobes to alert motorists that someone will start to cross road. Design being reviewed by DOT, comments given. Small project with three designers – SLR, us, Weston & Sampson).

17. ADA Sidewalks – 170 Locations

Town has \$3.3 million for American with Disabilities Act (ADA) sidewalks. Town has 170 sidewalk locations to install curb cuts with tactile warning spots in. Engineers to design in-house. Final designs being made, will go out to bid.

Sweeping and water flushing began, will continue through May.

Public Works moving towards more salt for winter. Less to clean up, but trucks need to be set up for it. Need to consider wells and culverts may rust. Set up for salt only will cost \$20,000 to \$25,000 per truck.

Asking for \$100k-\$250k for drainage from \$1 million ARPA; 30-40-year detention basin cleaning. One to four houses to be addressed at a time for drainage, combination of in-house and contract. Ledgewood Road needs to be redone, it has lost crown, causing issues. Some of the roads may need full-depth reconstruction. There are currently 82 drainage issue locations with 60 detection basins. Infrastructure failing across state and country.

Engineer internships are being posted for Public Works and Water and Sewer.

Dealing with FEMA to replace pipe on Knight Street at a cost of \$25,000 - \$50,000.

18. Transfers and Appropriations

None

19. Adjournment

Gary Lafferty made a motion to adjourn. Robert Retallick seconded the motion.

By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Demirs, Chairperson

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works