

PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 12, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee of the Watertown Town Council was conducted on Monday, June 12, 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. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

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

Also Present: Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works; Danielle Greenier, Administrative Assistant; Paul Bunevich PE, Town Engineer; Robert Grandpre, Highway Superintendent; Joe Millette, Assistant Town Engineer

Absent: Rachael Ryan

4. Minutes

Robert Desena made a motion to accept the minutes of the April 10, 2023 Regular Meeting. Gary Lafferty seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Public Participation

None

6. Correspondence

A. 760 Middlebury Road – Drainage

Mr. Lukowski wants to finalize solution in writing and have signed by resident. Mark Raimo, Town Manager, and Mr. Lukowski met resident and son. Solution is milling and paving road, putting in two catch basins in the road. Going to have a “T”, 8” pipe that goes underneath driveway apron. Resident will take pipe further a few feet into a smaller catch basin.

B. Hemingway Court – Private Road

Father of St. John’s wanted to be on pavement management plan, but road is private, secretary was advised of the fact.

Mr. Robert Retallick entered the meeting at 6:05PM. Mr. Lukowski readdressed 760 Middlebury Road upon entry.

7. Old Business

A. Hungerford Avenue Reconstruction

20 borings made to see where rock was lying to see where drainage is needed. Will now finalize drainage plans for road and put out to bid. After drainage constructed, will mill and pave road. Eight inch waterline going in on side road, working with water and sewer.

B. Pavement Management Program – ARPA \$1.5 Million; Bonding \$5 Million

I. Crack Seal

Crack seal is underway and 50% complete, is cheapest way to maintain roads.

II. Chip Seal/Chip Stone

Set to begin first week of July, Seymour Sealcoating will do all chip seal work. Reputable firm, does work in dozens of surrounding towns.

III. Mill & Pave

IV. Full Depth Reconstruction

Discussion of mill & pave and full depth reconstruction list and maps included in packet. Will post work on website as it gets closer.

Heavy signage to be used for roads receiving chip seal treatment. Residents advised to not exceed 15 MPH to avoid tar on their car or stones in their brakes.

C. Buckingham Street @ Echo Lake Road Beautification

It is uncertain who owns sections along road. Department is coordinating with CTDOT to acquire some of the land, request submitted.

D. Woolson Street Bridge Project

Received \$1.4 million funding. Project being held up by fiber cable company. Project meeting to be held tomorrow. Precast concrete manufactured and is being stored. First invoice for contractor received.

E. Sprucewood Drainage – Stonybrook to Start Construction Mid-August

Contractor to start in mid-August as to avoid seeding grass twice. Trench fenced off to avoid accidents.

F. Guernseytown Bid Opened – May 11, 2023 – Analyzing Bids

Bids for the project opened May 11, are now closed. Town Engineer submitted to NVCOG for 100% funding from state. Should receive approval within next few days. Reconstruction of Guernseytown Road will cost \$3.5 million.

G. Main Street

I. Many Phases

II. Lights, Sidewalks, Rotating Flashing Beacons

First part is traffic light for Mobil gas station and sidewalks adjacent to St. John's. Some issues caused by three different designers. Rectangular rapid flashing beacons were designed by another designer.

III. Oakville/Watertown Grant - \$3.75 Million (80/20 Reimbursable)

- Redefine Studies
- Survey
- Defined Design Package

Will need to hire consultant to handle all Main Street to come up with schematic.

IV. Safety Versus Aesthetics

Met with DOT, focus was to make road safe.

V. Hemingway Park Road

Hemingway Park Road to become one-way traffic coming from Main Street with slotted parking spots on left. Not easy to pull out onto Main Street the way it is now.

VI. Need a Committee/Task Force

Need committee to pick out aesthetics such as benches, possibly include business owners.

H. ADA Sidewalks – 170 Locations

Part of Americans with Disabilities Act, to install ramps in 170 locations. Engineer completing in-house designs. Ensuring check every box to get funding from state. ADA ramps are mandated by state to help handicapped.

8. New Business

A. Engineering - Execution Versus Planning/Programming/Grants

Several projects are ongoing. Problem when so much in construction planning that it is hard to pick up programming and grants. Can have a lot of money, hard to get pipeline flowing and execute projects. Trying to get more grants, lots of money coming from state and federal funding. Will need to hire more consultants in order to do less designing in-house.

B. Highway Operations

I. Street Sweeping

Street sweeping was going great at first, now both sweepers have been down. When begin budget in five months, sweeper will be on top of list. Getting a lot of complaints. Cannot rent sweeper, all are in use in the spring. Bearcat from DOT brought in for parts, better than older sweeper, ended up being frontline sweeper. Sweeper gets used for emergencies, as well as winter clean-up, is needed full time.

II. 37 Echo Lake Road

Thank you to Highway for fixing basement flooding from past 10 years. Basin was replaced. Is one of approximately 100 drainage issues in town.

III. Less Construction, More Maintenance

IV. Budget

Public Works budget was frozen for 10 years, thankful increase passed.

V. Transformation for the Team

Began transformation of team to have three dedicated teams out on street.

VI. Training

Having as much training as possible. Right now, leadership training about how to maintain roads at the T2 Center at UConn. Telling them to come to Watertown so a lot of classes to be held in firehouse upstairs.

C. Steele Brook Greenway – 80/20 Reimbursable

Doing business with Wesson and Sampson. Project is reimbursable 80/20. Will pay each invoice and submit for reimbursement for 80 of it, like Woolson Street Bridge. Looking for just shy of \$500,000.00. Approximately \$400,000.00 reimbursement. Wesson and Sampson fees negotiated and given notice to proceed. Project on the books for five, plus, years. Design schedule about six to twelve months.

D. Naugatuck River Greenway – \$300,000.00 Grant Award from DEEP

Received grant for \$300,000.00, is a big win for Watertown. Will pick up in fall after most of construction going. Will go after design and put out request for proposal. Had public hearing.

E. Community Connectivity Grant – Due July 21, 2023

Application is due July 21. Goal is about Main Street. Funding for redesign and construction. Removal of wall at St. John’s, push it back and build new wall and install sidewalk. Grant limit is \$800,000.00.

9. Transfers and Appropriations

A. Appropriation for Steele Brook Greenway - \$500,000.00

Motion made by Robert Retallick to move this appropriation to the Town Council for approval, seconded by Robert Desena. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Neal Tree Service Invoices

I. July 27, 2018 - \$8,700.00

II. June 2, 2020 - \$8,000.00

Invoices were brought to Public Works. Previous records were investigated. No payments were made in previous years towards these invoices. Purchase orders had been created, closed out due to not being used, no invoices were received. Finance Director unaware of previous bills coming in. Subcommittee opposes to paying on invoices due to length of time before invoice submission. Mr. Lukowski stated partial payment of \$6,620.00 already paid. Mr. Demirs requested hold off on using July 2023 funds until after August meeting. Possibly consider making a deal, believes legal obligation to pay the remaining of the partially paid invoice, not obligated to pay on other invoice after all this time. Decision to be held off until August meeting.

10. Adjournment

Robert Desena made a motion to adjourn. Gary Lafferty seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Demirs, Chairperson

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works