

**PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE  
of the  
WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, August 14, 2023**

A Regular Meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee of the Watertown Town Council was conducted on Monday, August 14, 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:** Robert Desena, Ken Demirs, Gary Lafferty, Rachael Ryan

**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:** Robert Retallick

**4. Public Participation**

Mr. David Lock of 147 Pepperidge Tree Road stated he would like to find out the status of drainage project that was supposed to take place on his road. Mr. Jerry Lukowski will get back to him next meeting after some research. Mr. Paul Bunevich, PE explained the project was designed, but was never funded.

**5. Minutes**

Robert Desena made a motion to accept the minutes of the June 12, 2023 Regular Meeting. Gary Lafferty seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**6. Correspondence**

**A. Numerous Paving Questions; Pot Hole Complaints**

There are many pothole complaints. There is a long-term plan from BETA study, would take \$45 million to bring roads to adequate condition. Plan is in place for shim paving, which is a short-term fix.

**B. 760 Middlebury Road**

There have been three Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for address. The documents are available for purchase from resident.

Town offered lip on apron, drainage (2 catch basins – to be done regardless). Resident refused offer. Resident wanted to also have a whole new driveway. To date, Town Manager’s office is waiting for resident to pick up FOIA paperwork.

## **7. Old Business**

### **A. Hungerford Avenue Reconstruction**

Thursday, August 17 2023 at 11:00 am, the bid will open to choose the contractor to replace drainage. Should be working in less than three weeks. There is heavy ledge found and soil borings are done. It is planned for 22 catch basins Buckingham to Woodlawn done by town.

### **C. Pavement Management Program**

Roads that were selected have been crack sealed and chip stone is in progress. Fog seal to follow to lock in stone on chip stone treated roads. Fog seal will make the stones black, make treated roads look paved but is more cost effective. Approximately 10% compared to full mill & overlay. Some roads cannot be chip stoned because they are too far gone.

Past Thursday was bid on mill & overlay, full depth to come.

Highway Department will get paving box out to shim pave on cracked/patched roads to reinforce repairs.

January through March will put out bids with bid packages next year because it is better/more cost effective to bid in winter than summer.

### **D. Woolson Street Bridge Project**

The utilities have been moved, contractor Dayton Construction has removed bridge and are working on the South side. It is anticipated to be completed by wintertime. Neighbors are concerned about start time. Contractor will not start before 6:00am. The 36” water main feed is one of 3 high service lines – our main line. We don’t know depth even with radar. Hopkins is one-way, we have received several complaints. Will go back to two-way traffic after work is done. Needed to put up additional signs on Merriam. Vehicle hit a sign blocking off road, dragged 200ft. States they were on phone trying to get directions.

### **E. Guernseytown Bid – Contract Signed; Guerrera Construction**

Guernseytown bid opened and was awarded to Guerrera. There has been discussion of where trailer will go, it will go next to Golf Club. Preconstruction tomorrow morning at 10:00am.

### **F. Steele Brook & Pearl Harbor Bridge – Sediment Removal**

Steele Brook cleaned using long stick excavator with 60ft reach. Workers removed sediment, approximately 1500 yards. Material may have come from dam. Small skid steer was used to go under the bridge. Town rented the machine for a couple weeks. Will be doing detention basins next to 87, Davis Street at Evelyn, East Street & Mount Fair Farm, and Franson Road. 100 yards removed at Davis Street and Franson Road is still working on. Skid steer was returned, still

renting long stick excavator. Echo Lake going towards Buckingham on right to be done next. Material removed is being brought to the Transfer Station and being let to dry out. Nice gravel has been removed and is to be used other places in town.

**G. Detention Basin Cleaning**

(Previously covered)

**H. Main Street**

There are multiple projects on Main Street. Public parking lot design is done. There are legal issues with property ownership. Wetlands and Planning and Zoning approved. Exit to be right turn only (no left hand turn to get out). Entrance/exit will be between Attorney's office and Walgreens. RFB done by Weston & Sampson will be done by end of week, SLR is done. The sidewalk from Starbucks to St John's wall first 200ft to be done by town first. SLR to complete wall design, but it is unknown when construction will take place. There is roughly 700ft of sidewalk.

**I. Sidewalks/Trip Hazard Abatement/BETA Sidewalk Study/Full Repair Section/ADA Project**

Company to shave down trip hazards, using state contract. Public Works will assign other roads. Project is funded using Town Rd Aid (state money). In the future, BETA is to perform sidewalk study for full replacement of 35 miles of sidewalk in town. Contractor and highway will do slab. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) plans briefed; Engineer was at public hearing meeting and plans were submitted. Still have to do some work to go back to District 4 and NVCOG. Designs were done in-house. If used outside contractor, cost would have been \$300-\$350 thousand. Designs were a lot of work to complete.

**8. New Business**

**A. Steele Brook Greenway – Under Design – Public Hearing October, 2023**

Section between Unico Field and French Street is under design by Wesson & Sampson, public hearing will be around October or November. Borings made at Steele Brook crossing. Will be parking off French Street for 10-20 cars. Design will be next year, construction will be in 2025. Highway Department cleared knot weed to get boring machine in.

**B. Community Connectivity Grant – Submitted**

Community Connectivity Grant was submitted July 21, 2023 asking for \$800,000.00 to construct a new wall, push it back, and install a new sidewalk in front of Saint John's school. NVCOG (Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments) stated that it was a very detailed application. It is estimated that a decision should be given in 90 days.

**C. STEAP Grant Funding 2023 – Highway Garage**

2023 STEAP Grant is due August 18, 2023. Town asking for \$500,000.00 to renovate Highway Garage with a 20% match. Proposed renovations include roof, windows, painting, brick repairs, split unit air conditioning, fence, gate, fire and carbon monoxide detection.

**D. Street Sweeper**

The 2000 sweeper breaks down all the time, and other sweeper is a 2011, is 12 years old, and breaks down. It took a long time to clear roads this year. Currently looking at a 4-wheel drive mechanical dump sweeper. We will get \$46,575.77 from nip bill and the rest to be funded with the equipment replacement fund. Department wants to own out-right, as opposed to leasing to save money. We will have three sweepers with one for parts. Rachael Ryan made a motion to adjourn. Gary Lafferty seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

**9. Transfers and Appropriations**

**A. Neal Tree Service Invoices**

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

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

Neal Tree Service was paid portion of 2018 bill. Discussion that may be obligated to pay remainder of that invoice, should not pay more than that, bills are old, never received invoices until now. Recommended to pay remaining \$2,080.00 with the agreement that vendor won't ask for other invoice to be paid.

**10. Adjournment**

Rachael Ryan made a motion to adjourn. Robert Desena seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ken Demirs, Chairperson

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Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works