

Town of Watertown
Town Council
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
Regular Meeting

Date: February 12, 2024

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Watertown Town Hall

Town Council Chambers

61 Echo Lake Road

Watertown, CT 06795

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to Order at 6:00 P.M. by Subcommittee Chairperson, Robert Retallick.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: Robert Retallick, Robert Desena, Gary Lafferty

Also Present: Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works; Carissa Plourde, Administrative Assistant; Bob Grandpre, Highway Superintendent; Danielle Greenier, MEO Clerk; Joe Millette, Assistant Engineer

Absent: Ken Demirs, Rachael Ryan

4. Public Participation

Mr. Elio Longo of 83 Bella Vista Drive in continuance from 01-2024 special meeting regarding complaint and concern over the culvert. Provided correspondence between Public Works and himself, 2 maps of his property and researched data. Resident reiterated his concerns and seeking who's responsible for the culverts. Discussed neighbor's property at 88 Bella Vista Drive and its measurements compared to his property. Stated he's done research into the town's ordinance and that it doesn't exist. It was advised by a town employee to file a FOIA request, to receive updates. Mr. Longo states the communication though is lacking which led him to file a Connecticut FOIA commission complaint. As requested in the January meeting Mr. Longo provided Public Works with the correspondence from former town managers and department directors and is still awaiting a response. Mr. Longo addressed budget concerns regarding the length of time it will take to complete projects due to the lack of funding. Mr. Jerry Lukowski responded to inform Mr. Longo that his request requires searching through archived paper files, which has taken longer than expected. Mr. Lukowski submitted his findings to the Town Manager's office. As far as the budget concerns, Mr. Lukowski addressed the wide range of projects required and their priority.

Karen Kalenauskas of 360 Sand Bank Road regarding the flooding on their property. After speaking with Mr. Lukowski she was advised to attend this meeting. Ms. Kalenauskas went in 2003 to Inland/Wetlands and Town Council with this concern. She stated funding was allocated after her initial complaint to improve one of the culverts on Sand Bank Road. The funding was redirected to other projects and there has been no update. Kalenauskas states it has been 21 years with no improvements and the issue is only progressing. Kalenauskas stated surrounding neighborhoods with the influx of drainage issues caused a buildup of sentiment. Another concern Ms. Kalenauskas has pertained to

Atwood Pond and the water level being 3 feet higher than original due to excess rainfall. Kalenauskas expresses her concern that both culverts need to be fixed to address the issue successfully.

5. Minutes

Robert Desena made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024, Special Meeting, seconded by Gary Lafferty.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Old Business

A. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Lukowski introduces the CIP Public Works Booklet. He wants to add the town council dates of approval, any of the public hearings we have had for projects and other projects the Town Manager wants to direct. Lukowski directs to Page 4 and 5 to address the infrastructure breakdown of the town that needs to be maintained.

B. Budget Fiscal Year 2025

Lukowski states we got through the learning curve of ClearGov and finds it very transparent and a great budget tool for what we plan to pursue for the 2025 budget.

C. Pavement Management Program/Summer 24 Pavement List

The study was done by BETA, a professional consultant, 45 million is needed to bring RSR up to 100%. Watertown is currently at 63% rating. Projected expected to take 8 years to get to 72%. Lukowski states we will need a 5 million dollar bond to continue large paving projects in 2025. Lukowski directed to the last page of agenda to point out roads that are the focus for the 2024 paving season. BETA study shows half of our roads are red and in order to get to 100% 45 million would be needed.

D. Woolson Street Bridge Project

Lukowski states the State Project number was added. In the spring the sidewalks will be completed, sealing the walls and final paving. Lukowski expects the project to be completed late Spring. The new bridge performed well in recent storms. Paying careful attention to the 36" main when paving to not compact the 1942 pipe that was put into place.

E. Guernseytown Project

Recently had a winter shut down to allow for drainage work. Hydrodynamic separator to be done which will shut down the road for a month and a press release issued last week. Relocation of poles with the help of Eversource and requires additional trees to be taken down for rewiring.

F. Main Street – Tighe & Bond

This project will give improvements in Watertown and Oakville. Lukowski states they met with Tighe & Bond 2 weeks ago to go over the project. For the project to go from Baldwin

Street to Waterbury it will cost 10/20/30 million dollars but we are looking into the magnitude of what the cost is. Main Street is three different projects by 3 different designers, so friction has been developed and Lukowski states it should have been 1 designed. After meeting with the DOT, the trifecta light at the Mobile Station isn't feasible. The business will lose half its business of the plan to have it only one way in and one way out. Lukowski says this was supposed to only be a 2 year project but he's working with DOT to get an extension. We do have BID documents for the RRFB's (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons) and the sidewalk from Starbucks to Saint John's. The other part of this project is the Heminway Park Road enhancement, and the survey has been completed. Project is to be projected as a 4 year project with the STEAP Grant. For the Off-Street Greenberg Property, we do have the final contract documents to give to the owner, and the owner must put them to BID. Lukowski says we need to stand up again with the Project Advisory Committee to help us with the project and all the finer details. Tighe & Bond will help us with the Public Outreach to meet with residents and Main Street businesses.

G. Steele Brook Greenway – Under Design

Lukowski has a meeting tomorrow on February 13th for additional updates. The biggest piece we are working on now is property coordination. DOT has control of this process and has been given which properties that the consultants are looking at. Research being done in the Town Clerks office to look over bonds, deeds, and pages to verify property ownership.

H. Naugatuck River Greenway

The Town Engineer produced an RFQ, Lukowski states he needs to review it before going out to bid to hire a consultant. Permits and studies will all be done by the professional consultant and all designs will be done in house. This will be done on a Grant from the DEEP, guidance from them has not been proficient. Highways have been out there and came across a couple culvert crossings that have been washed out. Lukowski has been working with Waterbury Water Superintendent to make sure the 42 inch pipe will stay protected.

I. ADA Sidewalk Project

We had 13 easements, 11 in hand that were signed off by the property owners. There are still 2 more we need, one that we know is still feasible and one we may take out of the project.

J. BETA Sidewalk Study

We have 37 miles of sidewalk across the town, and we need 6 million dollars for repairs. The question always arises as to what you fix first but there have been 2 to 3 lawsuits a year for tripping on sidewalks. Lukowski did the simple stuff with shaving this year, which was cheaper. Now the bigger projects are to do sectional replacements.

8. New Business

A. Bunker Hill – Water Main Breaks

2 weeks ago had 3 water main breaks. It was discovered that there is contamination from the gas station above from a leaking tank 25 years ago. It settled into the lower part of Bunker Hill and ate away at the connections. Lukowski states we have been in coordination with the DEEP. Our water is not at risk, Lukowski stated it's a sealed system. We are looking into it further to replace the entire pipe within the area. Residents stated they always smelled gasoline in their basements and discharges of different color. All this information has been relayed to the DEEP.

B. Sand Bank Road –

Jerry Lukowski spoke to Karen Kalenauskas of 360 Sand Bank Road. Bob Grandpre and Jerry Lukowski have been out to the location every storm. We are working with the core of engineer. Lukowski's thoughts are to put two 2 foot pipes or one 3 foot pipe to help with flow, with the culvert crossing Middlebury Road. This requires more study and analyzation to see if it can handle it and potentially help the 3 pipes upstream. Jerry is working towards the most cost effective approach.

9. Transfers and Appropriations

A. Neal Tree Service

Jerry to provide white paper to go over the work done 5 years ago by Mr. Neal Budd.

10. Adjournment

Gary Lafferty made a motion to adjourn. Robert Desena seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Retallick, Acting Chairperson

Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works