Town of Watertown  
Town Council  
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE  
Regular Meeting  

Date: April 8, 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 Vice Chairperson, Robert Desena.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Roll Call**

   **Present:** Ken Demirs, Robert Desena, Gary Lafferty, Carina Noyd (sitting in for Rachael Ryan)  
   **Also Present:** Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works; Paul Bunevich, Town Engineer; Carissa Plourde, Administrative Assistant; Bob Grandpre, Highway Superintendent; Joe Millette, Assistant Engineer  
   **Absent:** Robert Retallick, Rachael Ryan

4. **Public Participation**

   None

5. **Minutes**

   Ken Demirs made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024, Meeting Minutes, seconded by Gary Lafferty. Ken Demirs, Robert Desena and Gary Lafferty all in favor. Carina Noyd abstained.

6. **Correspondence**

   None

7. **Old Business**

   A. **Pavement Management Program/Summer 24 Pavement List**

      Lukowski states the handout was given at the last meeting. Bringing to attention that it was stated we would be voting on it tonight. There is one addition to the list, that is Wilson Drive. The road is a priority because Eversource Natural Gas is partnering with us to get us a check for $20,000. Will allow us to company that with town funding to pave Wilson Drive. Eversource did install a gas main in the road last year and it’s currently failing and causing the road to crumble. It is better for Eversource not to patch the road, but instead mill and pave the road to meet Watertown’s standards.
Lukowski stated that Public Works is going to look at the list for new roads, using the BETA road study as our guidance. Our strategy is to not fix the worst first, we have to fix at multiple levels of the deterioration curve. We don’t want to continue to have roads failing, and waste money to do full depth reconstruction.

Ken Demirs made the motion to approve the Pavement Management Program for the Summer 2024 Pavement list (attached). Ken Demirs stated it was dated on the list, that it was last updated on Thursday April 4th, 2024. Seconded by Gary Lafferty.

Gary Lafferty wanted to confirm that the $20,000 was coming from Eversource. Lukowski confirmed. Lukowski stated the $20,000 will cover their portion of the road that has failed. With the BETA Study, it’s estimated to cost $35,000-$40,000 for it to be milled and paved. Lukowski states there is a lot of catch basin work and corrugated metal pipe that has failed. In total the project for Wilson Drive will be about a $80-$90,000 project.

Final motion made, all in favor.

B. Woolson Street Bridge Project Update
Lukowski said the project will start back up in May to finish the sidewalk and final coat of pavement on the road. Some driveways need to be worked, which was part of the agreement per the easements that we acquired. One issue that we have, is the time it takes for Altice to relocate the poles. All other cable companies and Eversource are great to work with and move the poles on a timely manner. They have been contacted by several to get on it, but they are the last to relocate the poles within the project. Last week was our third or fourth time getting in contact with them, once they do the work, we can complete the project. Gary Lafferty asked at the end of Lukowski’s old business updates, if the stop signs were permanent? Lukowski states after talking with the Police Chief it has been decided to keep them permanently.

C. Guernseytown Project Update
Lukowski states we didn’t really have a winter shut down with the project, because the winter wasn’t heavy. The contractor is ahead of schedule. The only time they shut down is during heavy rain periods. We do have to shut Guernseytown down this coming Monday, a press release will be made tomorrow or Wednesday. The road will have local access only by the residents. The shut down is happening because we must put in a large head wall and a full depth pavement will start on the south end of the road. (Near the golf course). Again, Altice is the hold up for moving the poles, but Eversource has offered to move the wires for them because they are slacking the cable. No splicing or additional cutting is needed. We are looking forward to Altice giving Eversource the thumbs up to move forward with assisting. Lukowski gives an estimate of more than 50% complete on the project.

D. Main Street – Tighe & Bond & 686 Main Street
We do have their initial scope of work, Lukowski states it came in last week and he needs to share it with the team. Joe Millette sat in on the selection for the project and how they broke
up the planning and design for Watertown and more of an advanced study for Oakville. This deals with the ARPA Funds and Joanna Hayes Funds we have for Main Street. Lukowski has listed 686 Main Street, Mr. Greenberg’s building, which is currently out to bid. Mr. Greenberg’s bidding on it, not the town. We have several contractors that are working with us to knock the building down, do the sitework and pave the parking lot.

E. Steele Brook Greenway – Under Design
The project is under design and the goal is to get it fully completed and out to bid at the end of this winter. Lukowski states we think that far out in advance so we can start the work as soon as spring hits. The monthly meeting is set for tomorrow, Tuesday April 9th, 2024, with Weston & Sampson who is the designer of record. We are going for a grant from the state of $250,000 to fill in the gap between Unico Bridge and the pedestrian bridge. Lukowski states he’s working with the Town Manager and his staff to get the price and the sketch to put into the grant application.

F. BETA Sidewalk Study
Lukowski states this was given to the subcommittee about 3-4 months ago. It validated that we have 37 miles of sidewalk, and it is a $6.5 Million Dollar price tag to repair the sidewalks. The shaving of sidewalks has been completed at a couple hundred locations across the town. Lukowski wants to gear up for the November election to get a half million or million dollar bond to start a program for repairing our sidewalks by contractors and our highway department to team up to tackle the amount of work we have. Pin Shop owner calls yearly to ask when their sidewalks are going to be fixed. Lukowski states that location is not an easy task, and it might take a whole summer to get it done, but not be able to do anything else. We don’t want to do too much work because of Main Street in case there needs to be additional design. Lukowski states he owes the Pin Shop owner a visit to go over what areas we can do some repairs to help the current situation but not a full restoration on both sides of the road. Desena at the end of Lukowski’s old business updates, stated he noticed the state is doing a lot of work by St. Mary Magdalen church. Asking where we would be doing the work in the Pin Shop area? Joe Millette states the State is only repairing the wall, not the sidewalk.

G. Bunker Hill Update
Lukowski states he gave an update at the last meeting. In reference to the 3 water main breaks, the results we found were that there is contaminated soil from the gas station at the bottom of the hill from Bunker Hill. DEEP hired a contractor and they did Wells to test, and the result was heavy concentrations of gasoline. This affected under the roads and a couple of the adjacent neighbors to the north of Bunker Hill next to Apple Rehab. Lukowski is getting great help from the Fire Marshall who is the point with the DEEP, the DEEP is going to be working with the gas station for a plan to remediate the conditions. The spill happened a few decades ago Jerry states and there is paperwork showing communication between the gas station and the DEEP from that time. At the end of Lukowski’s old business updates Lafferty stated he’s on the Cable Company board and can help assist with pushing matters forward with Altice.
8. New Business

A. Bids

i. Chip Stone
Opening Tuesday next week. Lukowski states we took it under recommendation and advisement to put it out to bid. We are not going to use Fairfield bid; we are going to use our own town bid for chip stone.

ii. Detention Basins
Opening Thursday of next week. 10 locations, focus this year is on the Turkey Brook to remove all the trees and build limited access roads. On the highway side, we are going to rent the 60 foot stick, like we did last year to clean out the sediment load that we have in the detention basins. Lukowski concerns is that the bid is going to come in at a hefty price doing it by a contractor. States we may not be able to do 10 basins, maybe half will be completed this year.

B. Town Bonding

i. Paving
Lukowski is looking to acquire the other $2.5 million that we have in approved bonding this July 1st, 2024. Also looking to go at the $5 million in the November election for bond bonding, if not more. Our current backlog is $41 million from the BETA Study.

ii. Sidewalk
Lukowski states we already discussed this project. Focusing on the schools and then working outwards.

iii. Drainage
The focus is all about the detention basins and if its operating funds or capitol funds to clean out the 50 basins we have in the town. Lafferty asked if we figured out how many privately opened. Jerry answered yes, we do and that he has a spreadsheet back in the department. Stated we can follow back up with the subcommittee. His estimate is that there are 30-35 that are privately owned. Lukowski and Bunevich met with the Inland Wetlands Commissioner last week and went through the list to write letters to the private owned basins and remind them of their responsibilities with the basins.

C. Northfield 48” Pipe/Road Collapse
Lukowski stated we had a corrugated metal pipe fail on us and a repair was done a few years ago. It has now failed on us again, so we must replace approximately 55 feet of pipe including the flared ends. Bob Grandpre went on to explain what was being replaced to the subcommittee but has no microphone.
9. **Transfers and Appropriations**
   None

10. **Adjournment**
    Ken Demirs made a motion to adjourn. Gary Lafferty seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Robert Retallick, Acting Chairperson

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Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works