Town of Watertown
Town Council
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: May 13, 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, 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

4. **Public Participation**
None

5. **Minutes**
   
   Ken Demirs made a motion to accept and approve the minutes of the April 8th, 2024 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Rachael Ryan. All in favor.

6. **Correspondence**
None

7. **Old Business**

   A. **Pavement Management Program/Summer 24 Pavement List** –
   Pavement list approved and online. Hungerford Ave is completed. Started first section of Middlebury Rd with the second phase following right behind which includes Cherry Ave to Deerfield, and Fieldwood. All catch basins on Evelyn St., Barbara Lane and Davis St Ext. are completed. All crack sealing has been completed. Some patching needs to be finished by the Highway Department and then we can begin the chip seal program.

   B. **Woolson Street Bridge Project Update** –
   Start between Memorial Day and July 4th to finish sidewalks, final paving, aprons and some additional driveway work to do that was part of the original agreement. Setback has been from awaiting the final cable lines to be moved by Altice off poles and poles removed.

   C. **Guernseytown Project Update** –
   The contractor is boxing out the road, getting ready for paving. Did hit a snag with Eversource as their contracted work was supposed to be completed by end of April-beginning of May. Subcontracted work was halted while Eversource was in negotiation for a
pay increase. Once Eversource is done, two other cable companies will start their work of moving their cables over.

D. Main Street – Tighe & Bond
   We are in the negotiation phase with Tighe & Bond for the safety improvements.

E. Steele Brook Greenway –
   Under Design by Wesson and Sampson. The goal is to have it bid ready this coming winter so that we can put it out to bid and receive bids in spring and start construction next summer. There is one additional bridge that is in the design that will cost 1 million dollars to get across Steele Brook. This is 80% funded by state and federal governments.

F. Bids – Detention Basins
   There are 10 detention basins that were put out to bid. Low bid came in at $305,000. Looking to line up state funding and from town road aid and LOTCIP, to fund this project.
   The goal is to have them ready for future storms.

G. Town Bonding –
   Bonding was discussed at the last meeting under new business. Lukowski states he’s looking at 3 areas for paving, sidewalk and drainage. He stated that he understands the target that was set by the Town Manager was $10 Million as a planning number. Lukowski states he’s going to be able to show more in depth of what would be covered under that budget when we get to new business and discuss the BETA Dashboard. An estimated amount of work is $1 Million in sidewalk and $1 Million in drainage. The back log of sidewalks is $6.5 Million and Lukowski states he doesn’t have an exact number on it, but that there’s a lot of improvements needed for drainage throughout the town. If the bonding is $10 Million, Lukowski states his initial proposal is $8 Million for paving, $1 Million for sidewalks and $1 Million for drainage projects across the town.

H. 760 Middlebury Road
   Mrs. Smolley signed the drainage agreement on Friday May 10th. The plan is 2’x2’ catch basin in lower part of her driveway, pave two feet beyond that with the new apron which will resolve the issue.

I. Northfield 48” Pipe/Road Collapse (Bob Grandpre, Superintendent of Highway gave update)
   Project started 5/13/24, hoping to end by the end of the week beginning of next week. One issue is Waterbury’s 36” watermain is in the same area so they need to be careful. Plan is to use the existing pipe bed to lay the new pipe and then fill the area around with Flowable Fill.

J. Naugatuck Valley Greenway (approved to be added into the meeting conversation)
   Paul Bunevich gives an update about the Naugatuck Valley Greenway. He states the department sent out an RFQ back in March for a consultant Engineer to help with the design. The department is going to do a fair amount of the work, as volunteered for the 20% we are getting from DEEP for this project. We have received 6 applicants and are working on a short list of 3 that Lukowski, Joe Millette and Paul are going to go over. The plan is to interview within the next few weeks. Another item submitted in March was an application for an additional $300,000 for our part of the design work. Paul states this was in addition to the $299,635 he believes that we already received last year from DEEP. After consulting with members at NVCOG and additional towns that are building the greenway, that there
just isn’t enough money to cover the intensive parts of the large project. Results will come in June of who got what of the additional funding

8. New Business

A. Transfer Station Pricing –
Lukowski states he’s been working on the side to continue working on a new price sheet for the transfer station that has been mentioned a few times in previous meetings. He would like to increase the yearly permit price from $20 to $25. The second item is sofas, we currently charge $20-25 depending on size, but we pay $50 to have it removed. Would like to propose that we go to $35 to $45. Lukowski states he doesn’t want to charge a higher amount, because then we will start finding couches dumped on the side of the road. Lukowski would like to have pallets added to the price sheet, it’s not currently on and a proposed price of $5 each. In addition to pallets, we would like to add toilets for a proposed price of $5 each.

Lukowski states we run a very effective and efficient Transfer Station. We cost about $300-$400,000 and we collect about $200,000 which is unheard of for a town our size. Usually, the cost of a town our size is $500-600,000.

Discussion continued between Lukowski and the board with questions back and forth on the revenue of the Transfer Station, the fee chart and the proposed items Jerry stated.

Lukowski stated his goal is to get a tablet at the transfer station and get the whole operations slowly up to date to current times. There’s currently no phone, computers, any IT, Wi-Fi.

B. Highway Garage –
Lukowski states he doesn’t want the garage forgotten about. Stated he knows for future bonding if we have a plan, that it’s submitted into the program. To start, he states we would need a consultant to do a basic design. Ideas would mainly come from Bob Grandpre of the space criteria needed for a garage. Parametric estimates for the cost. Lukowski states an estimate of $15-$25 million for a new Highway Garage. The previous Public Works Director Lou: Jerry Lukowski recently meant with, moved to a new town who just built a new highway garage. Lukowski is in the works of scheduling a tour to view the new building with Watertown’s Highway personnel.

Lukowski states he really wanted the board to be invited in the winter to see the lack of space we have with the trucks and plows on and conditions of the building. But we could have a meeting this summer as well to see how we operate. Proposes for next meeting June 10th.

Gary Lafferty brings to discussion asking if the building is strong enough to hold up fire suppression/sprinkling system. Lukowski states it’s a wooden roof, built in 1954. The building code for sprinklers wasn’t out at that time. Lafferty questioned if they could be attached to the pilers and Lukowski’s response was when we do a tour, we can all look together at what the garage conditions currently are. Lukowski states the height of the garage is low that if the system was added, the trucks would hit. We can barely fit the trucks now.

Lukowski brings up again meeting to be held at the Highway Garage June 10th, meeting in the break room. Board agrees.

C. BETA Dashboard –
A presentation was given in depth of the BETA Dashboard software we have for the next 20 minutes of the meeting.
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 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Robert Retallick, Acting Chairperson

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Jerry Lukowski, Director of Public Works