

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE /
CITY COUNCIL JOINT MEETING
At the OAKS Golf Links Facility – Grill Room
100 Hide Away Place, Somersworth NH

November 1, 2019 – 3:30PM

Committee Members present: Councilor Dale R. Sprague, Chair
Councilor David A. Witham, Vice-Chairman
Councilor Martin Pepin
Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore
Dir. of Planning and Community Dev. Shanna Saunders

Other Councilors present: Richard Michaud
Don Austin
Nancie Cameron

Chairman Sprague called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING: *Motion by Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Vincent, to approve the minutes of the October 7, 2019 meeting; approved 4-0 vote.*

MISCELLANEOUS: *Nadeau Street:* City Manager Belmore stated that a survey would need to be completed in order for the acceptance of the Street moving through the Planning Board process and then to the full Council. He mentioned the survey might cost \$10-15,000. The consensus of the Committee was the property owners on the Street should bear this cost. It was also decided that the Manager should get an opinion from City Attorney regarding the City's continued winter maintenance of the street, perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding in regards to liability. Director Saunders stated that this right of way seemed to be only deeded to the actual owner of the first lot and perhaps not to the owner property owners using the right of way/Street.

Road resurfacing project: Councilor Witham expressed his lack of satisfaction with the work of the contractor-PIKE; i.e., the mess of some streets after paving and the continued delay with finishing paving of these streets.

Mr. David Baker- 8 Government Way: Manager Belmore indicated that Mr. Baker's proposal called for eliminating the entry ways to the small parking lot in front of his building and then creating 2-parking spaces on the public ROW. The Committee supported this proposal. Belmore indicated that Mr. Baker also intended to ask the Council to reconsider the Tax Relief

granted to his property for 4-years and to ask reconsideration in moving it to the full 7-years as originally requested. The Committee's general consensus was to at least consider his ask.

OAKS GOLF PROPERTY TIMBER CUT PROJECT: Peter Harrity, part of the OAKS managing partnership, presented their proposal for a Winter Tree Harvest. Mr. Harrity passed out a map of the Tree Harvest Plan and additional information dated December 9, 2013 and September 18, 2019 regarding details of the plan and their rationale of need to complete it. Harrity stated that the condition of the course was suffering from a lack of air flow and sun that is needed to protect and grow a healthy turf. He stated that this type of cut was a common practice for golf courses and he gave some recent golf course timber cut examples.

Manager Belmore mentioned that this tree cut would need to be reviewed by the Conservation Commission for a Conditional Use Permit and then move towards approval by the Planning Board. The Committee discussed the order of approvals needed and the consensus was the City Council should consider approving the project first as the City owns the land and its timber. It was explained that the timber proceeds would be used to fund the cut; Harrity was asking any excess revenue to be held by the City in escrow to fund the clean up of the project over the next few years after the cut.

Councilor Sprague asked if the plan included stumping all the trees that would be cut? Harrity stated yes, and over the next 1-4 years they would be involved in cleaning up after the cut and planting fescue natural grasses.

Councilor Witham asked if access for staging areas would be on Coles Pond Road, sharing a concern that the road was not a City road and the need to provide outreach to the residents and property owners along it. Witham also expressed a concern with removing any tree buffer near the Sumner Printing facility. Harrity stated that they had already talked to some of the residents along Coles Pond Rd. who gave support, and he agreed that a buffer needed to be maintained next to the abutting Sumner Printing site. Councilor Vincent stated a similar concern regarding leaving a good buffer alongside the area of the homes on Coles Pond Rd.

The Councilors, Mr. Harrity and Manager Belmore rode in golf carts out to several golf holes including holes 1, 2, 3, and 4 as well as the area behind the maintenance building. The group stopped at several areas to examine the landscape, the fairways, greens and tree lines; as well as discussing the suggested need and approach for the tree harvest. The Councilors returned to the Grill Room to conclude the meeting. Councilor Vincent asked who would oversee the cut to ensure compliance with the plan. Sprague stated the tree forester would; Belmore added that there would also be an Intent to City filed and monitored as to all the trees actually cut and revenue generated. The Committee and Councilors (present) expressed general support pending a future meeting with Mr. Harrity and his team including the Forester, Charlie Moreno and the Golf Course Superintendent, Steve Malloy.

ADJOURNMENT: *Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin, motion passed 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 4:40pm.*

Respectfully submitted,
Robert M Belmore, City Manager