

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
March 25, 2019 – 8:00AM

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

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
Finance Director, Scott Smith
Director of Public Works, Michael Bobinsky
City Engineer, Gary Lemay
Deputy City Clerk, Kelly Gagne
Director of Planning & Community Development, Shanna Saunders
Code Compliance Officer, Paul Crouser III (entered @ 8:03am)

Others:

Chairman Sprague called the meeting to order at 8:00am.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2019 meeting. Motion was approved 4-0.

Chairman Sprague stated that the agenda will be addressed out of order.

ROAD RESURFACING PROJECTS

Director Bobinsky stated that since the last Public Works & Environment meeting held in January 2019, City Engineer Gary Lemay and General Foreman Gerry Vachon have worked together to compile information relevant to the selection of FY2020 street and road repair candidates.

Manager Belmore informed the committee that the packet contains tables of street and road repair candidates discussed and explained the maps, which were also included as they pertained to the tables.

There was discussion regarding Stackpole Road and tying any work done to the Green St intersection, which might involve the State. In addition, there was consensus to coordinate the City work with Severino's road work that was required as part of the Sunningdale development project.

Councilor Sprague asked staff if we had made contact with the Boston and Main Railroad about the crossing on Indigo Hill Road and potential road work out there. Staff agreed to contact them as soon as possible.

There was discussion on roads and streets located on and near Clement Rd.

City Engineer Lemay stated that table 3 included in the packet is a list of roads that need crack sealing. There was discussion on crack sealing estimates. An option of chip seal was also explained by City Engineer Lemay. Councilor Witham stated that he would suggest not using crack seal on a high speed road due to potential noise, but a side street would be fine. Councilor Sprague asked City Engineer Lemay to research an estimated cost to use chip seal.

Councilor Pepin stated that he sees cracks on Otis Rd and it was paved recently. There was discussion on the other conditions with Otis Rd and also Blackwater Rd was spoken about.

Councilor Sprague stated he would like PIKE to respond why they didn't take care of the transition work from Blackwater Rd across Route 108. Director Bobinsky responded that the Pike representative believes this is a State DOT issue. Councilor Sprague stated that if they don't fix them they won't pave in Somersworth again.

Councilor Witham stated that Indigo Hill Rd is priority #1 and should include side streets in that area with a PCI less than 32 except Down St. We should also do Stackpole Rd from end to end and investigate options to fix the sight lines at the Green St. intersection. Franklin St also makes sense as well as Clement Rd deserves attention, Union St including any side street with a PCI less than 30, Crest Dr, and the small section of River St. near Buffumsville Rd. He also requested staff prepare a cost estimate to replace water mains in that area.

Manager Belmore reiterated the list of roads spoken about:

- Indigo Hill Rd including side streets with a PCI less than 32, including contacting the RR
- Stackpole Rd from end to end, intersection with Green St.
- Franklin St
- Clement Rd – check with Rollinsford, check for drainage issues.
- Union St and any side road with a PCI of less than 30
- River St – section at the end at Indigo Hill Road, also water main replacement estimated cost.
- Crest Dr

ROAD PAVEMENT MARKINGS CONTRACT AND TIMELINE

Director Bobinsky stated that this has gone out to bid, jointly with Dover. Staff recommends awarding the contract to HiWay Safety Systems for \$38,864 which is approximately \$3,000 below what is budgeted.

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent made a motion to contract with HiWay Safety for Pavement Markings. Motion Passed 4-0.

PARKING: DRIVEWAY CRITERIA, PAVED SPACES, SIDEWALK RESTRICTIONS

Councilor Sprague stated this change was brought up by City staff and believed that changing this won't fix the issue. Driving on sidewalks is a police offense. If you have 2 parking spots in a driveway that are 30 ft. wide, and the end is 15ft wide how do you get into the driveway without driving on the sidewalk.

Councilor Witham stated that his observation is that in many instances where someone takes a single family home and then turns it into a multi-family home is where the issue lies, instead of having 1 or 2 cars they now have 6-7 cars. They then park on the front lawn. He mentioned a few places that are currently doing this.

Manager Belmore noted other cities' Zoning Ordinances such as Dover and Rochester. The Committee liked Rochester's Ordinance and feels it provides a better definition of what "paved" might include..

There was discussion on options moving forward to alleviate people from parking on lawns etc. It was decided staff will work up some language for the committee to review.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Belmore stated that a draft Ordinance recommendation from the Traffic Safety Committee re: it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a truck to turn left onto Station Street from Government Way. It is in regards to tractor trailers coming down Government Way and turning left onto Station Street. They are driving over the sidewalks.

Motion made by Witham to prohibit tractor trailer trucks from entering Government Way all together seconded by no one

Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Pepin made a motion to support the Traffic Safety Committee Ordinance change. Motion passed 4-0.

Councilor Witham stated that if the CMAQ Grant is not happening until 2021, then we need to fix the pre-emption on the traffic lights before then. He noticed the day of the fatal fire in Berwick, ME that there were some traffic issues.

Director Bobinsky updated the Committee about Franklin Street & Garden Street, that the City did receive a signed easement from the resident at 71 Franklin St. We are still working on Garden St and are meeting with Brox this afternoon. Councilor Sprague suggested the City completed the needed repair.

Councilor Sprague asked why the clock hasn't been changed and if the City is responsible for the clock in the plaza. Director Saunders stated that she is talking to the electrician to find out how to change it. Currently, it will automatically change in April as that is what the settings were.

Councilor Sprague stated that anyone awarded bids for paving needs make sure that the curb boxes and manhole covers are installed level with the pavement. Too many are being placed too low.

Councilor Sprague stated that City staff needs to make street signs straight. Staff should know where pot holes are. If signs are worn out replace them.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, motion passed 3-1, with Councilor Sprague opposed. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk