

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
October 18, 2022 – 3:15 p.m.

Committee Members Present:	Councilor David Witham, Chair Councilor Denis Messier, Vice-Chair Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent Councilor Richard R. Michaud (Mayoral Temporary Appointment)
Committee Member Absent:	Councilor Martin Pepin
Administration/Staff present:	City Manager Bob Belmore Finance Director Scott Smith Director of Public Works Michael Bobinsky City Engineer Amber Hall Welfare Officer Kristen LaPanne

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. and noted the Mayor appointed Councilor Michaud as a temporary member for this meeting to replace absent member Councilor Pepin.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Messier made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2022 meeting. The motion was not seconded by another Committee Member and will be brought to the next Committee Meeting.

STATE DOT GRANT UPDATES

TAP (Transportation Alternative Program)

City Manager Belmore reviewed the memorandum update from Director Bobinsky. Northeast Earth Mechanics bid proposal came in at \$1,071,879.25 which is around 34% higher than the engineers estimate. NH DOT initially approved the construction phase funding at \$871,500 and is currently reviewing the approval of the additional \$200,379 needed. With the City being responsible for 20% of costs, an additional \$60,000 will be required.

Chairman Witham questioned if Northeast Earth Mechanics is willing to hold on the pricing and project until a NH DOT decision, Director Bobinsky confirmed yes and that he has been in direct contact with our State project contacts who are recommending the approval of additional funding and the President of Northeast Earth Mechanics is willing to wait. The project is expected to begin late this year or early Spring 2023. Director Bobinsky added that the overhead rate has not yet been set by Construction Engineering and Inspection (CEI) consultant for the TAP Grant but it is expected to be available by late October for review and consideration and will need to be approved by the State prior to contract award. City Staff are seeking a price proposal from The Engineering Corp. (TEC) for CEI proposed work as a backup.

Councilor Messier raised safety concerns of construction taking place during heavy traffic times pertaining to the Franklin Street and Memorial Street intersection with the start and end of school especially. Chairman Witham agreed and noted that it would need to be part of the traffic safety plan and asked how long the project is expected to take? City Engineer Hall stated approximately 90-day contract timeframe is anticipated.

CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation Air Quality)

Manager Belmore noted that the memorandum included brief informational updates to the CMAQ Grant which was approved during the City Council meeting yesterday. Chairman Witham asked for more details regarding the project such as new cabinets? New preemption or cameras? As well as the materials being used. Councilor Messier asked if Staff would be able to monitor the traffic lights timing. Director Bobinsky stated that City Staff would receive training on the programming of the traffic lights and would have live video feeds to continue monitoring the intersection.

ROAD RESURFACING

Manager Belmore reviewed the memorandum provided to the Committee pertaining to the City's proposed paving work. City Staff identified four roads to include Buffumsville Road, Bourque Street, Lee Street and Maloney Street needing immediate attention and included the Road Surface Rating (RSR) for these streets, proposed treatment and cost estimates. City Staff included a memorandum of the City owned and private Gravel Roads with proposed improvements for review.

Chairman Witham questioned if the listing of the four roads provided by City Staff were of the worst and would prefer to see a full list to include the RSR and cost estimates before making a final decision. Director Bobinsky stated that Buffumsville Road was identified about two years ago as needing treatment but was postponed due to the Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrades. Additionally, Public Works Staff have been out multiple times to do patch work. Bourque Street and Lee Street were added to the proposed list since they are adjacent to Buffumsville Road and it was noted that Maloney Street's condition has had recent resident complaints.

Councilor Vincent urged the Committee to approve moving forward with Buffumsville Road as it is a heavily traveled road. Chairman Witham inquired about a travel count for Buffumsville Road to which Director Bobinsky stated he was not sure however he would check with SRPC.

Director Smith reported that the budget available was approximately \$1.4 million in which this funding could be used to complete the proposed paving list. The Committee reviewed the Gravel Road Status Memorandum and decided to add First Street to the request for bid.

Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution to go out to bid for the proposed paving work of Buffumsville Road, Bourque Street, Lee Street, and Maloney Street and to include First Street improvement. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 3-1. Chairman Witham voted – no, pending review of the full City list of roads conditions.

BARTLETT AVENUE SIDEWALKS

Manager Belmore confirmed that the sidewalk frontage along the Somersworth Housing Authority (SHA) on Bartlett Ave. is maintained by SHA and according to a property survey that was completed for their RAD project the sidewalk was owned by the SHA. The ownership was also confirmed with SHA Director Debbie Evans.

CEMETERY ROAD & WEST HIGH STREET CROSSWALKS

Manager Belmore explained that the City would like for the Committee to consider constructing a small sidewalk that would start at the end of the crosswalk that goes from Cemetery Road and ends at the fire hydrant along the road to the driveway of the SAU building. Manager Belmore added that the City Council voted on the project without this item. The Committee consensus was to include it in the bid package and the full Council would be informed by way of the Committee's report and the eventual bid award.

MAIN STREET PARCEL (FORMER PRINCE'S GARAGE)

Chairman Witham reported that the Prince's Garage recently underwent demolition and it was determined that the site is contaminated. The owner has contacted City Staff regarding the possibility of the City taking temporary ownership of the parcel in order to apply for grants available to municipal owned properties in assisting with the proper disposal of contaminants.

Manager Belmore explained that there is an EPA Grant available with a timeline in which the City must own the property by November 21st and the due date for applying for the next EPA Brownfields Grant is November 21st. Manager Belmore expressed concern with the tight timeframe in order to work acceptance through to a full Council vote as well as adequate time to put into the Grant process and having completely prepared for review and approval. Belmore suggested taking a step back from the upcoming EPA Grant submission and working on it thoroughly and efficiently for next year's EPA Grant submission. He stated that the present owner, David Baker had just received legal documents for his review and Baker had no concern with working towards the next Grant round. Belmore stated Baker would be fencing in the vacant property in the next week or two. The Committee agreed to move forward with the process for next year's EPA Grant application as suggested.

Manager Belmore added that the owner of the former Prince's Garage has shared their plans to build residential units on the property with the possibility of living or working space on the ground floor for disabled individuals.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Vincent suggested that the Committee and City Staff research possible alternatives when discussing updates to intersections such as traffic light placements (horizontal vs. vertical) or crosswalk design. Chairman Witham added that there was a crosswalk missed on Main Street that needs some touching up, Director Bobinsky will follow-up with the contractor.

The Committee members gave thanks to the Public Works Department Staff regarding the parking lot parking lines being redone.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Messier made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, Welfare Officer