

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
November 10, 2022 – 4:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Councilor David Witham, Chair
 Councilor Denis Messier, Vice-Chair
 Councilor Martin Pepin
 Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager Bob Belmore
 Finance Director Scott Smith
 City Engineer Amber Hall
 Welfare Officer Kristen LaPanne

Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Councilor Messier made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 3-0. Councilor Pepin abstained.

DISCUSS ROAD RESURFACING RESOLUTION

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a memorandum from City Engineer Amber Hall regarding the condition of Spence Street and Coombs Road including recommended treatment and estimated costs should these streets be included with next year's street resurfacing program. The Memo included a listing of all City streets using the BETA Pavement Condition Assessment Program and Road Surface Rating (RSR). Chairman Witham thanked City staff for providing the full summary of all City Roads and concurred with the prior recommendations being presented to City Council at the next Council meeting. The Committee agreed with the need to add Spence Street and Coombs Road and further suggested adding Quarry Road to the list for consideration as Bid Alternates.

Councilor Messier made a motion to amend Resolution 19-23 authorizing the City Manager to Prepare Bid Specifications for the Road Resurfacing and Associated Repairs of Selected Streets to include Spence Street, Coombs Road and Quarry Road as Bid Alternates. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0.

DISCUSS ROAD CRACK SEALING

Engineer Hall worked with Public Works staff and using the Treatment Selection Guide as a reference, provided a list of streets being recommended for crack sealing repair. Chairman Witham added that he would like to see the portion of High Street between Stackpole Road and possibly as far down as Commercial Drive added for consideration.

Councilor Vincent questioned if the City in the past has spent \$50,000 for this type of project as estimated on the provided memo. Engineer Hall stated the estimated cost for last year's program was

approximately \$50,000 and that the lowest bid came in at around \$36,000. Director Smith added that there has been a push for the City to do more crack sealing in order to preserve City street conditions to extend the pavement life.

Councilor Messier requested that if the bid came in lower than the estimate, could that money be used to add more streets to the repair list. Engineer Hall clarified that the bid of \$36,000 was from last year and we are expecting the upcoming year to see an increase in cost.

Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution for crack sealing repairs to Maple Street, Hillside Street, Washington Street, Kilda Street, Cecile Street, Blackwater Road and Salmon Falls Road and to add the section of High Street between Stackpole Road and Commercial Drive. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 4-0.

SCHOOL ZONE WARNINGS ON MAPLE STREET

Chairman Witham shared that Councilor Vincent had a discussion with City staff regarding the aging conditions of the School Zone Warning Lights on Maple Street and High Street. Manager Belmore provided quotes from Electric Light Company and S.U.R. and noted that Electric Light Company had recommended a different software package than what had been installed on Cemetery Road. City staff are recommending that the Committee consider contracting with S.U.R., although the estimate from S.U.R. is a little more expensive, it keeps consistency of the use of the TAPCO software for these other two school zone areas.

Engineer Hall confirmed that staff are aware that some of the placements of the current warning lights are not 200 ft. from the school entrances as required and will be sure to address this with the proposed project.

Manager Belmore suggested the funding could come from the Municipal Transportation Fund and Chairman Witham suggested the proposal go through the Finance Committee to recommend a funding source.

Councilor Vincent made a motion to support a Resolution to contract with S.U.R to install new School Zone Flashing Lights on Maple and High Streets. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 4-0.

MISCELLANEOUS

Engineer Hall and City staff provided a memorandum to the Committee after being contacted by Wright Pierce regarding four separate grant/funding opportunities through the NH Department of Environmental Services Drinking Water Groundwater Bureau.

The first funding opportunity is a Lead Service Link Inventory which would provide an inventory of service lines within the City's Water Distribution System identifying the location, material, and other pertinent information in order to create a replacement plan for any of the lead service lines discovered. Additionally, the new Lead Copper Rule Revision (LCRR) under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires that all inventory be submitted by October 16, 2024. The maximum amount of the grant is \$50,000 with no community match required.

Councilor Pepin questioned how the inventory is obtained. Engineer Hall responded that by going to homes and/or exploratory digs. Director Smith added that with this Grant, City staff have discussed a possibility of obtaining the inventory list by including it with the Citywide meter replacement project. The intention is to apply for this Grant at a later date to ensure a thorough plan and process is in place and before the deadline of October 16, 2024.

Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution to apply for the Lead Service Line Inventory with no required Community match. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 4-0.

Engineer Hall provided a summary of the Grant which would assist the City of Somersworth in developing a Drinking Water Asset Management Program for a maximum of \$100,000 and no Community match required.

Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution to apply for the Drinking Water Asset Management Program Grant with no required Community match. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 4-0.

Engineer Hall summarized the Energy Audit Solicitation Grant and noted that NHDES would hire a contractor to conduct the energy audits.

Councilor Pepin made a motion to support a Resolution to apply for the Energy Audit Solicitation Grant with no required Community match. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 4-0.

The final Grant opportunity for Strategic Planning would assist the City with master planning and source exploration, Staff explained that there is currently no specific project in mind. Councilor Messier wondered if the Grant could assist with the construction of the Water Treatment Plant assessment and upgrades. City staff will gather more information and discuss again with the Committee at a future meeting. The Committee came to a consensus to hold off on applying for this Grant until more information is obtained.

Councilor Pepin received a complaint that Blue Heron Drive is not being plowed by the City. It was agreed that the road is a private road and is not City owned.

Councilor Vincent shared concern over the gas companies cutting into the road and leaving large trench widths, and asked if we should consider some additional paving in these repair areas. Engineer Hall responded that the current trench permits require a 2ft. overlap on both sides of the repair trench.

Councilor Messier requested an update on the Sunningdale Development and acceptance of the roads within this subdivision. Engineer Hall reported having a conversation with the developer, Joe Falzone and are pending the receipt of final as-builts, a formal letter requesting the City accept the streets from the developer and final certifications from Horsley Whitten confirming final pavement was installed per plan and City specifications.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Pepin made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen LaPanne, Welfare Officer