

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

January 11, 2023 – 4:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Councilor David A. Witham, Chairman  
Councilor Denis Messier, Vice-Chairman  
Councilor Martin Pepin

Committee Members excused: Councilor Kenneth Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager – Bob Belmore  
Finance Director/DCM – Scott Smith  
Director of Public Works – Michael Bobinsky  
City Engineer – Amber Hall  
Deputy City Clerk – Ammy Ramsey

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Chairman Witham called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

*Councilor Messier made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 3-0.*

ENGINEERING SERVICES BIDS

A. Main Street Water Main Replacement

Councilor Witham stated that the City received 3 bids for the Main Street Water Main Replacement.

City Manager Belmore informed the Committee that the 3 companies that submitted a bid were from BETA Group, Inc., Wright-Pierce, and CMA Engineers. Manager Belmore stated that interviews were conducted with all 3 companies by himself, Finance Director Smith, City Engineer Amber Hall, Public Works Director Mike Bobinsky, and Chief Water Distribution Operator Michael Hoage. Manager Belmore stated that the BETA Group Inc. not only had the lowest bid but also gave the best presentation and the interview went very well.

City Manager Belmore also mentioned that in conversations, he had heard that some engineering companies are not always responding to RFP's or the bidding process because they are busy and the competition between companies to get the work is not needed with all the work available.

Councilor Witham inquired if BETA Group, Inc. has done work for the City in the past. Manager Belmore stated that they did the road surface and sidewalk survey projects we use to prioritize our road and sidewalk improvements projects.

***Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution for the Main Street Water Main Replacement Project not to exceed \$100,000.00. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 3-0.***

#### B. Water Treatment Plant Upgrades – Assessment

City Manager Belmore mentioned that the City only received one proposal for this project. The proposal came from Wright-Pierce in the amount of \$130,000 which included a grant opportunity. Manager Belmore stated that the City budgeted \$100,000 for this project.

Public Works Director Mike Bobinsky informed the Committee that Wright-Pierce included an alternate to integrate the facility assessment and capital improvement recommendations effort into an Asset Management Project which makes the City eligible to receive a \$100,000 Drinking Water Asset Management Grant from the NHDES, which if awarded would make the City's share for the WTP Assessment project and the asset management work \$63,000. City Engineer Amber Hall stated that the City should hear sometime next week if the grant was awarded.

Councilor Messier confirmed that the Enterprise Fund could be used for the project if the grant is not approved. Staff responded in the affirmative.

***Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution to full Council for the approval of FY2023 Water Treatment Plant Evaluation Project not to exceed the amount of \$150,000.00 to Wright-Pierce. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 3-0.***

***Councilor Messier made a motion to support a Resolution to full Council to accept grant funds from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services should it be approved by the State. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 3-0.***

#### TAP GRANT UPDATE

City Manager Belmore mentioned that the TAP Grant was passed by City Council on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, and wondered if anyone had any additional questions.

Councilor Witham mentioned that this project will be starting in the Spring.

Public Works Director Bobinsky informed the Committee that Northeast Earth Mechanics, LLC is excited to start the project.

#### COMPLETE STREETS DESIGN UPDATE

Public Works Director Bobinsky and City Engineer Hall recently met with the Wright-Pierce design team to discuss the status of the project design. Director Bobinsky stated that a few years ago it was agreed that Cemetery Road should go through design and construction process and be complete

before moving forward. Director Bobinsky stated that Cemetery Road is now complete so the next steps are to complete the Constitutional Way and Main Street designs. Director Bobinsky asked Wright-Pierce to look at these projects separately because they each will have their own challenges. Manager Belmore confirmed with Director Bobinsky that they have not received the results from Vortex which will provide information on the storm drain lines on the Main Street project. Councilor Messier would like to see the MS-4 Permit be considered when the lines are being reviewed for discharge and properly taken care of in light of any MS-4 requirements that will be needed to avoid issues in the future. Director Bobinsky stated that they will be looking at that and also to see if there are any storm water treatment options available. Engineer Hall mentioned that they are looking at that issue with the Wright Pierce design team

Public Works Director Bobinsky informed the Committee they have received the 60% completed design submittal for Constitutional Way and they have begun reviewing the design.

Councilor Witham would like to have a full presentation with some details of the plans for the full Council so they can have a visual of the project. Director Bobinsky mentioned that the design is scheduled to be completed in February and could arrange for a presentation for full Council.

#### COLES POND ROAD WINTER MAINTENANCE

Councilor Witham mentioned the last storm brought about concerns from Coles Pond Road residents regarding plowing. Councilor Witham also mentioned that there is some confusion on who is responsible for the maintenance of Coles Pond Road.

City Manager Belmore stated that Public Works Director Bobinsky and City Engineer Hall have been doing some research on determining who is responsible for the road maintenance, and the Police Department was tasked with figuring out how many properties have year-round residents. Manager Belmore provided an email from Chief McLin and Captain Duvall that gave their take on seasonal homes and year round ones. He also mentioned there was a subdivision approved by the Planning Board with stipulations regarding it being private. Belmore recalls a few years ago there was a concern with a culvert on a private road that was being plowed by the City that could have damaged the plow trucks and the residents had to make the repairs to the culvert so that plowing could continue. Finance Director Smith stated that the subdivision covenant states that the City will only plow if there is an emergency. There was a consensus that the agreement and communication concerning what the City is responsible for and what the residents on the private road are responsible for has been convoluted over the years.

Councilor Pepin stated that he has received phone calls from residents who live on private roads and he is not sure how to resolve issues and concerns for the residents and the City.

Councilor Messier stated that he has driven the road and agrees that there are rough spots but at the same time there are signs that indicate Cole's Pond Road is a private road. Councilor Messier also feels that the City should not cease and desist plowing the road this year since it has been being

plowed by the City, and feels that some discussion between property owners and the City should happen this Summer. Councilor Witham agrees that a resolution should be arranged before next Winter, but feels that since it is a private road the residents should maintain and repair the road and if the residents would like to change the status of the road from private to City maintained they would need to take responsibility of upgrading the road to City standards, similar to what was accomplished on Nadeau Street recently.

City Manager Belmore agreed with the Councilors that the City will continue plowing this Winter season but if there is a potential for damaging City equipment that there be some type of ability to not plow until the issue is corrected.

Councilor Witham agrees with the plowing continuing for this Winter season with the understanding that a solution be agreed upon before the next Winter season. All three Committee members agreed with this approach.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Witham stated that he has noticed in the City of Concord that private roads are marked with an additional private road sign that is yellow under the green road name sign and would like to see those on our private roads in hopes to alleviate any question of responsibility of the roads in the future. Councilor Messier requested a list of the private roads in Somersworth. City Manager Belmore suggested having the City staff gather a list of roads with descriptions of their condition.

Councilor Messier mentioned looking into the Rain Water Run Off Tax that some other communities are considering or implementing to meet future MS-4 Permit requirements.

Public Works Director Bobinsky received an alert the other day concerning the School Warning Lights not functioning properly. Director Bobinsky stated that the signal on Maple St. was functioning correctly, but the signals on High St. and Memorial St. we're not functioning correctly and at this time it is not clear on why they suddenly were not functioning properly. Director Bobinsky stated they are still working to fix the issues, and that S.U.R. Construction will be starting the new school warning lights in the Spring that was recently approved.

Councilor Witham mentioned a sizable washout on Blackwater Road that could use some attention.

### ADJOURNMENT

***Councilor Messier made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pepin and passed 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.***

Respectfully submitted,

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Ammy Ramsey Deputy City Clerk