

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE  
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

July 27, 2023 – 3:15 p.m.

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

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore  
Finance Director, Scott Smith  
Director of Public Works, Michael Bobinsky  
City Engineer, Amber Hall  
City Clerk, Kristen LaPanne

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Councilor Witham called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2023

*Councilor Messier made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2023 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0 by voice vote.*

PURCHASE OF FY24 BUDGETED NEW DPW LOADER

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a memorandum from Public Works Director, Bobinsky pertaining to the replacement and purchase of a new 2023 John Deere front-end loader. Manager Belmore plans to bring the request to the Finance Committee and noted that the current loader will be used as a trade-in and will decrease the cost of purchasing the new loader.

Councilor Witham asked if the Public Works Department has plans to reuse the plow equipment from the current front-end loader and wondered if the new loader will be similar in size. Director Bobinsky confirmed that the loader will be similar in size. Manager Belmore stated that the purchase agreement for the loader includes a new wing and plow within its price. He reported that the new front-end loader, tires, and plow system costs a total of \$309,300, and the trade-in value is \$60,000 which leaves a total balance due of \$249,300. Director Bobinsky added that the new front-end loader and equipment is expected to be received in late fall if approved by Council.

*Councilor Messier made a motion to sponsor a Resolution to authorize the City purchase a 2023 John Deere Front-end Loader, plow and wing system, and snow tires for the Public Works Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Vincent and passed 4-0 by voice vote.*

## NOBLE PINES WATER TANK REPAIR UPDATE

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a memorandum from City Engineer, Amber Hall pertaining to the Hamilton Street Storage Tank – Roof Replacement budgeted project. Manager Belmore stated that the City budgeted \$154,500 for the roof replacement as a result of the February 2021 Asset Management Plan presented by Wright-Pierce, however, the City received a proposal from CorrTech in June of 2023 with a project estimate of \$330,570. Engineer Hall noted that the roof replacement is expected to prolong the life of the storage tank by about 5-7 years and there is an additional estimated cost of around \$165,000 for short-term improvements expected throughout the 5–7-year timeframe. There was some discussion of whether the City should consider if it is worth paying almost \$500,000 to extend the life of the storage tank by 5-7 years, or to begin exploring the cost of designing and building a new storage tank.

Councilor Messier stated that he prefers a new storage tank but acknowledged the potential of a new tank taking roughly 3-4 years to design and build . He also shared concern of the tank's roof replacement and if it would actually extend its life 5-7 years.

Councilor Witham stated that he is also leaning towards a new storage tank with an interim cost that is upwards of \$500,000. He questioned if staff had an idea of how long the design phase could take. Engineer Hall estimated that it could take up to one year to design a new storage tank. Councilor Witham believes that there were preliminary designs of a new storage tank done previously by Wright-Pierce. Staff will look into this.

Councilor Pepin questioned if the current roof would hold out until a new tank can be designed and implemented. Engineer Hall stated that there are cracks in the roof and a steel support that is compromised. Director Bobinsky mentioned that he will assess the storage tank with staff and Wright-Pierce to provide the Committee with an update of the current structure. Manager Belmore requested that staff also ask about the possibility of temporary repairs to the tank at a more reasonable level of cost as a stop-gap measure and what those repairs would cost and report back to the Committee.

Councilor Messier asked if the storage tank stores treated or untreated water. It was confirmed that the water is treated. Councilor Messier commented that he agrees to look into the temporary repair work of the storage tank, but would prefer that City staff also work on the design and implantation processes of a new storage tank in the meantime. Councilor Witham stated that he agrees with Councilor Messier's comment to move forward with work on a new storage tank.

Finance Director Smith stated that first steps of a new storage tank would be to request proposals to get engineering costs for the project and then with Council approval, City staff would then bring forward a recommendation for a supplemental appropriation to fund the project's engineering costs.

Councilor Messier noted that water and sewer funding is becoming available to the State and the further into the design of a replacement storage tank the City is, may increase the chances of the City receiving funds to help with the project.

#### ROUTE 108 SEWER MAIN EXTENSION - CONCEPT

City Manager Belmore provide the Committee with a memorandum from Director Bobinsky pertaining to the Route 108 Sewer Extension Concept. The memo includes maps and initial project costs for the sewer extension concept, the cost estimate being approximately \$5,500,000. He explained that NH Department of Transportation (DOT) is working with a consultant, MacFarland Johnson, on the Route 108 Complete Streets project and is currently in the design phase and going through review with Somersworth, Rochester and Dover municipalities. He stated that if the City chooses to not move forward with the sewer extension, the road cannot undergo construction for a number of years after completion of the project.

Councilor Witham asked if the project could be funded using a Betterment District; Finance Director Smith confirmed that it could be. Councilor Messier commented that the way to go would be through the Betterment and believes that it should be considered with the construction to take place. Councilor Witham stated that he would like to review the numbers of the Betterment District.

Councilor Messier asked if the extension would require a pump station. Engineer Hall stated that it would since most of the land along the sewer is relatively flat. Councilor Witham agreed with Councilor Messier's comment, that the time would be now and is in favor of moving forward with the sewer extension.

#### DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS UPDATES

City Manager Belmore provided the Committee with a memorandum that included a number of project updates from the Department of Public Works. He stated that the Highway Division completed the installation of "Private" street signs and that staff installed "No Trespassing" and no Parking signs on the property of the former Prince's Garage in an effort to discourage vehicles from parking on that site. Manager Belmore stated that the pavement markings that have been contracted through Spots on Lots and have completed approximately 80% of crosswalks and stop bars throughout the City. A purchase order for Weed abatement has been issued to Municipal Pest Management with an anticipated application on designated City streets to begin in August.

Manager Belmore reported that catch basin cleaning services has been awarded to Wind River Environment-Eastern Pipe and staff are currently working on scheduling those services with the contractor. Councilor Messier questioned where the spoils of the catch basin are going to. Director Bobinsky stated that the spoils are being handled and removed by the contractor.

Manager Belmore pointed out the picture of the Italianate Well House that is nearly completed at this time. He stated that Highway Division staff will be removing and replacing three dead trees along the front of the Plaza parking lot along Main Street.

Manager Belmore reported that the GMI Asphalt, Inc. roads and sidewalks project is nearing completion. Councilor Witham commented that the paving work looks great and from his perspective would recommend working with them in the future. Engineer Hall agreed and stated that the paving crew was great to work with and she also recommend using them for future projects.

Councilor Witham spoke regarding the TAP Grant, he requested that City staff review the signage on High Street going south toward Franklin St. because a pedestrian crossing sign is obstructing the school zone warning light. Engineer Hall stated that she is aware of that sign and believes it can be eliminated and will look into that. Councilor Witham also mentioned the street sign at the other end of Memorial Drive is not very visible to traffic coming from Dover and suggested it be moved to the opposite corner. Engineer Hall confirmed that they are conducting a walk-through tomorrow morning to review the project work and will look at the street sign. Councilor Messier questioned a piling in the ground on Memorial Drive. Engineer Hall stated that the site is being prepared for an aluminum pole to be installed. Councilor Witham commented that Northeast Earth did a good job and noted that there are two lights on the trail on Bartlett Avenue that he recommends replacing with LED lights. Director Bobinsky reported that there is a work order out for the lights to be replaced with LED bulbs.

Manager Belmore reported that Home Depot has offered the City 10 volunteers over three consecutive days to assist with the Ash Street Butterfly Park project. He stated that the Department of Public Works roof replacement is scheduled to begin the week of August 9<sup>th</sup>. Resurfacing of the Jules Bisson Basketball Court is scheduled to begin on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the park will remain open, however, the court will not be accessible until the project is completed.

Manager Belmore reported that Unifit will begin the gas main extension project along Blackwater Road on July 31<sup>st</sup> and the project will take approximately two months to complete. He stated that the Highway Division staff have been monitoring and maintaining the covered contaminated soil from the Fire Station construction site which was recently adjusted to accommodate the new material that was delivered by the contractor.

### MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Messier asked for a timeline update of the traffic lights along High Street via the CMAQ Grant. Engineer Hall stated that the project needs to be complete by October. Councilor Messier also noted a hole that needs to be filled in along West High Street going down the hill.

Councilor Vincent asked for an update on the stormwater drain at the intersection of High Street and Blackwater Road. Director Bobinsky confirmed that he and staff took the cover off of the drain

to better assess the issue and he confirmed that the intersection will need to be shut down during the construction and are currently looking into scheduling with a contractor.

There was additional discussion of lawn mowing throughout the City and the current equipment being used. Manager Belmore confirmed that staff is currently looking to replace the lawn mower. Councilor Pepin asked who is responsible for mowing the superfund site where the solar panels are to be installed, Manager Belmore confirmed that Ameresco, Inc. is responsible for the site and mowing.

Councilor Witham commented that he has received calls from residents regarding the sidewalk on Verona Street being in very bad shape and needing repair. Director Bobinsky confirmed that they are aware of the sidewalk's disrepair and Engineer Hall added that the sidewalk must be reconstructed in order to make it ADA compliant. Councilor Witham also noted that he has received communications from residents regarding the Noble Pines Park not having ADA compliant portable restrooms on site and the Park needing more trash receptacles to handle the increase of visitors throughout the summer months. Manager Belmore stated that staff is working to find a vendor that has an ADA compliant portable restroom available. Councilor Witham wanted to give a shout out to Hussey Septic, Inc. noting that he sees the vendor at the park often and the restrooms are kept clean.

Manager Belmore reminded the Committee of the bridge along the Willand Pond trails needing to be repaired. He stated that after further discussion with staff, there is a recommendation that the bridge be replaced using aluminum which would last longer in the outdoor elements as opposed to wood. He noted that the aluminum material would cost more and estimates an approximate cost of \$56,000. Councilor Messier stated that he prefers using aluminum material but that if the City does stick with using wood, it needs to be enhanced and suggested larger pieces of wood. There was discussion pertaining to if the Conservation Commission would consider the wooden bridge being replaced with aluminum. Manager Belmore stated the City has received one quote and is pending receipt of another.

#### ADJOURNMENT

*Councilor Vincent made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed 4-0 by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

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Kristen LaPanne, City Clerk