

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIROMENT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
April 14, 2017, 3:15pm.

Committee Members present: Councilor Dale Sprague, Chair
 Councilor Dennis Messier
 Councilor Jennifer Soldati

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
 Director of Public Works, Michael Bobinsky
 Finance Director, Scott Smith
 Assessing/Code Clerk, Christien DuBois

Others: Kevin Walker: John Flatley Company

Members Absent: David Witham Vice-Chair

Councilor Sprague called the meeting to order at 3:15pm

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion made by Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Sprague to approve the minutes of the March 6 Public works and the Environment Committee. Vote passed 2-0 with Councilor Soldati abstaining.

REQUEST TO WAIVE EXCAVATION MORATORIUM IN THE LOCATION AREA OF
TRI-CITY ROAD AND HIGH STREET INTERSECTION (CITY ORDINANCE CH. 12
STREETS & SIDEWALKS)

Belmore stated that the City had received a letter from Kevin Walker, Project Engineer and the attorney from Flatley Company. The correspondents between the Department of Public Works Director, the City Engineer and the applicant outlined suggested requirements for Flatley Company.

Councilor Sprague asked what specifically the company is looking to do on the road.

Kevin Walker explained that due to the development of an additional 144 apartments, and a Planning Board site plan approval requirement, the company is required to widen the road to include a new right turning lane. Flatley Company is looking for approval to proceed and has no objection to Director Bobinsky's recommended conditions of approval for waiving the moratorium. Kevin Walker stated that they are looking to meet with the City Council on Monday to obtain Council approval for the request.

Sprague asked about sidewalk disturbance and specifics on how the company is going to widen the road.

Bobinsky stated that DPW has had conversations about what is being recommended. The applicant would have to formally apply for a trench permit and adhere to the conditions and costs. The applicant would have to confirm existence of right of way on the north side, include the City as an additional insured on their insurance policy and obtain a performance bond in the amount of \$55,000 which is the estimated value of the construction improvements.

Soldati asked for clarification of where the project was taking place and the work being done. Soldati also asked what the traffic study yielded.

Messier provided clarification of where the project was taking place and Kevin Walker stated what the findings of the traffic study were. Kevin walker also stated that adding the additional lanes will alleviate many of the traffic concerns.

Sprague asked if there had been discussions with Mike Hill about a possible water utility tie-in to the property on the corner which was denied a cut into High Street to make a water line improvement.

Sprague stated that he liked the roadway plan, specifically how the pavement would be cur to curb and run the entire length of the disturbed area designed for the turning lane.

Motion made by Councilor Messier, seconded by Soldati to support waiving the moratorium for the Tri City Road and High Street intersection. Motion passed 3-0

BLACKWATER ROAD PUMP STATION CONSTRUCTION BID AWARD AND ENGINEERING CONTRACT

The City received 5 bids. Apex Construction of Somersworth was recommended. Belmore stated that the Finance Committee had met and approved moving the Supplemental Appropriation for the project and the bid as well as the construction oversight contract to Underwood , all forward to the full Council. Belmore continued that the State has reviewed and approved the design. The City is still eligible for State aid grant money if it is funded in the State budget.

Messier stated that Apex construction was a good company and said that he was pleased with the City's decision to move forward with them. Messier also stated that Apex had recently been awarded a \$48 million dollar contract from Exeter.

SOLAR ARRAY AGREEMENT UPDATE

Sprague asked if the lease begins after 18 months or if it begins when construction is finished. Belmore stated that NH Solar Garden had agreed to set an 18-month timeline for the build out upon contract execution.

Smith stated that there is legislation in the State Legislature and the PUC, to open the net metering program, instead of capping power generated as it's done now. If this change were to be enacted Smith stated this would change our contract. The City would continue to buy our power from the market and NH Solar Garden would sell to Eversource and the City would get power at 10% below market rate.

WINTER MAINTENANCE-USE OF BRINE

Bobinsky stated that many communities have been using BRINE, including Dover. Bobinsky explained that BRINE is an anti-icing product that is stable on the roadway, unlike salt that bounces on the street. Bobinsky stated that brine is used prior to the storm. BRINE would be used to target sensitive areas such as "the hill." Bobinsky outlined the future purchases needed to store and create the solution. Bobinsky stated that BRINE would allow the City to be proactive to address icing issues around the City. Bobinsky stated that \$10,000 had been allocated in FY 18 for BRINE.

Soldati asked if the City would produce BRINE as opposed to buying it premade. Soldati expressed concerns about the negative impact on vehicles, especially corrosion. Bobinsky explained that the Department planned to produce the BRINE in house with a mixing tank and be able to control the quality of the mixture versus purchased from an outside contractor.

Messier agreed with Soldati's concern about the effect on vehicles.

Bobinsky explained that both BRINE and salt are corrosive to vehicles.

Messier stated that BRINE has a much more severe impact on vehicles than salt does and stated that he believed the money allocated for the use of BRINE remain in the DPW budget for other things.

Messier moved to not support using BRINE, seconded by Soldati. Motion passed 3-0.

ASPHALT PAVEMENT RECLAIMER

Belmore stated that this item had come from the budget workshop and was asking for feedback on it.

Bobinsky stated that the unit appears in CIP for FY2020. Bobinsky explained there are two different types of hot boxes you can purchase. The City is looking for one to continuously keep the asphalt in a warm state. The plan would be to use existing asphalt millings that can be recycled or use hot mix and keep the material hot for longer periods of time. The unit would allow asphalt to remain at a continuous state of 800 degrees. It is not a large capacity unit but it

makes road patching much more effective. The unit would cost approximately \$35000 including the trailer.

Sprague asked what the energy cost would be. Bobinsky said that he would obtain the information and provide the Committee with the requested operating cost information. Sprague asked how many millings the DPW needs per year. Bobinsky estimated around 60 tons.

Messier suggested that the City ask other communities who have a similar unit how they use it and what their costs are. Bobinsky stated that DPW would submit a report of the estimated lifecycle, energy and operating costs.

Sprague asked what the capacity of the unit was. Bobinsky answered that the unit holds 2 tons. The committee agreed for DPW to submit a report with additional information.

TREE ORDINANCE DRAFT

Belmore stated the Committee had tabled it at their last meeting to provide time to review. It was discussed that perhaps allowing the Conservation Commission to serve as the Tree Board and to assist with implementing key provisions of the ordinance. The ordinance recommends the establishment of a new Tree Board, Committee members had past concerns over creating a new Board and wanted to consider if an existing committee or board could take this one.

Bobinsky stated that the Sustainability Committee recommended that the Conservation Commission serve as the Tree Board. A discussion occurred about what the specifics of the ordinance and it was agreed that the committee wanted to see the final changes showing the new formation and assignment of the Tree Board. Staff will return with final edited version of the ordinance.

DRIVEWAY PERMIT CHANGES

Bobinsky stated that DPW has made some edits into the ordinance that is being proposed. The changes clarify that the applicant shall obtain a list of all of DPW's construction standards and it clarifies the fees involved.

Bobinsky said that everything else in the permit is consistent with what has been done in the past but it addresses concerns on the apron that meets the right of way; it does provide clarification over driveway standards, areas inspected and a new permit form.

Messier asked about when someone would need a driveway permit and the fees involved.

Bobinsky answered that if the applicant is not affecting the sidewalk or the apron then they would not need a permit. Bobinsky and staff have started requiring applicants on state roads within Somersworth apply to the City for a driveway permit in addition to the State DOT; the City permit would be at no charge, but allows City staff to ensure other elements of the driveway permit and land use are being followed that are not considered by the State, such as wetland crossings etc.

Messier moves to support driveway permit changes, seconded by Soldati, motion passes 3-0.

STORMWATER COALITION PARTICIPATION

Belmore stated that this was discussed at a Finance Committee meeting recently; it involves the Southeast Watershed Alliance that is working on stormwater permitting. The alliance is seeking \$2000 from each community to assist in how implementation might proceed once the new regulations are effective.

Bobinsky stated that the Stormwater Coalition has been in effect for a number of years. The last few years the Federal EPA has been looking to make permitting more stringent. New compliance rules will arise in 2018. Somersworth has been trying to ready itself by collaborating with other communities and the coalition has suggested that SE Watershed Alliance works on a few key projects that would be beneficial to everyone. Bobinsky continued that most other Seacoast communities have made their contribution and plan to work with the Alliance.

Messier stated that he does not have a problem with the \$2000 fee and believed getting it involved with the coalition would be advantageous.

Soldati asked if the \$2000 is a legal fund. Bobinsky stated it was not and that the fee was a fee to contribute toward a specific project or standard that is associated with the MS4 Permit requirements all member communities must be in compliance with, such as stormwater quality testing and or public education.

Sprague expressed that he was fine with \$2000 but expressed concern over the ultimate mission and projects that the coalition will be.

MISC

Messier asked if the City was approved for the Breton's Cleaners Grant. Belmore stated that the City was still waiting for Executive Council approval.

Messier asked when dialogue would begin on road repair. Belmore stated that he suspected budgetary conversation on the building to occur on Monday.

A discussion occurred on appropriations as well as budget timing.

Sprague inquired about sewer connections for existing homes in the city. Sprague asked about the process when the City has misinterpreted the amount of bedrooms a building has on the City's tax cards and if we reassess for previous years. Smith stated that the City does not but he would need more information on the specific case.

Belmore provided information on fuel prices for the municipal fleet, Irving compared to State pumps; Irving is still less expensive.

Bobinsky stated that Dairy Queen gas line work is all being done on their property and not the City's.

Bobinsky said that the City of Dover is resurfacing Varney road and is asking to collaborate with the City of Somersworth for \$20,000 to reclaim the portion of the road surface that is within the City of Somersworth city limits. About 250 linear feet of the road lies within Somersworth. Belmore stated that it is about 250 linear feet and connects with Blackwater Road.

Sprague stated that it makes sense to do this project and is consistent with goals from the Tri City Coalition. Motion to move forward and piggy-back with the Dover project, made by Councilor Messier, seconded by Soldati, the motion carried 3-0. Belmore mentioned that this would need Finance Committee approval.

Bobinsky stated that Severino is starting work on Indigo Hill Road on May 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Messier, seconded by Soldati, motion carried 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 4:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christien DuBois Assessing/Code Clerk