

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

February 24, 2021



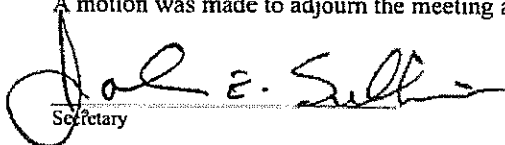
Convened: 7:00 P.M.

Present Fran Cain, Acting Director of Public Works
Casey Berube, Deputy Superintendent
John Sullivan, Chairman
Tom Pereira-Secretary
Brittany Rash-Senior Clerk

Reading of the minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting waived and accepted.

1. **Public Participation:** None
2. **City Councilor Communications:** None
3. Chairman John Sullivan took a moment at the beginning of the meeting to honor the life of the new board member Alexander Gearing who tragically and unexpectedly passed at a very young age. Chairman Sullivan reached out to his family to express condolences on behalf of the City of Westfield, the Department of Public Works and the Board of Public Works as he was a part of the merry band even though he had not had the opportunity to sit in on a meeting or cast a vote yet.
4. **Discussion of the Recycling Barrel Charges:** Deputy Superintendent Berube spoke about the new charges that were brought forward as of last year for paying for disposal of recyclable materials. Now that the Department is incurring almost the same cost as disposing of trash each year there is discussion of any additional recycle barrel provided to residents that there be a cost associated as there is with any additional trash barrels. The department provides one trash and one recycle barrel per what the occupancy is listed as; i.e. single family home would have one barrel each, two family home would have two of each barrel. The additional cost presented looking to be tied with the additional recycle barrel beyond what is provided would be to potentially mirror the additional cost of the trash barrel. The fee would be discussed before City Council as well as the Board of Public Works to vote on in the future, but the idea of the fee was presented at this meeting to get the ball rolling and thinking about the proposal of the charge going forward. There has been a growing increase in requests for additional recycle barrels to residential properties. The new cost associated with disposing of recyclable material, the wear and tear on the trucks for the location of the disposal company, and the costs associated with purchasing of the barrels are the few reasons that sparked the discussion of the potential additional barrel fee.
5. **Department of Public Works Monthly Report:** Acting Interim Director Cain spoke about the monthly report with collaboration from Deputy Superintendent Berube. Despite the pandemic, the DPW had a successful construction season with a number of roads being resurfaced including Tannery Road, Sunnyside Road, Sgt. Tom Dion Way, Western Ave, and East Mountain Road. City View Road and Hillside Road are slated for resurfacing of the road for this Spring. Several major drainage projects were completed including Crescent Circle, Northwest Road, Sackett Road, North Road, Medeiros Way, East Mountain Road, and West Road. The annual budgets were submitted for the first review with the request for 4 replacement collection trucks. The Department is working with the new Personnel Director to implement updated policies. Two new special heavy motor equipment operators and four new motor equipment operators were hired within the department. Public Works is still working on building the liquid deicer program and due to vehicle age one of the plow/spreader trucks was retired this season. A new vehicle wash station was installed to maintain and meet requirements for the MS4 permit compliance. The fuel station upgrades are in the works and tentatively scheduled to take place for March 2021. New blades have been utilized this snow season and are polar flex blades. The new blades are working well as they are not lifting the asphalt like other plows have in the past, and as a result there have not been an influx of calls reporting potholes this year. A new construction truck is currently being built for the department.
6. **City Engineer Mark Cressotti:** No updates at this time.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 PM.


Secretary