

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

May 9, 2023

Convened: 7:00PM City Hall Room: Council Chambers

Present: Francis Cain-Acting Director of DPW
Casey Berube-Deputy Director of Highway
Mike Burns-City Councilor
Brian Richards-Member
Alexander Fagnand-Member
Allison McMordie-City Engineer
Alison Daigle-Head Clerk

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Reading of the minutes of the April 11, 2023: Tabled until all Commissioners present.

Public Participation: Resident David Flaherty approached the Board in regard to the Agenda Item for the Solid Waste Fee Increase. He approached the Board as a private citizen as he has resigned from City Council. Mr. Flaherty is in favor of a rate increase as he believes the fees should cover the cost of the service without using tax funds. Currently the solid waste fee of \$21.25 per quarter only covers 1/3 of the total cost for the Trash and Recycling Program. Mr. Flaherty brought to attention a City Council vote from 2002 in which it states the Solid Waste Fee should be \$95/quarter and instated by the Board of Public Work Commission. This charge was enacted for 1 fiscal year and then the fee was decreased. Mr. Flaherty states the Board should increase the fee up to the \$95 quarterly fee. Mayor Michael McCabe was also in attendance and spoke to the Board that the fee should be increased as the average yearly charge for other Municipalities is closer to \$300/year than the \$85/year the City charges. The increase in the fee would also have the potential to generate \$3-4 Million Dollar in revenue. Resident Jane Okscin of 341 Steiger Drive agreed with both Mr. Flaherty as well as Mayor McCabe that the fees should be increased as tax money is needed elsewhere.

City Councilors: City Councilor Michael Burns was in attendance and thanked the Board and all of Public Works for the work that they do daily. He also mentioned that the Stormwater fee of \$7.50/quarter is also low and should be increased as funds are needed for Stormwater improvements.

Appointment of Secretary for the Board of Public Works: Vote tabled until all Commissioners present.

Vote on Contract Signature Authority: Every fiscal year the Board must approve the Designated Contract Signature Authority, this allows the listed names to sign for any and all paperwork that would require a signature. **Motion Approved 2-0 to approve Francis Cain and Casey Berube as both Designated Signers for the above mentioned.**

Discussion and Possible Vote to Implement Solid Waste Fee and Review City Ordinances Sec 18-121 through section 18-124: Acting Director Cain continued the discussion with the Solid Waste fee increase. AD Cain mentioned how Recycling disposal was free until a few calendar years ago, now the price to recycle cost the city an exorbitant amount of money, somewhere above \$500,000 per year. A fee increase is needed to be able to continue to provide these services to the residents. AD Cain suggested the verbiage about the Solid Waste Fee be updated by the Board to include a statement that states the Board can "raise the fee" but do not give an exact dollar amount as this may change. AD Cain mentioned the city is working on creating an app that will inventory both trash and recycling barrels throughout the City so an accurate amount of barrels is noted. Also the app will help with route optimization.

Discussion and Vote on Recommendation of Private Roadways to be Approved as Public Roadways: City Engineer Allison McMordie compiled a list of Private roadways that City Council requested be voted on and approved to become Public ways. Engineer McMordie stated that the addition of these roadways would increase the amount of Chapter 90 funding the city obtains. The streets in questions are Caitlyn Way, Janelle Drive and Jeanne Marie Drive. The cost estimate for the maintenance of these 3 streets is roughly \$126,000. The City Currently offers trash pickup, plowing and other services to these streets. **Board Vote 2-0; Motion Approved.**

Department of Public Works Monthly Report: Fran approached the Board with an update on spring paving projects that would be wrapping up in the next few days. The roads that have been paved are as follows; Medeiros Way, Bayberry Lane, Skyline Drive, Long Pond Rd, Twiss St and Pineridge Drive. The West Silver Street sewer project is under way with 6 houses being tied into the sewer system. The bundled NOI (Notice of Intent) was approved by the Conservation Committee; this NOI is good for 5 years. The culvert work on Old Long Pond Road is still under construction, the NOI should help with this project as there were conservation worries as well. DPW assisted in the preparations for the Barnes Airport Airshow completing road repairs and transporting assets.

City Engineer Update: Engineer McMordie informed the board of ongoing levee work and the offers for the project have been sent out. Engineering is currently working on a Culvert management Plan as well as street repair. A Pavement Preservation Contract for resealing is out to bid. Montgomery Road is currently under construction with the cold in place being scheduled and the street being cored today. Gomes Contracting will be doing sidewalk work on the following streets, Sibley Ave, Holyoke Road, Belmont Street and South Maple. These sidewalks and road repairs are following after the G & E which are installing sewer mains along these roadways. The Street Scan programs initial steps are concluded and the results will be made available in about 1 month, The information provided will give both the DPW and Engineering a clear list of which streets need maintenance or repairs sooner rather than later. The Western Avenue Project is projected to be completed October 2023.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 PM.


Secretary