

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

September 10, 2019

Convened: 7:00 P.M.

Present

Casey Berube, Deputy Superintendent
John Sullivan, Chairman
Jack Campaniello, Secretary
Mark Cressotti, City Engineer
Thomas Pereira, Member
Leslie LeFebvre- City Councilor
Cindy Harris-City Councilor
Mary Ann Babinski-City Councilor
Alison Daigle-Head Clerk

Reading of the minutes of the July 16, 2019 meeting waived and accepted.

- 1. Public Participation:** Peter Colo from 49 Montgomery St. representing his daughter and son-in-law was looking for an update from the July 16, 2019 meeting about the ongoing sewer backups. Deputy Berube advised caution against discussing this matter as the homeowner currently has a lawsuit against the City for the sewer issues. Mr. Colo listed off the dates that he thought the vendor National Water Main would be running the CCTV camera and asking why this was not completed yet. Deputy Berube stated that as this time there was no damage to the sewer main that could be detected. Mr. Colo once again asked Deputy Berube when the Vendor would be out to use the camera and Deputy Berube stated they were scheduled for the end of the month. Deputy Berube then reiterated that this is an active lawsuit that Mr. Colo is not involved in and that he isn't the property owner. Mr. Colo continued asking questions such as what the marks on the street were for and was told they mark the sewer lines and are the best guess with the plans provided as some of the lines are very old. He also asked if the Health Department had gone out and inspected the grease traps in the area as he claims when he spoke to the Health Department they were unaware of the situation. Deputy Berube stated that any sanitary overflow must be reported within 24 hours to the Health Department and that report was filed. Deputy Berube then stated he was not going to continue with the conversation as it is an active lawsuit and was no longer willing to answer any questions in regards to the issue. Mr. Colo once again explained his frustrations with Public Works not resolving the issue in a timely manner and how this has been devastating for his daughter and her husband.

Friends of the Columbia Greenway presented some issues they had over the summer with graffiti on the north side of the new bridge and scratches on the bridge and sidewalk area. It was easily removed with overspray and power washing. Deputy Beurbe informed the board that Westfield PD started patrolling that area once again. A road side mower came in and cleaned up the side of the bike path and some of the fencing was repaired. The tool station on the esplanade was pushed over even though it was bolted to the ground and the idea of moving it the Shaker Rd parking lot was brought up.

Matt Roman inquired if East Mountain Rd before Papermill Rd was going to be crack sealed before the winter. Deputy Berube stated it was not scheduled for crack sealing. Mr. Roman then asked if we had researched using plastic risers to raise storm drains, Deputy Berube informed him we would be using Riser Kits.
- 2. City Councilor Communications:** Councilor LeFebvre commented on the the Pineridge Sewer Project and how it was going well. He then questioned if we were going to repair 125 Little River Road as the contractor that paved the road created a deep drop into the driveway and the homeowner is not happy with the end result. Mark Cressotti informed the Councilor that there is no funding available to fix the paving job and the paving is up to code and State standards.

Councilor Babinski brought up an issue occurring at 77 Wyben Rd on a property belonging to Robert Perolin. The berm in front of his house was damaged during the winter months and is now causing water runoff onto both his property and his neighbor's property. Deputy Berube said he would communicate with Joseph Kietner the Stormwater coordinator to resolve the runoff issue.
- 3. Follow-Up Discussion on Veterans Banner Protocol:** A short overview of the final project was presented to the Commission by Head Clerk Alison Daigle. The project will highly reflect how the City of Easthampton handles their Hometown Hero program as they have a high interest from the residents and a waiting list to sponsor

a Veteran. In Director Billips absence it was decided that no final decisions or vote would be take place tonight and the banners program would be placed on the October Agenda for discussion.

4. **Department of Public Works Monthly Report Casey Berube:** Deputy Berube exclaimed how the department is really pushing drainage improvements but we are still short staffed. The paving of Prospect St Ext is complete and the work on Lindberg Blvd will begin September 11th. Line Painting is ongoing and the vendor will be back to complete the line painting in the near future. Snow and Ice season is before us and we will be trying a new liquid deicing chemical. This will be the most environmentally friendly option and will lead to less salt use. The contract and bid is currently being worked on by both Deputy Berube and the Purchasing Department. The budget was cut for the new salt shed so the Highway Dept. will have to work with what they already have. The Paperwork for the plow vendors will be going out soon. The rate for the vendors is going up which makes being a vendor for the City very desirable. Member Tom Pereira asked when the repairs on the bridge on the corner of South Maple St. heading to Southwick Road will take place. This is a state owned bridge that will be under construction next summer. The barriers that are placed there currently will stay in place until the construction begins. Airsweep has been sweeping various streets throughout the City. Currently Pioneer Valley Planning Commission is working with Public Works to find a disposal center for the 500 tons of waste at the Highway Garage right now.
5. **City Engineer Mark Cressotti:** Northwest road has recently been paved and the contractor is working on the driveway aprons. There are some funds left over that may be used to pave Root Rd. This is a highly used road and a basic public need as it is a route to the athletic fields that the High School uses. The Plantation Circle project is winding down and should be completed soon. The installation of the traffic signal on Springfield road is scheduled to begin in 2 weeks along with the traffic signal on Springdale Rd. Western Ave central is currently in progress and there will be a public hearing September 12, 2019 to discuss the Western Ave East project which will go from Lloyds Hill Rd to Holcomb St. The easements for the Crescent Circle erosion issue are being drafted by the Law Department and the homeowners are on board with granting the easements.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:41PM.


Secretary