

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS

October 9, 2018

Convened: 7:00 P.M.

Present Dave Billips, Director of Public Works
Francis Cain, Assistant Director of Public Works
Casey Berube, Deputy Superintendent
John Sullivan, Chairman
Jack Campaniello, Secretary
Mark Cressotti, City Engineer
Alison Daigle- Principal Clerk



Reading of the minutes of the September 18, 2018 waived and accepted.

1. **Public Participation:** Jane Okscin of 341 Steiger Drive approached the Board looking for approval for the clearing of 5 acres of trees behind her house on undeveloped property. The property is a 5 acre plot in between Steiger Drive and Wild Flower Circle. The City Zoning Board approved the removal as long as she took out a Stormwater Permit. This permit is to assure that the stormwater runoff does not negatively impact the landscape of the area after the trees have been cleared. Deputy Berube explained this is a very difficult permit to obtain and approve but that he would work with the resident to assure it was handled properly and in a timely manner. The Permit will require plans that are carried out correctly as to assure neighboring properties are not altered and land is not redistributed. Jane would not disclose when asked if the property will be used to construct a new development. Jane explained to the Board that the majority of the trees have begun to die and have caused issues previously such as falling onto neighboring properties and causing insurance claims that negatively affect her policy. She wants to clear cut the property to avoid having to hire a vendor to come and cut one tree here and another there when necessary. Deputy Berube continued to explain that other departments would likely need to get involved including the Law Department. Director Billips explained further that in previous years clear cutting similar to this had been done and had caused damage and landscape modifications to neighboring properties. Jane expressed her concerns on the length of time it would take to approve this permit as she is ready to start and complete the project before the winter months. Director Billips explained to the Board that if they approved the clear cutting and it negatively impacted neighboring properties that the City could be held responsible. So he urged the Board to think about the approval.
Jack Campaniello motioned to approve the permit contingent on Public Works and other Department sign-offs.
Motion Voted 2-0, Motion approved.
The Friends of the Columbia Greenway Bike Path brought forth a chart of total bike path users on 09/15/18 from 7AM to 7PM. There were a total of 519 users, 346 bicyclists, 45 joggers and 113 walkers. They were charting the users at Tin & Dry Bridge. Councilor Morganelli questioned if the users were charted using the path both ways and was told that per Boston based boards (CPCP) that users are in fact counted both directions on the path.
2. **City Councilor Communications:** Councilor Morganelli presented to the Board a photo of the Veterans Banners that the City of Easthampton has hanging to use for reference for the possibility of Westfield doing the same project. Councilor Emmershly questioned if Public Works would be returning to Court Street to fix the asphalt that had settled from being patched after a water line leak. Assistant Director Cain informed the Councilor that RH White the contracted vendor will be responsible for patching that location and that he would reach out to them to schedule the work. Councilor Morganelli spoke up about the amount of alcohol nips/trash/overgrowths near the Great River Bridge and also other locations throughout the City and questioned if Public Works would be able to aid in cleaning up the areas. Director Billips said that many students at Westfield State University need Public Service Requirements for their degrees and we could reach out and see if they would be interested in helping out. The college kids already help clean up the City on Hoot Day each year.
3. **Safety Valve Sewer Insurance Update:** Safety Valve insurance sends out 2 mailings per year and averages 60-70 new customers per year from the mailings. Safety Valve keeps 90% of the customers that they ever cover. The charge for the insurance is \$99 per year and is significantly less than other companies offering the same coverages. Safety Valve covers up to \$5,000.00 in sewer service line repairs. As of August of 2018 Safety Valve had 220 repairs for the City.

4. **Vote for Banner Honoring Veterans:** Motion made to enter **EXECUTIVE SESSION** for the purpose of voting on the hanging of Veteran Banners in the City. Motion voted 2-0, Motion Approved. **Regular Session Closed 7:24PM**
7:33 PM Return to regular session

5. **Department of Public Works Monthly Report David Billips:** Preparations for Snow and Ice have begun. Interviews were held for 3 open positions all of which will help with Snow and Ice. Chapter 90 Funds were used to repair and repave 3 major roadways this construction season. North Rd, Granville Rd and Shaker Rd were all completed using solely those funds. A new Data Administrator has been hired to replace Kevin McKenna and will be concentration on creating a work order system that is used in all departments. He will be modeling this system after the system currently in use at the Waste Water Plant. John Sullivan asked about the hiring of the plow vendors. Deputy Berube disclosed that we are still waiting to hear back from Purchasing on which exact vendors submitted to plow for the City. Chair Sullivan then asked Casey if using GPS tracking systems has deterred any vendors and Casey said roughly 20% have ended their working relationship with the City after the institution of the GPS systems. The GPS tracks where the vehicles are in the City and if they are in motion or not. This helps keep track for invoicing and payments to the vendor.

5. **City Engineer Mark Cressotti:** Paving is wrapping up on Lockhouse Road if not the end of this week the end of the following week. The Ridgecrest area sewer project is almost complete with sidewalks and paving being completed soon. The Joseph Ave sewer project is completed the paving being the final step. The Plantation pump station is ongoing and in pre fab structure as well as the pump station on Montgomery Rd near the High School. The traffic signal at the intersections of Union at Springdale and Union at Paper Mill will be moving forward in design. The possibility of a slip ramp at Exit 3 off the Mass Turnpike is still being investigated. The Western Ave project will be going out to bid the month of October and the Public Meetings will begin this winter. The Western Levy Design should be 25% completed this winter along with the bid going out. The intersection of Springdale and Holyoke Road is being looked at for a traffic signal as it is a dangerous intersection and motor vehicle accidents are a common occurrence. Director Billips did say that blinking lights and signage stating it is an dangerous intersection are being reviewed by the Traffic Commission to install at that intersection.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:49PM.


Secretary