

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Meeting May 20, 2019

Minutes

In attendance: Courtney Manning, Chairman

John King, Jr., Board member

Doug Decesare, Board member

Kevin Bartlett, DPW Superintendent

Steven Jones, Water foreman

Greg Jackson, resident

Call meeting to order 5:33PM.

Read and approve minutes from 4/1/19. All in favor.

In the discussion of Board organization, member King made a motion to keep the Board's organization the same. Member DeCesare was 2nd, and Chairman Manning 3rd. During Town elections, Courtney Manning was voted to remain on the DPW Board for 3 more years.

Water abatement request: The Bolton Fairgrounds had a leak in their offices over the winter, and called the water department right away to have the water shut down at the meter pit. The leak was immediately repaired. They are seeking an adjustment to their bill at the discretion of the Board. Member King made a motion to bill the usage at the lowest tier. Member DeCesare 2nd the motion, and Chairman Manning 3rd.

R. Steele vacation time: R. Steele responded to the Board's decision to have him research the protocols in other towns and DPW departments for vacation time carry over. He stated he spoke with many DPWs and the consensus was that it falls under the Superintendent and Town Manager's decision. With this information, Member DeCesare further requested Steele research the specific Massachusetts Law chapter and section that would prove he is able to transfer time from town to town.

Highway: Rick Marlow was moved to the cemetery this week to assist with duties, as Paul Normandin was out with pneumonia. Pat McLaughlin will be in to help Thursday and Friday of this week. The highway only has two weeks left of sweeping. The conveyor motor on the sweeper was completed. It needs a new belt, but will have to wait until after July 1st for repair due to depleted funds. We are looking to replace the sweeper next year, but will need to bring the request to Town meeting.

Water: The air powered asphalt cutter will need the motor replaced due to being seized. We purchased new communicators for the water tanks, as they weren't alerting the pumps when to shut off.

Hydratech was in last Thursday, today, and will be here Tuesday for gate valve maintenance and checkups.

Member DeCesare placed the question, why not hire a fourth man to assist the water department if the water is an enterprise? Chairman Manning recognized that while the water department is paid for by the enterprise, the Town has to pay for insurance for the employee. Member DeCesare advised that it is time to request the fourth employee again from the Town. Chairman Manning instructed Supt. Bartlett to put together the proper documents for a fourth water department employee and present them to the finance committee.

Cemetery: Paul Normandin is out with pneumonia. Rick Marlow from the highway department replaced him for the time being. Pat McLaughlin will be in part time to help, as well. The old Walker needed a new shoot for the bagger.

Planning Board letter- requesting the DPW remove the fence at Chace Hill Road and Woodland Meadows. Chairman Manning requested Supt. Bartlett ask them to clarify what it is they are asking for and why the DPW has to take it down, in writing. The Board is all in agreement that the developer of Woodland Meadows originally installed the fence.

Superintendent's Correspondence: Supt. Bartlett did not have any comments or statements to bring to the Board.

Member DeCesare complimented the appearance of Center Cemetery.

Public Comment: Greg Jackson requested an update on water issues and any results from the recent flow testing. Chairman Manning responded that the report has not yet been made. Supt. Bartlett and the DEP will be receiving a copy. Water foreman Jones added that the information collected has only just been forwarded today.

Jackson questioned whether every hydrant was tested, and if they were done in any specific way. Water foreman Jones informed that the whole town was tested, but not all hydrants. Jackson asked if this would identify any pressure issues, as he had heard of pressure issues specifically around South Meadow Road. Chairman Manning pointed out that water pressure is directly related to elevation. South Meadow Road always struggles with water pressure compared to other parts of town. Water foreman Jones added that low pressure can also be a sign of issues with the pressure reducer in your house.

Jackson also question whether the water department was still chlorinating. Water foreman Jones responded that the department is still chlorinating, but as a precaution due to the recent rain water causing high water levels.

Another concern Jackson had was with the water capital upgrades. Supt. Bartlett sent all projects on the water capital, but he still needs to update the list. Once the flow testing and hydraulic mapping information comes back, he will sit down and go over what needs to be done. However, it will be at least 4 or 5 years until the water department can request money for repairs again.

The last topic Jackson presented was the concern among some residents of the RT117 canopy, and it being affected by trees scheduled to come down. Supt. Bartlett assured Jackson that no RT117 trees are on the list to come down.

With the public comment section concluded, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:26PM. All in favor.

Next meeting, June 3rd at 5:30PM.

Courtney Manning, Chairman

John King, Jr., Member

Doug Decesare, Member
