

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Meeting January 6, 2020

Minutes

In attendance: Courtney Manning, Chairman

Doug DeCesare, Board member

John King, Jr., Board member

Kevin Bartlett, DPW Superintendent

Steven Jones, Water Foreman

Jay Moody, resident

Deb D'Eramo, resident

Greg Jackson, resident

Mary Insani, resident

Call meeting to order at 5:31PM.

Read and approved minutes from 12/16/19.

HWY:

The recent long, drawn-out storms were well managed. A lot of material was used to combat the ice. All maintenance is being kept up on. Today pot holes were patched as well as last week, with temperature fluctuations being a concern for future holes. All temp plow drivers show up for storms and we are only lacking one driver.

Water:

The gas regulator went on the heater in Pump #1 on Thursday and was repaired. The VFD panel was installed on Pump #1 as well. When the pumping is switched to Pump #2, Sullivan Drilling will be coming in to redo the whole well system. We are anticipating pay off within one year.

Water abatement request:

The Trivium School on Langen Road is requesting to only pay the minimum charge on bills received from 2018 to 2019. The house side of the meter was leaking and Foreman Jones repaired the leak over the summer. Chairman Manning suggested the request be tabled until exact dates are gathered for the repair, the leak, etc. All in favor.

5 Magnolia Ave water abatement request will be postponed until Mary Insani arrives.

Cemetery:

All vehicles are good and maintained. No follow ups for C2 replacement, yet. There was one cremation last week, and one full burial next week.

Superintendent's Correspondence:

Superintendent Bartlett presented a spread sheet showing road salt used per snow storm thus far including the available budget. The highway department is still waiting for clear weather to have the flashing repaired. Global Fuel Company caused a fuel spill at the highway department by overfilling the fuel tank by 25-30g. Global hadn't alerted any emergency officials of the spill. They have since made arrangements to excavate the grounds, and Superintendent Bartlett gave them the phone number for dispatch and instructions for future reference.

Other business not intended to discuss:

Chairman Manning requested the fallen tree on Goss Lane be picked up and disposed of. Also, the boy's dorm sidewalk by Bigelow needs to be cleared better of snow.

Member DeCesare suggested the DPW employees be made aware of the new phone law going in to effect at the end of March 2020. A commercially licensed operator will be fined \$10,000 if caught using a mobile device behind the wheel.

Public comment:

Greg Jackson was interested in discussing the scenic road bylaws. He was looking to find out if the DPW board would comment if the Planning Board made a list of scenic roadways as there is currently no bylaw for Lancaster. Superintendent Bartlett pointed out that a scenic bylaw would most likely cover most roads in town.

Jackson noted that a lot of residents are concerned about trees along scenic roads and their protection from being removed, and that their protection is unclear in scenic road bylaws. Superintendent Bartlett informed Mr. Jackson that he is responsible for deeming a tree hazardous to public safety, and if a tree seems to pose a threat, it must come down.

Deb D'Eramo responded to the information given about the gas leak at the highway department and questioned whether a leak like that needed to be reported to the state. Supt. Bartlett assured that all necessary information has been reported to the state already.

D'Eramo asked if there were any water improvement plans for the upcoming year. Supt. Bartlett noted the current pump plans as discussed previously. The pumps at the wells have 100W motors that are close to 60 years old. These motors are being replaced with motors that respond at variable speed which saves energy. This is the only plan for the water system this year. The water customers support the water system budget; it will be 4-5 years until we can borrow from the state again.

5 Magnolia Ave Water Abatement Request:

Mary Insani wished to speak to the board members following a denial for abatement during the previous meeting. She told the board the house has been empty since June 19th, 2019. She spoke to Foreman Jones who said there were no leaks in the house. Foreman Jones called 6 days later after reading the meter again and said the meter hadn't moved much, indicating no leak. It was after that phone call that Mary Insani contacted the office for an abatement.

Supt. Bartlett recited the Rules and Regulations stating the home owner is responsible for the meter after the curb stop which includes water used. Mary said Foreman Jones thought perhaps a toilet could be running, but she stated she had not used the toilets since October. Foreman Jones did not test the water meter for malfunctions, but gave the resident dye tablets for the toilet and read the meter again which barely moved.

Chairman Manning was confident that the home had a leak given the information reported to him which included the original bill for 17,400 cubic feet of usage and another bill following that of 3,800 cubic feet of usage. Superintendent Bartlett suggested a plumber be brought in to investigate. Chairman Manning suggested the water be physically shut off when Mary is not in the house, and concluded there is no concrete evidence to prove where the large quantity of water went. The abatement was declined, all in favor. Foreman Jones will show Mary where to shut the water off in the basement, and listen for leaks again.

No further comments.

Next meeting February 10, 2020.

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 6:28PM, all in favor.

Courtney Manning, Chairman

John King, Jr., Member

Doug DeCesare, Member
