

**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING HELD: September 14, 2021**

**LOCATION:** Zoom Webinar

**ATTENDANCE:** P. Abair, T. O'Brien, B. Fenney, T. Christensen, F. Vachon, D. Keane

**ABSCENT:** J. Dunn, W. Gelinias, B. Taddia

**P. Abair** called the meeting to order at 4:36 pm and asked if anyone is recording the meeting other than the webinar: None other than the recorded zoom meeting.

**APPROVE REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: T. O'Brien entertained a motion to endorse P. Abair as Chairman, T. O'Brien as Vice Chairman and W. Gelinias as clerk; P. Abair made a motion to approve the reorganization of the Board; T. O'Brien seconded the motion. The vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.**

**REVIEW/APPROVE MINUTES OF 06/21/2021 MEETING: T. O'Brien made a motion to approve the meeting minutes dated June 21, 2021; P. Abair seconded the motion. The vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.**

**SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: B. Fenney updates:**

**Staff Update:** Shane Calabrese was hired as our electrician under the Building Facilities Department. Mechanic, Kyle St. Marie gave his resignation; Skilled Labor's Todd Bourcier and Tanner Otto was promoted to Mechanic positions; both workers stepped up to the plate and have done an incredible job up-to-date and we are thankful for their contributions.

**ARPA (America Rescue Plan Act) Projects**

**Cooley & Avery Water Main Project:** On August 11, 2021 at 10:00am we received bids: Jack Goncalves & Sons \$479, 234.64, Haluch Water Contracting Inc. \$504,164.09, Baltazar Contractors, Inc. \$544,562.69 and Geeleher Enterprises \$802, 850.00. Bid was awarded to Jack Goncalves & Sons.

**Board Comments: P. Abair:** Why was the Geeleher bid higher? Were the bids solicited? **B. Fenney:** Some businesses are so busy they throw out arbitrary numbers; some contractors in Ludlow have their own gravel pits so they put \$0 for sand and gravel because they have it on hand. The bids are sealed and go through a central register and advertised through procurement and daily newspaper.

**Ridge & East Circle Water Main Project:** On August 18, 2021 @ 10:00am we received bids: Jack Goncalves & Sons \$1,317,290.58, Haluch Water Contracting Inc. \$918,032.00, Baltazar Contractors, Inc. \$898,647.00 and Ludlow Construction \$1,291,712.00. Bid was awarded to Baltazar Contractors, Inc.

**Capital Projects**

**Maple Street Sidewalk Project:** On June 9, 2021 @ 10:00am we received bids: Cains Mechanical LLC \$231,564.00, JL Construction Corp. \$144,645.00, H.M. Nunes & Sons Construction Inc. \$96,591.00, Ludlow Construction, Inc. \$85,220.00 and Gomes Construction Co. Inc. \$63,620.00. Bid was awarded to Gomes Construction Co. Inc. The scope of project was reduced to lack of funding to \$49,991.58.

**High School Track Resurfacing Project:** On June 21, 2021 @ 10:00 am, we received bid: Cape & Island Corp. \$139,800.00. Bid was awarded to Cape & Island Corp. Due to inclement weather project was not completed before school started. Contractor agreed to complete the project at the end of school next year for same the

price.

**Leak Detection Survey Project:** On August 16, 2021 @ 10:00am, we received bids: Consulting Engineering Inc. \$17, 500.00. Bid was awarded to Consulting Engineering Inc.

**Capital Planning FY23:** The draft for FY23 capital planning projects will be ready for the Board to review at the next meeting on October 5, 2021.

**Board Comments: T. O'Brien:** When the town receives singular bids do we go based on our comfort zone?  
**B. Fenney:** This was a specialized industry; only 2 in New England that does this type of work; due to past experience, I worked with Cape & Island in the past and they are capable of doing the work. **P. Abair:** Where is funding coming from? **B. Fenney:** Cooley & Avery and Ridge & East Circle will be funded by ARPA. Maple St Sidewalk project will come out of Capital funding. High School Track resurfacing project will come from CPC (Community Preservation Corp). **P. Abair:** These funding's help us with setting rates for water & sewer projects for the town; keeps them on the low side.

**DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT REPORT: T. Christensen updates:**

**Paving Update:** Dearborn and Heritage Park projects completed by Palmer Paving. Northeast Paving is almost complete with Denslow and Quarry Hill. Maple St will be delayed due to contractor not getting curb and the weather; will be bid out this winter and will get going as soon as the thaw. We came under on the Northeast portion of the project so with Chpt 90 and capital funding we should be able to get quite a few streets done for spring and summer next year.

**MassDot:** We received project notification eligibility letter for North Main St. from Dearborn to Lombard for resurfacing, drainage updates, all four signals, shared used path on the North side from Heritage Park to Century Fitness; project cost estimate \$8.5 million; project will be fully funded; town is required to do the design; preliminary estimate \$600,000 - \$700,000; design will be on the top of the capital project list;.

**Stormwater:** Kudos to the guys who worked admirably in the fields during the past rain storms; and the ladies in the Office fielding more than normal calls. Finished outfall testing which will be on our annual report; this was our year 3 requirement. Year 4 requirement: nitrogen source identification report; there are no impaired water bodies in EL but because we are in the Long Island watershed we must complete investigations. Another is a catchment investigation with more sampling with key junction manholes; catchments is breaking the town down in smaller drainage areas; hits can be traced back to the source to remove any pollution from the system.

**Board Comments: P. Abair:** Any issues with testing that you did do? **T. Christensen:** None at this point. If there are surfactants, ammonia, or any hits we will chase them upstream and try to find the source. **T. O'Brien:** Pass on recognition to the Stormwater guys and the Mechanics that stepped up to their roles; the Board appreciates their help. **P. Abair:** Overall, the guys did a great job.

**Landfills:** Received all the paperwork for the closing of Somers Road. Going over to Allen St. next; corrective action alternative analysis is due at the end of this year; we will follow the DEP process.

**Board Comments: P. Abair:** Any action with Kibbie St. area. **T. Christensen:** We will get the letter to do that one next; we close them one at a time.

**WATER & SEWER ADMINISTRATOR REPORT: F. Vachon updates:**

Completed 2021 manhole sealing project – sealed the interior of 27 sewer manholes with a cement liner similar to gunite. This process has removed an estimated 12 million gallons per year (from our wastewater system). We completed an RFP for a Leak Detection Survey with Consulting Engineering Inc. in Ohio. The contractor arrived on site looking for leaks on September 8<sup>th</sup>; hope to be done in 3-4 weeks; most of the water may be from sprinkler systems used to water lawns. We will be performing our annual hydrant-flushing program hopefully in October or at the latest November; we can't perform flushing while the leak detections process is being performed. After receiving no bids for the North Main Street flow-monitoring project, we have re-bid this project with a bid opening date of September 22<sup>nd</sup> with construction hopefully starting in the spring of 2022. We've contracted with Stiles Company for the purchase of \$131,000 worth of water meters. This equates to 343 meters of various sizes from 3/4" up to 4"; this is a new technology using ultra sonic metering vs. the old disc style; this is the way to the future and should help us increase our revenues. The Wendover water replacement project was completed by the DPW at just under budget; turned out perfect; staff did an excellent job; very professional.

**BUILDING FACILITIES REPORT: B. Fenney for J. Dunn updates:**

**Projects completed this summer:**

Mapleshade School Steam Pipe Replacement Project Phase 2 was completed by August 27<sup>th</sup>  
High School - replaced a 110 gallon original domestic hot water tank underneath the pool completed before school; serves the men's and women's swimming pool locker rooms

**Annual Maintenance and Inspections:**

Boiler Cleanings, district wide including the schools; fire alarm Inspections and repairs for all facilities; fire sprinkler inspections; fire extinguishers; generators (17 sites) have be serviced and load bank tested with repairs as needed. Fuel tanks, underground UST tanks, and veedor-root systems have been inspected and repaired as needed. Emergency lights throughout every facility have been inspected and repaired. Intercom systems and clock systems have been tested and repaired.

**School Projects**

**Mountain View:** we had issues with humidity; original 12" X 12" ceiling tiles were falling off in some of the classrooms; the glue holding up the tiles have asbestos. Drop ceilings were installed in 12 classrooms to mitigate the problem; abatements were completed in some of the classrooms that had an issue; Abide completed the remediation to remove the asbestos. **High School:** Installed new double doors for large courtyard  
**Little Red School:** Replaced two sides of the school that had 8" cedar flat board; front decking was replaced.  
**Service Building:** We lost a feed to our fueling system; underground conduit was broken; wire was fused to the conduit; replaced the feeder wires; this was completed in house and was not expensive. Replaced two garage doors. **Fire Department:** Waiting for concrete pad and roof for methane pump system; with weather and elements we seem to be going through more pumps even though they are rated for outdoors;  
**COA:** We currently have 4 cracked sections on the boiler; will be going to Town Council to get approval for repairs; expended \$20,269.84 on other sections of the boiler that happened over the past few years; repairs to 4 sections is \$30,000.00; replacement of the boiler is roughly \$120,870.00; we could receive \$8,000 in energy rebates; total cost of project is \$112,000.00 for replacement.

**Board Comments: P. Abair:** I assume that the new boiler would be much efficient from an operating standpoint.

**B. Fenney:** Absolutely, given the size of the building the ROI fuel savings is roughly \$2K per year; typically per year depending how cold it is we purchase \$12 - \$14K worth of natural gas for this facility. The existing boiler was installed in early 90's; it's a steam boiler with a heat exchange conversion to a hydraulic system; during our renovation process didn't replace boiler to stay on budget; we left boiler system there; the heat exchange is few feet away from boiler so it constantly cycling on and off which decreased the life expectancy of the existing steam boiler. **P. Abair:** Is there any issues concerning facilities with PD or Fire Station? **B. Fenney:** Everything is good in our all facilities; replaced the boiler at the PD in house in 2010; Town Hall boiler replaced in 2011; Library boiler was replaced with an atmospheric boiler in early 2,000's; every boiler in every school across the district was replaced within my tenure here at the DPW.

**HIGHWAY UTILITY MANAGER REPORT: D. Kean updates:**

**Parks:** Mowing schedule; catching up due to all the rain; prepped 16 athletic fields for fall sports; applied step 3 fertilizer; trash Pickup; extensive trash pickup at Heritage Park pavilion, residents are leaving small wrappers on the ground; getting ready for fall clean-up then apply step 4 fertilizer;

**Board Comments: P. Abair:** We should think about charging a pick-up fee at Heritage Park. **D. Keane:** If it is feasible, we can put a cleanup fee in the rental.

**Highway:** Continue with paving work orders; massive amounts of rain created more catch basin repairs and outfall work; keeping our eyes on water in catch basins; went to every culvert that crosses a road to make sure there was no washouts; we installed 1,000 feet of berm on Markham Rd to stop washouts and from creating issues in our stormwater system; completed work on Pine Knoll's main road due to the amount of water velocity coming down the hill was creating issues and deteriorating the parking lots; added aprons on the side of the entrances; 230 feet of berm was installed on the left hand side of the hill entering Pine Knoll to control those issues.

Working on Urban Forestry grant, started digging and getting ready for plating; hoping to get volunteers this Saturday to plant trees; 9 at Mapleshade and 3 at Heritage Park; planting the following Saturday: 7-8 trees at Meadowbrook and 8 trees at Mountainview; this is a good community outreach where volunteers will have conversations with the guys at the town.

**Water:** Water main install on Wendover Lane is completed. We had 3 water repairs this summer: vehicle accident: had to clean out a hydrant on the corner of Pease and Lee St causing a major water break; water breaks on Crescent Hill and LaSalle St. **Stormwater:** Work on getting into some culverts; working with Conversation to get permission; we want to keep the drains clear so we're not bringing debris into the drainage systems; **Snowplowing:** Started prep; looking at plows and sanders; salt bid went out.

**Board Comments: P. Abair:** Do we have a checklist of action items to be pick-up after all the rain we had this Summer? Fellas have done a good job keeping up with everything; keeping the streets clear and open; watching out for safety issues and flooding. Hats off to all the guys. **D. Keane:** Yes we do have a list. **T. O'Brien:** Can you let us review the plantings at the schools before they are executed? Living across the street from the school and I feel like I have a personal stake in it. **D. Keane:** Yes

**OTHER BUSINESSES:** The Board of Public Works needs to select an appointment to the Community Preservation Committee.

**Board Comments: T. O'Brien:** I'm currently the representative; I recently received an at large which I was 10 years ago preceding; so I'm not a candidate; I believe it is for one year; no heavy lifting; good cause; funds go to good things in our community.

**APPROVE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE: T. O'Brien entertained and made a motion to endorse P. Abair as representative; P. Abair seconded the motion. The vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.**

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:** B. Fenney will send an email invite for the next meeting for second week in October and will have it posted to the town website.

**P. Abair entertained and made motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:26pm; T. O'Brien seconded the motion, there being no further discussion; the vote was taken and was unanimously affirmative.**