

REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of March 2, 2023

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 8:00 AM on March 2, 2023.

Members Present: Councilor James M. Walsh, Chairman; Councilor Alek Dernalowicz; Councilor George C. Tyros; Administrative Assistant Christine Harty

Attendees: Dane E. Arnold, DPW Director; Rob Oliva, City Engineer

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor James M. Walsh called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

OPEN MEETING RECORDING

ANNOUNCEMENT – any person may make a video or audio recording of an open session of a meeting, or may transmit the meeting through any medium, subject to reasonable requirements of the chair as to the number, placement and operation of equipment used so as not to interfere with the conduct of the meeting. Any person intending to make such a recording shall notify the chair forthwith. All documents referenced or used during the meeting must be submitted in duplicate to the Secretary of the Committee, pursuant to the Open Meeting and Public Records Law. All documents shall become part of the official record of the meeting.

POLE PETITIONS

- **10907** – A Petition by National Grid to install new hand hole in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked – Edgell Street – to install new hand hole at the edge of the 69 Edgell Street property at approximately (42.577342, -71.982237). Install 2-3” conduit from pole 6, Edgell Street to new hand hole. (*Public Service Committee; Public Hearing Required*)

Rob, no issue with petition.

Motion made to recommend pole petition. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

- **10908** – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. – Edgell Street – to Relocate 1 jointly owned pole on Edgell Street beginning at a point approximately 300 feet east of the centerline of the intersection of Westford Street and Edgell Street. Relocate Pole #8 approximately 45’ east of its current location. (*Public Service Committee; Public Hearing Required*)

Rob, no issue with petition.

Motion made to recommend pole petition. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

- **10909** – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. – Cross Street – to install 4 jointly owned poles on Cross Street beginning at a point approximately 15 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Lawrence Street and Cross Street and continuing approximately 800 feet in a west direction. Install 4 new poles on Cross Street. (*Public Service Committee; Public Hearing Required*)

Rob, the petition does not include any description of the locations of the new overhead wires. All proposed overhead wire locations should be shown for approval.

Motion made to recommend passage of petition subject to an inquiry regarding involvement of property and private property owners. Motion made by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

COLLEGE GREENHOUSE METER

A meter was found to have been previously installed at the MWCC Greenhouse. The Gardner Water Department had no knowledge of the meter. Dane provides a breakdown of billing for the last four years based on metered usage and previous years' rates. Wanted to review with Committee the proposed bill prior to billing MWCC for metered usage.

Councilor James Walsh, committee sees no reason not to bill for usage.

REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS

Sophie Dorow:

Not in attendance, responded by email, no update at this time.

Dane Arnold:

- Projects
 - A. Mayor has approved funding for a new salt shed. Will triple capacity, better location environmentally.
 - B. The council approved 25K last year for disk golf. Have purchased 18 baskets. Looking at the Leo Drive area for location. In works to begin this summer.
 - C. Approved 200.000 for Ovila Case improvements. Also looking to install a Pickleball at this location, likely by tennis courts.
- Opening Clerk position in the Water Department. Had 18 applicants. DPW is down 7 crew members. Councilor Walsh, review pay scale? Dane, currently drafting a proposal for change in the pay scale.
- Sidewalks are in the works. Waiting on school to be out in July for Mass Broken Stone to complete Lawrence Street. Will be completed in asphalt, 1/2the cost of concrete, ramps will be concrete.
- Snow and ice, mild winter for snow, more ice storms, expensive. Increase of road treating this season due to more icy conditions. Could potentially be the most expensive year to date. Each time we are out to treat the cost is 10K, example is previous day of all day storm. Total accumulation of 3 inches but out treating four time in course of day, total cost 40K. The cost of salt has increased over the last few years from \$65.00 per ton to \$ 95.00. Budget was for 3K, currently 440K in deficit. Reserve City free cash was 600K (total budget of 9K), about 160K remaining available.

Councilor George Tyros asks (in reference to the Lawrence Street sidewalks) the intersection at Temple Street be looked at regarding safety. No sidewalk on northside, can be difficult to cross.

Rob Oliva:

- Uptown Rotary, Council approved the takings, and letters to go out to property owners. Set to go out to bid end of April, construction set to begin July. To be a one-year project.

Councilor James Walsh makes note of Pearl Street entrance near museum, is in bad shape. Questions if there is any possibility in extending the tie in area out further to address? Dane, is on our radar.

- Sludge landfill, MEPA came back with certificate requiring a draft EIR (environmental impact report). A more focused report informing us what they'd like to see for additional scope beyond what was reported in the notification report. Working with a consultant now on the next steps to put draft together. The state is looking for more analysis of alternatives and more public involvement.

REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM COUNCILORS

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: No requests today.

Councilor George C. Tyros: No requests today.

Councilor James Walsh: Inquires on Ashburnham dispute of water billing? Dane, had just received an email regarding the billing. They signed the Intermunicipal Agreement, agreement for payment.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor George Tyros, second by Councilor Alex Dernalowicz to Adjourn the meeting at 8:40 am. Roll Call vote: Councilor Alek Dernalowicz yes, Councilor George C. Tyros yes, Councilor James Walsh yes. Motion Passes.

Next meeting scheduled as needed.

All documents submitted at this meeting are stored in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive, for any review.

Respectfully submitted:

Christine M. Harty, Administrative Assistant