

## REGULAR MEETING PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE of June 15, 2023

Meeting of the Public Service Committee was held in the office of the DPW, 50 Manca Drive at 8:00 AM on Thursday, June 15, 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; Sophie Dorow, Conservation and Planning

### **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 PETITION**

- **10993** – A Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England Inc., Elm Street – to install 1, Remove 1 and Relocate 1 Jointly Owned Pole on Elm Street beginning at a point approximately 360 feet southeast of the centerline of the intersection of Elm Street and Cross Street and continuing approximately 500 feet in a south direction. P6-80 Replace and Relocate +/- 30' West. Install anchor guy on West of Pole. P7-99 is being removed. P10-99 is installing Push Brace on West side of P10. (In the City Council and Referred to Public Service Committee 5/15/2023; Public Hearing 6/20/2023)

Councilor James Walsh indicates City Engineer Rob Oliva reached out to National Grid requesting the attendance of a representative at our meeting today. Following an email indicating the message was passed along, no contact was made, no representative is present.

Following discussion with City Engineer, Rob Oliva & the Public Service Committee regarding concerns of the Pole Petition at hand the following information was noted and the committee requests Rob contact Jared Aker of National Grid prior to their recommendation for a vote to the Council as a whole.

1. The written Petition and the plan attached provide conflicting information on the proposed work. Request clarification and revision of packet.
2. Plan does not show proposed terminus point of new OH Conductor, please include on revised plan.
3. Stake proposed location of pole P6-80 for review.

## **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Motion to accept the minutes of the meeting dated March 30 & April 27, 2023, as written. Motion made to accept minutes by Councilor Alek Dernalowicz, second by Councilor George C. Tyros, all in favor motion carries.

## **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS**

### **Dane Arnold:**

1. Current monthly water bills went out two weeks late due to software issue. Due dates adjusted accordingly.
2. Recent article in Gardner News of the staffing levels at the DPW, Police and Fire, throughout the city. Since that time have been able to hire one highway laborer and one mechanic.
3. School Department recently declared Helen Mae, Stone Field and the Elm Street School playground as surplus. Therefore, municipal grounds are now tasked with maintaining the property.
  - a. Councilor Walsh notes North Central Chamber of Commerce to hold an event with a state agency rep. available to assist with staffing issues.
4. Still working in Robillard, Douglas Street area. Finish looming and seeding behind the curb. With paving, we have been finishing this neighborhood up on the weekends.
5. Entire crew on Eaton Street removing trees passed at Public Hearing recently. Installed drainage, replaced couple pipes, and replacing small section of sidewalk.
6. On 1<sup>st</sup> week of July crew will be out to begin Lawrence Street walk.
7. Request into state for paving project at Princeton, Rugby, Watkin, Richardson, etc. Hoping to begin August.

### **Rob Oliva:**

1. Regarding National Grid, double poles left last fall on Chapel and Lawrence Street have since been removed.
2. Update on Uptown Rotary. State opened bids last week, low bid in at 2.3 million. Low bidder was E.H. Perkins, same company currently out at Monument Square Park project. Have nothing negative of their current work, good news.
3. Bike Path Bridge, 25% of design is complete. Working currently with Mass DOT for funding up to 100%. Appears they would want to fund, current number for 100% design is around 660K.
4. Wrights Reservoir, dam work completed couple years ago. Phase one inspection is due in October for Office of Dam Safety, will be completing upon approval of budget.
5. Wayside Dam, in permitting phase. First one is the Clean Water Permit but in holding pattern awaiting Corp of Engineers to update general permit. Waiting until new regulations are issued.

Sophie Dorow:

1. Bailey Brook Park construction finished on time. Open to public, cleaning up some overgrown, hoping to have grand opening soon. Inspector from park grant will be out Thursday to inspect, will complete project.
2. Moving along with paving of Park Street Park behind the bike path near ice rink.
3. To have a hearing about the Wetland Replication regarding the new elementary school. Looking to extend an order of conditions regarding reestablishment of the vegetation.
4. Regarding Open Space and Recreation Plan, had public meeting June 1<sup>st</sup>, went well, received some public input. Will meet internally to discuss changes implementing some of those public comments. Working on endorsement letters currently.

### **REPORTS AND REQUESTS FROM COUNCILORS**

Councilor Alek Dernalowicz: Inquires on Lovewell Street, constituent had reached out regarding street sweeping. Dane, in process now, shorthanded.

Councilor George C. Tyros: Constituent of 45 Douglas Road reached out, football size hole in driveway where apron was extended. Dane, will take care of it.

Also 91 West Broadway, at Travers corner there was an existing curb cut, Dane will take care of it.

Councilor James Walsh: Constituent reached out from Pearly Street stating his front lawn and stone wall was damaged the season prior, plow damage. Suggested he send in something written. Stated he had contacted DPW but no word. Will request it in writing.

Motion to adjourn, Motion made by Councilor George Tyros, second by Councilor Alex Dernalowicz to Adjourn the meeting at 8:29 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