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DARTMOUTH JOHN CLERK

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2019

Department of Public Works Conference Room

759 Russells Mills Road

Dartmouth, MA 02748

August 15, 2019

Present:

Brian Hawes, Chairman
David T. Hickox, Director

Richard Alves Jr, Vice-Chairman
Robert Raposa., Clerk

Paul Pacheco, Superintendent Services & Infrastructure
Steve Sullivan, Superintendent Water & Sewer

Tim Barber, Senior Engineer

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The Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

**A motion was made by Mr. Raposa and duly seconded by Mr. Alves to accept and approve the warrants for the bills payable period ending July 29 & August 5 & 12, 2019.
So voted.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Raposa and duly seconded by Mr. Alves to accept and approve the payroll for the weeks ending July 20 & 27 and August 3 & 10, 2019.
So voted.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Raposa and duly seconded by Mr. Alves to accept and approve the meeting minutes of July 24, 2019.
So voted.**

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion – Street Trees

Mr. Hickox explained to the Board that there are many trees, especially on the back roads in Town that need attention. Potomska Rd, for example, has 97 trees that need to come down. The other roads in that area have ½ dozen each. Mr. Hickox is in the process of organizing the areas by priority. Mr. Hickox is meeting with the Eversource arborist today to go over the list. If the tree could potentially end up in wires, Eversource will take the tree down as part of the contract with the Town and it does not cost the Town money. This same process was completed 1.5 years ago. Mr. Hickox met with G Bourne Knowles Monday and they have committed to giving the Town time every day until it is back in good condition. Mr. Hickox's main concern are the larger dead trees that could fall into the road. Mr. Alves asked if all trees are in the right of way. Mr. Hickox stated they are. There are many trees not in the right of way that are also dead but he is only looking at the right of way. Mr. Alves asked if we notify the property owners if we find trees that are not in the right of way. Mr. Hickox said we have not in the past as there really isn't time to put into that. Mr. Hickox did state we could do a story in the Chronicle or Standard Times about the trees in town and that could push property owners to look at their own. The DPW tree crew has been working on taking down a lot of smaller trees/branches and they are doing a great job, as long as wires aren't in the area. The crew does require a police detail to work on any road that will create a traffic issue. The crew needs to work on each tree from the top down and chip as they

go so there isn't an issue with traffic or road closures, which takes longer. If the entire road can be closed down, a detail is not needed, but the road still needs to allow emergency vehicles through at all times. Eversource is still committed in the Cape area from the recent tornado that hit that area. The other part of this issue is the replanting of trees. Mr. Hickox is working with Eversource to see if they will commit to the replanting of necessary trees. Mr. Alves asked who determines the type of tree to be planted. Mr. Hickox informed the board it is done by the Town, not Eversource. Mr. Alves asked if there was any grant money available for things such as this? Mr. Hickox stated there wasn't that he knew of. Last year, the highway dept over-expended on this line item by \$100,000. These funds were available to use because of funds available from snow and ice. This year, the money could be used very quickly. Mr. Hickox did put the Treasurer on notice about this issue that needs addressing. The DPW would then have to go to the finance committee and request an emergency transfer once a dollar amount is known. The DPW tree crew took down about 80 trees on Lucy Little Rd. Mr. Hickox said as he learns more, he will keep the board informed.

Discussion – Cyber Security

Mr. Hickox explained there was recently an article about hackers going after the government's systems and holding them ransom for big money. It appears hackers also hit New Bedford recently. Mr. Hickox is not sure of how it's carried through and how the systems are able to come back up, but it's obviously an ongoing issue. The SCADA system that the Water Dept uses would be one that could be a target. The Town was recently assured that the system was in good condition to not be hacked. Everything is focused through one main computer and as long as no one infects it, we are up to par on all security. The computer this system uses is not used for anything else. The system is also accessed via the necessary employee's cell phones but it's all encrypted. A policy involving USB's as back-up is already in use and has been for a while according to Mr. Sullivan. Woodard and Curran recently sent an article to Mr. Sullivan with a few suggestions to keep things protected, such as changing the password more frequent. Anytime an employee leaves, the keys are inactivated and the password is changed at that time to ensure protection of the system. Mr. Hickox also shared Mr. Hawes' concern with Shawn MacInnes and Mr. MacInnes feels the town's system is in good shape as far as protecting it against hackers. His background is in the IT department so Mr. Hickox feels he is qualified and is confident he is keeping it a priority.

MISC

Mr. Alves asked about a sewer connection that was recently completed in Town not to specifications. Mr. Hickox explained the reason they were done that way was because of the water that was 9 feet deep. The contractor did say they would fix it if necessary. Mr. Alves stated he would like to see it fixed correctly so it does not create an issue down the road. Mr. Alves stated it could have been done with 2 45 degree pipes instead of the way it was done. Mr. Alves also feels if the drain layer would like, he is more than welcome to come in and explain his stand before the board. Mr. Hickox stated there was an inspector there from the DPW and allowed them to do it as they did. Mr. Alves believes it will create an issue in the long run if not done correctly now. Mr. Hickox stated he would have the contractor contacted and let them know to fix it.

Mr. Pacheco updated the board that Hawthorn St will be opened tomorrow. There is a bit of clean up to do but should be done by tomorrow. The center line will be done next week which is all ahead of schedule. Mr. Hickox informed the board that the DPW just applied for a Massworks grant that will allow us to complete the roads in the Hawthorn St area. If granted, design will begin for next fall. The

department also just bid out sidewalks and road reconstruction in the Bliss corner area which includes 6 streets.

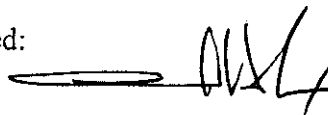
Mr. Hickox asked the board if in their travels they could travel through some neighborhoods that have sidewalks. Years ago, trees were planted between the road and the sidewalk in some subdivisions, and now many of the roots are lifting the sidewalks, damaging the roadway and sidewalk. Once the sidewalk is touched, it will now need to be completed as ADA compliant so it is a bigger issue than it sounds like. There isn't enough space to fix many of the sidewalks and still be ADA compliant. Mr. Alves stated the same issue is happening in Mansfield and he suggested to remove the sidewalks as Mr. Hickox did. Mr. Hickox stated he will put it on one of the next agendas to discuss further. The BPW can come up with a recommendation and then send a formal request to the Select Board.

Having no further business to discuss that morning, at approximately 8:22 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Alves and duly seconded by Mr. Raposa to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Kite, Administrative Assistant

Approved:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AWL', is written over a horizontal line.