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BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING MINUTES

September 5, 2019

**Department of Public Works Conference Room
759 Russells Mills Road
Dartmouth, MA 02748**

September 5, 2019

Present:

Brian Hawes, Chairman
David T. Hickox, Director

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. Hawes to accept and approve the warrants for the bills payable periods ending August 26th and September 3 & 9, 2019.
So voted.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Raposa and duly seconded by Mr. Hawes to accept and approve the payroll for the weeks ending August 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2019.
So voted.**

**A motion was made by Mr. Raposa and duly seconded by Mr. Hawes to accept and approve the meeting minutes of August 15, 2019.
So voted.**

OLD BUSINESS

Update – Trees vs. Sidewalks

Mr. Hickox explained the Engineering department has an intern for the summer and he will continue to work 18 hours per week once school begins. One of his tasks is to do a full inventory of all subdivisions that have sidewalks being impacted by trees. The intern will be putting together that data that will then be brought to the BPW and then the Select board. Mr. Hickox stated it may be more beneficial to put new sidewalks in that people can use than to keep these subdivision sidewalks in place. The Town's money would be better used on more public roads, such as the ones that have been installed in the last few years.

NEW BUSINESS

Review – WEF, SEF & SWEF FY2020 – Overhead Calculations

Mr. Hickox explained that a big part of the DPW overall budget are the overhead costs. The breakdown provided shows detail as to where the funds are disbursed. There are many departments and costs outside the DPW that are coming out of the overall budget. In addition, we also supply 2 clerical positions to the collector's office. It has recently come to light that the Collector's office is stating they may need 2 additional clerical positions when the water billing goes to quarterly billing. It may be

worth it to look further into what the clerks are doing throughout their week/year that is linked to the water department. The rest of the handout listed detail from each department and the amount to each General Government item, such as insurance, Town Audit, unemployment, etc.

Award Contract – #19-ENG-05 – Sidewalk & Roadway Improvements

L.A.L Construction Co, Inc. - \$1,184,419.99

Mr. Hickox explained this bid is for work starting down in Bliss Corner area. The area includes five streets and a portion of Russells Mills Rd. The project includes adding sidewalks on the east side end to end, and a portion of the west side, making the area ADA compliant and also reconstructing the road. Streets include Frank St, Osbourne St, Norwell St, Richard St and Hemlock St. Funds have been approved for four additional streets next year. Drain upgrades have been done on these roads already. This contractor will start the sidewalks and curbing. The project as a whole totals \$1.5 million dollars with funding being covered from an article, chapter 90 funds, road maintenance funds, and contributions through Eversource.

A motion was made by Mr. Raposa and seconded by Mr. Hawes to accept and approve the recommendation to award contract #19-ENG-05 Sidewalk and Roadway Improvements in the Bliss Corner Area to L.A.L. Construction Co, Inc located in Fall River, MA not to exceed the amount of \$1,184,419.99.

So voted.

Review – Misc Water & Sewer Fees

Mr. Hickox explained the DPW is reviewing miscellaneous fees to be sure all are updated. The following three from the Water Dept are ones that need to be updated as soon as possible.

- The sewer cleanout covers - The cost for Town to purchase these is \$224.74 and the charge to residents is \$135. Recommending to increase charge to residents to \$228.
- Charge for meter testing – The cost from the vendor to the Town for each test is \$60 and the charge to residents is \$50. Recommending to increase charge to residents to \$75.
- Emergency call-back charge – The cost to Town is 4 hour minimum at time and a half of employee on call. Charge to residents is currently \$140 which does not cover the cost of the employee's wages. Recommendation to increase charge to \$190 to residents.

A motion was made by Mr. Raposa and seconded by Mr. Hawes to accept and approve the recommendations to increase the above described Water fees per Steve Sullivan's memo to Mr. Hickox.

So voted.

MISC

Paul Pacheco updated the board on trees in Town. The highway crew has been trimming and taking down a lot of trees in the last couple weeks. GB Knowles is also working in Town every day. Progress is definitely being made.

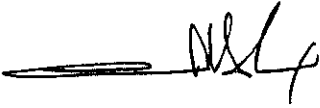
Mr. Hawes mentioned water running into the street on Middle Street. Mr. Hickox mentioned there is a drainage issue in that area that he and Tim Barber have been working on it and are aware of it. A paper street in that area was used as a leaching area and it is running into lots on Middle Street. That ongoing

problem could be what Mr. Hawes noticed on Middle Street. There is a resolution being worked through.

Mr. Hickox mentioned there was a resident with a high water bill that recently came to meet with him. The residents wanted to know what was being done to test the meters accuracy. The water appears to have gone through the meter. The resident is adamant the meter malfunctioned. They may come before the board in the near future looking for relief on the water bill. It is for \$7,058.34. The meter is being sent back to the manufacturer and will also be tested by a 3rd party. Mr. Sullivan stated part of the issue is that the bill is for 6 months, yet only 3 months can be pulled for detail and the missing 3 months of detail is where the water spiked. Mr. Raposa asked what could have possibly happened to that much water. Mr. Sullivan stated he was unsure of what could have happened and that everything possible is being tested.

Having no further business to discuss that morning, at approximately 8:14 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Hawes and duly seconded by Mr. Raposa to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved: 

Jennifer Kite, Administrative Assistant