April 30, 2019

Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Tuesday, April 30, 2019, at DPW Headquarters, 301 Broad Street, at 5:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: Councillors Joel Kaddy (chair), Sam Squailia, Dave Clark, Paul Beauchemin

Committee Members Absent: Councillor Marisa Fleming

Other Participants: DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso
DPW Superintendent Gary Withington
David Duval

Action taken as follows:

Petition 209-18: Multiple citizens to repair McTaggart's Dam to refill pond and restore wildlife population.

Discussion: The Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition, pending completion of the ongoing alternatives analysis.

Petition 286-18: Councillor Marisa Fleming, to have the City place bales of hay at the top of High Rock Road where it meets the paper road portion of High Rock Road. During heavy rain the water runs down into the back yards of 1191 and 1179 Ashby State Road causing flooding and debris.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington advised that hay bales would not help much, except to hold back silt. The Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 065-19: Councillors Sam Squailia and Joel Kaddy on behalf of Paul Agnese, to install a berm from his driveway down as required to mitigate washout from street water runoff. NOTE: Petition was amended by City Council to provide address of 273 Theresa Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the berm is necessary. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition.
Petition 123-19: David Duval of 100 Falulah St., Fitchburg, MA to request the grinding and repaving of Falulah St. from Melrose St. to 100 Falulah St. be completed along with the repair of two storm drains as outlined in the petition.

Discussion: DPW Engineering estimates that the paving cost would be $98,000. Mr. Duval noted that the city paved Falulah Street from Benson St. to #100 Falulah St two years ago, and now the next section of the street should be paved because it is in poor condition, requiring that DPW spend a lot of time filling potholes. Also, two catch basins at corner of Falulah and Hartford need to be repaired. The Committee would like to know the Pavement Condition Index of Falulah St; Commissioner Laakso replied that DPW is transitioning to the automated street scan system for evaluating pavement, and scanning of all city streets will occur in June with results available in July/August. Concerning the catch basins, Superintendent Withington stated that they will be repaired this summer. Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition pending new Pavement Condition Index.

Petition 124-19: Councillors Fleming and DiNatale to clean culvert abutting 429 High Rock Road.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that the culvert has been cleaned once this year, but it will be done again. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 125-19: Councillors Fleming and DiNatale, on behalf of Joseph Novelli, to repair or remove city-installed retaining wall at 430 High Rock Road.

Discussion: DPW Engineering determined that this wall is not owned by the City. The Committee voted, 4-0, to give the petition LEAVE TO WITHDRAW.

Petition 126-19: Councillor Joel Kaddy to correct water problem at 15 Thurston Place.

Discussion: Councillor Kaddy presented photos (attached) showing that there is flooding in the property at 15 Thurston Place which also extends to neighboring properties. He believes that runoff from across the street jumps the curb and flows into the yard, or it could be flowing into the driveway. The Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition and requested that DPW observe the problem during a rain event so that an appropriate remedy can be determined.

NOTE: Petition 111-19 was not discussed because it was inadvertently omitted from the agenda.
The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Lenny R. Laakso, DPW Commissioner
Clerk of Committee

Distribution:
Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale
City Clerk, City Councillors
Gary Bevilacqua, Assistant City Engineer
Gary Withington, Superintendent of Streets
File 2.3A