

RTM Public Works Committee Meeting - May 2, 2016

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Adiletta at 7:34pm.

Members Present:, Mark Adiletta, Frank Adelman, Patti Bumgardner, Tom Moore, James Cameron, Jenn Hite, Richard Poli, Brad Patelli, David Bayne, Cheryl Russel and Mike Wheeler

Public Comment: Ruth Ann Ramsey attended the PW Committee meeting to ask about Town-wide trash pick-ups. She called for an appointment for Gideon Lane and was assigned Wednesday am of last week. When it was not picked up, she called and heard from George Swift that they are moving away from private road pick-ups. The question was whether it was OK for people on a private road to move their trash to a public road for a requested pick-up. We told Ms. Ramsey that Mr. Gentile, Director of Public Works, was attending our meeting later in the evening and we would pass along her number for him to clarify. (Mark Adiletta passed on the information to Mr. Gentile before he left the meeting.)

Frank Adelman made a motion to **approve the minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting**, Tom Moore seconded. After a spelling clarification, the minutes were approved, 6 in favor, 2 abstaining.

Mark explained that the remaining time of the meeting would be spent discussing the budget and that Ed Gentile, Director of Public Works, would be joining us to answer questions. Mark has followed the budget meetings and wanted to point out that right now, the Town is struggling with a \$1.1 million reductions in state funding.

He went over some main points and possible questions for Mr. Gentile:

- reduction in State aid for road repair
- increase in salt prices
- \$25,000 increase in solid waste disposal
- reduction in electricity expense - LED bulb replacement; more efficient sewer pumps
- four capital equipment items - low-boy truck, plow blade, roller, and Ford 150 pick-up truck
- \$200,000 allocated to sidewalk replacement, inclusive of 2000 ft near Holmes School and continuation of sidewalk on Post Road, near YMCDA
- paving of roads - 3.9 miles (20-25 year replacement cycle)
- signal replacement program
- new sidewalk, Tokeneke Road/Old Kings Highway

Mr. Gentile joined the PW Committee meeting to answer questions about the budget. Given, Mark had just mentioned the new sidewalk on Tokeneke Road, we started there. Cheryl asked if it is the policy of towns to maintain and develop sidewalks on State roads - yes. David asked if lighting would be necessary under the 95 overpass - possibly, will know more as design is completed. David asked who shovels sidewalks? It falls on the land owners but the Town will maintain the sidewalk under 95. Frank asked if there will be a crosswalk signal with the new sidewalk. The Town is not planning for a signal at this time because the sight lines are good.

Mr. Gentile discussed the major cuts to the budget once the Town heard about the \$1.1 million shortfall from the State. The Town cut about half of this and increased the mill rate. Cuts included:

- Town Hall generator - cut by Board of Finance
 - Town Hall gym item
 - Remodel of conference room and office space in Town Hall
 - \$250,000 of storage space in high school
 - carpeting at middle school
- Projects maintained:
- redo of Ox Ridge gym floor
 - \$15,000 tractor

Mark asked about the Town Hall generator. The Town applied for three grants to fund a generator and all were declined. Kate asked Mr. Gentile to put generator in the budget. Currently, half the building is connected to a generator that is 30 years old. Brad asked whether the generator has been called on - maybe 8 hours in the past two years. Mr. Gentile did think, given the location of the Mather Center in Town Hall, there is a more pressing need for a generator than in the past. In the schools, generators only power portions of the building that would be used for shelter.

Another cut was the remodel of Town Hall offices. The thought behind the items was to make Town Hall more user-friendly and efficient. This could be done at another time. Kate Bush works with Mr. Gentile on what needs to be done at Town Hall.

The Equipment Reserve is reflective of the vehicles Mark discussed earlier in the meeting. Mr. Gentile tries to keep the vehicles on a schedule so they do not need to be replaced all at once or when there is a bigger cost vehicle, it might be the only one that year. Annually, the Equipment Reserve should be steady.

Cheryl asked about the dredging of sediment basins. \$70,000 was approved. Kate Bush asked Mr. Gentile to put this in as a place holder. The Town is determining if something needs to be done with dredging near Town Hall. Cheryl asked for clarification on the Goodwives sediment dredging. The Town has completed 1/3 of the project. They are not allowed to work between April 1st and July 1st to protect the fish. They received two grants from the State. Mr. Gentile clarified that some of the Pond is private but because it is a private way to get to the pond, they stopped the skating.

Cheryl asked about the Town Hall surveillance cameras. They will be placed in elevators, common areas and at the entrance and exits. Cameras were set up separately in the Mather Center when it opened. There is no live monitoring.

Mark asked about paving. The list is always longer than the Town can handle. Mr. Gentile evaluates all the roads that are up for paving for a certain year. If a road can wait a year, he pushes back and adds a road that may be in more desperate need. There is always flexibility within the list. Tom asked about Middlesex near 106. Mr. Gentile thinks the gas company will be doing work around that area in the next year or two so is holding off on spending money to

pave at this time. They will patch the area as necessary. Ed tries to balance underground utilities with his paving schedule so the Town doesn't double work.

Mark asked about the garage Feasibility Study. Mr. Gentile went through some of the needs - expanding the bunk room to accommodate 20 workers during storms, a wash bay to dispose of water properly; relocate gas tanks to increase quantity, better use of shared space for BOE, Parks and Recreation and DPW. Is there a danger of moving gas tanks near swap shop - there will be a need for ballads and tree cover. David asked about taking back the property the BMW leases. Mr. Gentile thinks they just renewed their lease but that could be an option in the future.

Mark asked about electricity savings - this is because of efficiencies in new sewer pumps - they have replaced 4 and have two more to replace, and the replacement of lights in town buildings to LED.

James asked about the backflow valve on sewers. All homes need a backflow valve according to Town ordinance/code/ In two years, the Sewer Commission will no longer make a decision on claims and claims will need to take on a legal life.

Mark asked about two contracts at the transfer station. There are two more years on both of the contracts. The Town was approached by City carting to negotiate - this would decrease some expense. The only way City Carting makes money is through the Town. The increase is a result of \$25,000 in missed expense last year related to the cost of running the recycling center. David asked if City Carting was the only game in town - there is not a whole lot out there.

Frank asked if Mr. Gentile was happy with the budget He is happy with the budget and enjoyed working with Kate Bush who has been extremely supportive. David asked if there was anything else he wanted - generator and garage rehabilitation. He will ask for the generator again.

Cheryl asked about the Bridge over Holly Pond project. Construction will begin in Spring 2017 and last 24 months. They are still working with neighbors for sign off.

Mark thanked Mr. Gentile for his time.

James Cameron made **a motion to approve the Department of Public Works Capital and Operating budget.** Tom Moore seconded; all 11 members voted in favor.

There was a motion to adjourn at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jennifer Hite and Patti Bumgardner