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February 26, 2019

Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Tuesday, February 26, 2019, at DPW Headquarters, 301 Broad Street, at 5:00 PM.

Committee Members Present: Councillors Joel Kaddy (chair), Marisa Fleming, Sam Squailia

Committee Members Absent: Councillors Dave Clark, Paul Beauchemin

Other Participants: DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso
DPW Superintendent Gary Withington
Timothy St. Jean

Action taken as follows:

Petition 131-18: Councillors Marisa Fleming and Marcus DiNatale on behalf of Raul and Yeydi Jimenez, to investigate and implement remedies to mitigate/ and or prevent property damage to 162 Townsend Street resulting from motor vehicle incidents that frequently damage the property's fencing.

Discussion: The Committee voted, 3-0, to HOLD the petition, requesting Superintendent Withington to work on a solution with the property owner. To date, he has still been unable to contact them.

Petition 132-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin to establish a height limit for utility poles in the City of Fitchburg.

Discussion: The Committee voted, 3-0, to HOLD the petition pending an update from the petitioner.

Petition 195-18: Councillors Squailia, Green & Walsh to establish the existing pedestrian crosswalk across Electric Ave. at the westerly intersection of Drake Road as an official crosswalk and install neon reflective pedestrian crossing signs. (Referred from Public Safety Committee)

Discussion: Commissioner Laakso stated that he hired TEC (The Engineering Corp.), the firm that designed the traffic and pedestrian improvements on South St and Electric Ave. They performed a safety analysis, checked sight distances, drew a plan showing crosswalk location and provided details of ADA ramps, line painting and signage, all per MUTCD. They found that this is an acceptable location for a crosswalk, but the existing ADA ramps are not compliant and easements will be needed from Coggs Hall Crossing condominiums. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition.

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

Discussion: Commissioner Laakso stated that the alternative analysis for McTaggart's Dam is in progress, but the consultant has been unable to perform the field studies due to the unusually heavy rain over the fall and winter months, causing the pond to refill many times. Councillor Kaddy stated that he is all for repairing the dam, as this would be a great place for boating, fishing and camping. The Committee voted, 3-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 285-18: Councillor Marisa Fleming, to request the DPW repair the catch basin that is collapsing at 1495 Pearl Hill Road.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that the work has been done. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition.

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: The Committee voted, 3-0, to HOLD the petition pending a review by Engineering Division.

Petition 287-18: Councillor Marisa Fleming, to have the culverts beginning at 676 Townsend Street to the Lunenburg Line cleaned. They are full of overgrowth and debris which is causing the road to flood.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington said the culverts need to be cleaned. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 288-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin, to have a sidewalk and berm put in front of 137 Beech Street to Federal Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the berm and sidewalk work needs to be done. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 289-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin, to repair sidewalk in front of 121 Beech Street, and install a berm from 121 Beech Street to Federal Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the berm and sidewalk work needs to be done. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 300-18: Councillor Michael Kushmerek, to repair or reinstall a section of sidewalk located at 261 Blossom Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the sidewalk work needs to be done. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 307-18: Councillors Green and DiNatale, on behalf of resident Timothy St. Jean, to inspect and find a remedy to a water runoff issue beginning at 113 Payson Street that is causing recurring ice beds to form during cold weather on the remainder of the street.

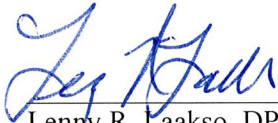
Discussion: Mr. St. Jean explained that DPW installed a stone drain about 9 years ago, and this was effective. However, groundwater is producing runoff that is no longer under control and the street has been icing up every day. Commissioner Laakso explained that Payson Street is not connected to the storm drain system; however, a combined sewer separation project for the Payson St/Walnut St area is now being designed, and construction is planned to begin in Spring 2020. The engineering consultant is being asked to look into fixing the groundwater runoff problem on Payson St as part of the project. The Committee voted, 3-0, to HOLD the petition pending results of the investigation.

Petition 042-19: Councillors Marcus DiNatale and Joel Kaddy, on behalf of Lisa Boulay, to install a berm at 270 Fifth Mass Turnpike.

Discussion: Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the berm is needed. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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