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September 27, 2018 (corrected)

Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at DPW Headquarters, 301 Broad Street, at 5:00 PM.

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

Committee Members Absent: Councillor Dave Clark

Others Present: DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso
DPW Superintendent Gary Withington
Councillor Beth Walsh
Lena Galipeault, 150 Legros Street

Action taken as follows:

Petition 038-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin and City Solicitor Vincent Pusateri to petition the City Council to authorize all actions to ensure that the property located at 150 Legros St be provided access via public ways. It appears the City will be required to cause a survey, obtain an appraisal and perform a taking by eminent domain.

Discussion: Lena Galipeault explained that the city sold the property consisting of the paper section of Shea Street between Legros Street and Franklin Road to the owner of J.D. Variety many years ago. The city should not have sold the section from Legros Street to her driveway, as she needs to travel on private property to access her driveway. She was assured by Commissioner Laakso and Superintendent Withington that the city will continue to plow the "street" as far as her driveway and patch any potholes that might develop. Meanwhile, the Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition pending further review and discussion.

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, 4-0, to HOLD the petition, requesting Superintendent Withington to work on a solution with the property owner.

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

Discussion: At the petitioner's request, the Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 184-18: Councillor Amy Green, on behalf of George Schmidt, to place "no parking" signs from FHA at Valley Street to Romano Ave.

Discussion: The Committee voted, 4-0, to give the petition LEAVE TO WITHDRAW.

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: Councillor Squailia stated that the intent is for the crosswalk to be located across Electric Avenue near Knights of Columbus. Since this would be a mid-block crosswalk, MUTCD requires that a traffic engineering study be done to review the location. The Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition, requesting Commissioner Laakso to look into a traffic engineering study.

Petition 207-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin to place a berm at the corner of Bishop Rd. and Westminster Hill Rd. heading west past 381 Westminster Hill Rd. with an apron in front of the driveway

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$750. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 208-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin to place a berm at the corner of California Ave. and 75 Reingold Ave.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$750. The Committee voted, 4-0, 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, so the petition should be held until the report is issued. The Committee voted, 4-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 226-18: Councillor Paul Beauchemin to install an apron on 352 Fairmount St. to mitigate water build-up in driveway. AMENDED to change "352 Fairmount Street" to "532 Fairmount Street."

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$600. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition AS AMENDED.

Petition 227-18: Councillor Beth Walsh, on behalf of Don & Therese Garner, to replace the berm in front of 396 Wanoosnoc Road as outlined in the petition.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$800. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 228-18: Councillors Squailia and Green to install a berm at 144 Belmont Street from the driveway on St. Anthony Street to the corner at Belmont Street to mitigate erosion due to new paving.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$700. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 229-18: Councillors Squailia and Walsh to replace the missing berm at 442 Shea St. (along Hollywood St.), install a new driveway apron, and to investigate the existing area storm drainage functionality and install a new catch basin near the 442 Shea St. driveway as required to properly remove stormwater. AMENDED TO READ: Councillors Squailia and Walsh to replace the missing berm at 442 Shea St. (along Hollywood St.), install a new driveway apron, and to investigate the existing area storm drainage functionality and mill pavement and slope new pavement to catch basin on Hollywood St. side of property near the 442 Shea St. driveway as required to properly remove stormwater.

Discussion: Cost of the proposed solution would be about \$5,500. Commissioner Laakso stated that the Engineering Division recommends that the side of the road be milled and new pavement installed that would slope to existing catch basin. This would cost about \$2,300. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition AS AMENDED.

Petition 250-18: Councillors Elizabeth Walsh and Marcus DiNatale, on behalf of resident Mike Peters, to install a berm at 59 Boylston Street. AMENDED to read: Councillors Elizabeth Walsh and Marcus DiNatale, on behalf of Mike Perry, to install a berm at 39 Boylston Street. RE-AMENDED to read: Councillors Elizabeth Walsh and Marcus DiNatale, on behalf of Mike Perry, to install a berm at 59 Boylston Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$600. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition AS AMENDED.

Petition 257-18: Councillor Michael P. Kushmerek, to repair a section of sidewalk in front of 158 Marshall Street that is sinking and cracking due to the prior removal of a city-owned tree.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$1,400. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 258-18: Councillor Amy Green, on behalf of Barbara Eisenzopf, to request a berm at 15 Warren Street to stop lawn damage.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$750. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 259-18: Councillor Amy Green, on behalf of various residents of 350 Water Street, to request sidewalk repairs at the 350 Water Street, Fitchburg Green Housing. The said repairs are located at the Middle Street area of Property. Pictures are enclosed.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$4,800. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition and requested that Commissioner Laakso apply for CDBG funds to pay the cost.

Petition 260-18: Councillor Amy Green, on behalf of Peter Tosoni, 52 Albee Street, to request another solution to the knotweed problem destroying the city sidewalk located at the corner of Albee and Haskell Hassett Streets.

Discussion: Commissioner Laakso stated that the Engineering suggested removing the asphalt, and some of the underlying soil, replacing them with asphalt grindings and new pavement, but this would be costly, say \$3,300. The Committee voted, 4-0, to give the petition LEAVE TO WITHDRAW, as the DPW can continue to cut the knotweed on its usual round of brush cutting.

Petition 261-18: Councillors Squailia & Walsh to install a new berm in front of 42 Old Deerfield Road. AMENDED to read: Councillors Squailia & Walsh to install a new berm in front of 52 Old Deerfield Road.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the work is necessary. Cost is about \$900. The Committee voted, 3-0, to GRANT the petition (Kaddy recused himself).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:33 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