

DPW Commission Meeting
Wednesday, August 6, 2014
7pm, Police Station, Community Room

7:00 pm

Approval Items:

Minutes Approval: Commissioner Gardner moved to accept the minutes from the 7/9/14 meeting, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0. Commissioner Gardner said on the first page, regarding the 52 Thatcher easement, add the name Kristen Whalen instead of stating "sister". On page 2, change to state that in the future Commissioner Gardner would like to see backup documentation on the water and sewer rates.

Approval of Sale of Cemetery Lots - none

7:05 pm

Open Discussion:

Miriam Seppala, 92 Granite Street, said she parks in the town parking lot and works at the library. Today she received a "no parking notice" on her windshield, it is posted that from 7am to 4pm is for employees and those doing business in town. J. Parisi said many residents have been parking in the annex and town hall parking lot so there aren't sufficient spots for those doing business in town. J. Parisi said he would look into this.

Ted Tarr, 154 Main Street, said he is concerned about two dead trees on the way to the pump station; they are not on public land. J. Parisi said he looked into it and should send a letter to the property owner inquiring about the trees.

7:10 pm

New Business:

McKay's Drive Sewer Extension - Revised Plan: The plan was previously submitted but now Mr. Murray would like to extend it further to include the next house down. He will be sharing in the cost and sharing the betterment. J. Parisi said he will go forward with the combined applicants. Commissioner Reed moved to accept the extension as proposed, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, Vote: 3-0.

Discussion with Board of Health regarding Fluoride in public drinking water: Dr. Syd Wedmore from the Board of Health was in attendance. He stated that several months ago some residents approached the Board of Health requesting that fluoride not be added to the drinking water. He said he would like to look at other options/alternatives if Rockport doesn't want fluoride in the water. The Board of Health found no reason to eliminate the fluoride; however Town Meeting would make such a decision. That group was encouraged to get something on the town meeting warrant to get a sense of the wishes of the town. Dr. Wedmore said the Board of Health finds legitimate concern if there isn't an option for residents that want fluoride in their water. The Board of Health would like the Commissioners to devise a plan to have a water filling station before the

fluoridation occurs so those residents that do not want fluoride can get their water at the transfer station.

Chris Martin, from the water plant, said the fluoride is injected just before the water leaves the plant; there is a large check valve. The water flows on an intermittent basis, not 24 hours/day, perhaps 11 or 12 hours/day. Stores are not open 24 hrs/day, we could have a storage tank that residents could access 24 hrs/day. It was recommended waiting until town meeting to see what the townspeople want to do before doing anything. S. Wedmore said the plans ought to be in place for an alternative. C. Martin said if the town votes not to have fluoride, then we don't need to do anything. Commissioner Gardner stated that the fluoridation that occurs naturally cannot be removed. In 1981 most residents wanted fluoridated water. C. Martin said if there are any efforts to leave the fluoride in the water and to supply non-fluoridated water to the residents, the DEP must be involved. Director Parisi said we would need to meter it so we can report the water consumption to the DEP. S. Wedmore said the Board of Health wants choices for the residents. Commissioner Gardner said residents may be under the impression that we would be able to provide water this is fluoride-free, but we can't remove the naturally occurring fluoride because what is added supplements what is already there. Commissioner Gardner said he is in favor of waiting for Town Meeting. The DPW commissioners should be prepared to talk about this request at town meeting. Chris Martin said he will contact the DEP to learn what would be required given S. Wedmore's request. At Town Meeting the Board of Health will present the pros and cons and that if the town votes to continue fluoride then the Board of Health will charge the DPW Commissioners with offering an alternative for residents. Director Parisi said Gloucester is going through the same process now. Commissioner Gardner said it sounds like the Board of Health is going to order the DPW to provide an alternate source so residents have a choice regardless of town meeting vote. He said the alternate tap would be either with fluoride or without fluoride. It was recommended that we contact other towns, like Amesbury, because they went through this already. Joann Souza said wouldn't it be reasonable to provide non-fluoridated water and let folks go to their doctors to get something else. Z. Seppala, Granite Street, said there is a possibility that people can absorb more fluoride through the skin than via drinking water.

Millpond Eel Ladder Operations & Maintenance Plan: J. Parisi had e-mailed the commissioners on what's been done recently. This is late in the season for the eel ladder for migration. What is required is to ensure that water levels are sufficient so they can get up there between 3/15 and 7/31 every year. Commissioner Gardner said he thinks this is a perfect project for a volunteer group to handle. Chairman Sena asked if someone else at the DPW can be trained to free up W. Aspesi's time. The migration may be so little that there is no need to track this.

8:20 pm

Ongoing Business

South End Water Tower Access Road Easement: L. Whalen met with J. Parisi so she could provide a letter to the DPW for what she is willing to do (paving remaining portion of road, plowing requirements, relocation of the gate.) The gate should be moved up to the upside of their driveway. She is getting pricing and verifying her ability to commit to

this. Commissioner Gardner said Kristen Whalen is going to have to change her agreement to be the same as Leslie Whalen's agreement (identical agreements with the town). It was stated that L. Whalen's commitment is a one-time commitment. This will be back on a subsequent meeting agenda before town meeting.

New Highway Position Justification: W. Aspesi has a relatively small crew given the size of the task. Director Parisi said with the new service request system it would be great to have someone to be able to focus on service requests. Chairman Sena said we all agree that another position is necessary, but we need the justification for it. He said we need list of tasks and assigned hours before we go to the Board of Selectmen. For instance the Mackey house consumed approximately 385 hours, 7 days for 8 staff members, he estimates at least 600 hours each year for these kinds of extra activities. Commissioner Gardner spoke about productivity issues again. Commissioner Reed recommended an Executive Session is necessary to discuss some specific personnel issues around productivity. Other town groups will sometimes provide materials for projects and the DPW provides the labor. To get approval for an additional DPW staff member a town meeting vote would be necessary for appropriation, next spring would probably be the soonest this could happen.

DPW Goals & Objectives Review:

- By 8/27/14 all annual performance evaluations are due in Town Hall. No bonus will be considered for any manager if their evaluations aren't submitted in a timely manner.
- Project Management Software is complete,
- Asset Management Software, the majority is done,
- Bedrock Well power is underway,
- DPW staff time management is done,
- Workforce Assessment is done - still discussing,
- Sewer Regulations are in process.
- Town Construction standards are still in process,
- Pavement Management Program assessment is complete, the software program can give us the needed information to go to the Capital Committee,
- Cemetery fees are complete.

On the construction standards, Chairman Sena said J. Parisi, T. Olson, W. Aspesi and D. Greel should get together and let the Commissioners know what the overarching concerns are in town. Use Massachusetts State construction standards and direct that anything outside the standards must go to the Director. Commissioner Gardner said the dilemma for setting objectives for the DPW is it's hard to know what the priorities are and how long each initiative will take. T. Olson said they could keep the Commissioners aware of the status of the various capital projects along the way. Bill Wagner questioned if it is reasonable for the CPC to assume that the DPW will be responsible. If they're town owned properties, that makes sense. Director Parisi will develop a list of the DPW staff's recommended goals/objectives.

Town Meeting Articles:

- Easement agreement,

- Articles on Long Beach; the Action Plan should be under \$10,000, the second one for \$1M plus is for the permitting process. JP said the second article can wait for STM.
- Commissioner Gardner questioned if L. Whalen's article needs to be on the fall town meeting or should it be moved to the spring.

8:45 pm Ongoing Capital Projects: Bedrock Well, tennis courts, pump station, and Penryn Way. Residents are asking for the traffic and parking to be controlled on Evans Way, which is a private way, because the town's ballpark is on the road. It was questioned if there should be parking there at all. Evans's field has poor access and poor parking; we should revisit the MBTA plan. The town sharing the cost of road repairs with the residents was discussed. How about having the residents of the road hire someone and tell them the town will pay for a portion. Director Parisi will investigate what the by-laws say the town should do about private roads.

8:55 pm Other Issues of Discussion

Next Meeting: Wed., 8/20/14, 7pm at the Police Station

9:20 pm Commissioner Reed moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, Vote: 3-0.

Tickler List:

Energy Efficiency

Sewer Use Regulations

Transfer Station Redesign

DPW facility

Status of Objectives

Beautification Committee – Back Beach

Water & Sewer Rates – need information on long term debt and indirect expense detail

Sediment Transport Study

Water Fluoridation