

DPW Commission Meeting
Wednesday, May 27, 2015
7:00 p.m. – Police Station Community Room

7:00 PM **Approval Items:**

Board of Commissioners Minutes Approval: Commissioner Gardner moved to accept the minutes of the 3/4, 3/18 and 4/15/15 meetings; seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote 2-0; Chairman Sena not present at those meetings.

Chairman Sena moved to accept the 3/24/15 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Gardner, Vote: 2-0; Commissioner Reed not present on 3/24/15.

Commissioner Reed moved to accept the 5/6/15, seconded by Commissioner Sena, Vote: 2-0; Commissioner Gardner not present on 5/6/15.

7:05 PM **Open Session:**

Open for Public Discussion with the Commissioners: T. Arsenian discussed the MBTA plans; he said that at the Board of Selectmen meeting he was told to direct his questions to the Asst. Town Administrator. He said he did, and has not received answers. He said he was told by the Asst. Town Administrator told him it is the responsibility of the DPW Commissioners. He stated he wants information on easements and the consent order. Commissioner Gardner said there's nothing in the consent order about decibel levels; it dictates that the trains are required to be connected to individual power stations. The MBTA is being charged every day that the trains are not hooked up to individual power stations.

7:10 PM **New Business:**

Sewer & Water Rate Public Hearing: The hearing opened at 7:10. Commissioner Gardner said the water rates are decreasing and the sewer rates are staying the same.

Open Discussion: T. Arsenian said he wanted to be sure all of the town departments are paying for their water. He questioned if the Millbrook renovation moves forward; who will pay for the water. Director Parisi confirmed that town departments are paying for their water. T. Arsenian questioned the South End Water Tower; he believes that the DPW should receive 100% of the revenue. T. Arsenian said the town paid a lot of money for the water needs assessment and the DPW endorsed it. He recommends it should be put on the DPW meeting agenda quarterly to see what's been accomplished.

Director Parisi said the water department has a list of projects that they're working on based on the age of the pipes. Chairman Sena said some of the pipes can be left for 80 years and some won't last that long.

Commissioner Reed said rusty water shows up in the winter and in houses where the houses are summer homes, probably based on the quality of the pipe and the fact that the water is not moving.

Close public hearing: Commissioner Gardner moved to close the hearing, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.

Chairman Gardner moved to accept the water rate of \$10.23 and the sewer rate of 14.74, Commissioner Reed seconded, Vote: 3-0.

Granite Pier Committee Proposal for Granite Pier Steps: John Thompson, Rolyn Hoffman and Mike Tupper presenting. J. Thompson said this is a safety issue; many people have to slide down on their rear ends. There are two lanes on the ramp for putting boats in the water. It would be good to have a legitimate way to get down. The Earthworks proposal was the most expensive, with five granite steps. Mike Tupper agreed that it's a safety issue. Commissioner Gardner said he was out there yesterday; he said it makes a lot of sense and he supports this proposal to the CPC. The Amero proposal was the least expensive proposal received. Commissioner Reed questioned if this needed to go out to bid with prevailing wages, etc. T. Olson said yes, and a structural engineer should be involved as well. Director Parisi questioned how we know if granite is the best choice for this application. Commissioner Reed said the price on this is likely to increase when it goes out to bid; costs have come in between \$100,000 and \$120,000. This has already been presented to the CPC; it was recommended this proposal come to the DPW for a commitment. Chairman Sena said an architectural or structural engineer would be needed; they'll draw up some plans, then the bid process at prevailing wages. Director Parisi recommended that this year the request be for design costs only and wait on the costs for the construction for Year 2. Commissioner Reed agreed that the best plan is to get the design phase done. J. Thompson said on the application it asks if we have requested funds within the last five years. Chairman Sena said that has no bearing on whether you'd get the funding or not.

T. Arsenian questions a recreational or historic preservation project to the CPC. He said if this proposal includes a cement structure; that's an insult to the area.

Paving Plan for 2015: T. Olson said the cost for Frank Street is about \$70,000. It will be partially funded by the Winter Rapid Recovery Fund; the funds need be expended by 6/30/15. T. Olson said the new Chapter 90 funds won't be available until after 7/1/15. T. Olson says it's out to bid now, Gott Street needs finishing work, School and Mt. Pleasant, Marshall Street between Pleasant and High Street reconstruction, McLean is a new curb, he said he put in design funds for intersection of High Street, Parker, and Marshall now that the tree is down. Railroad Avenue includes milling and overlay from Five Corners to Beach Street. The Wallace Road water line was done last year, this year the plan is to put overlay down where the water line was. On South Street, two areas will have a temporarily skim coat now due to safety, milling and overlaying from Dean to Caleb's Lane (500') is planned. T. Olson said \$34,000 is included for police details and contingencies. He said by putting a package together, this will interest more contractors. Chairman Sena questioned the plans for the culvert on Marshall. Commissioner Reed said he is in favor of taking care of the intersection, Chairman Sena said he is in favor of the culvert because it's structural.

8:00 PM Ongoing Business:

Plowing Private Roads: Commissioner Gardner said he printed documents regarding the criteria that has been referred to and the criteria are not all the same. He said there is no good definition of what a private road is. It's the 300' minimum length, three or more homes (structures); it needs to be open and used by the general public. He said there needs to be a place to put the snow if the town is going to be plowing it. The State Supreme Court says open to the public means, they can and would drive on it and it is of use to the general public. A dead end road or a subdivision road it not considered to be open to the public. E. Battistelli said the town vote allowed us to be legal. Chairman Sena questioned how the Board of Selectmen wants to proceed. E. Battistelli said S. Wilkinson has taken the lead on this. She questioned what would it would take to make some private roads public – and questioned if this benefits the town. Commissioner Gardner said it's an expensive proposition to do a road layout. Director Parisi said it requires an engineer/surveyor and the registry of deeds is involved. E. Battistelli said we need to make decisions with ample time before next year's snow. There will be some disappointed residents that have been plowed in the past, but aren't doing to be. Commissioner Reed said there are some roads that we just can't do, if we have to bring the snow past the layout and put it in someone's yard, though we may have been plowing them for years. Chairman Sena said by 9/1/15 we should be ready to make an announcement. Taking on the plowing

of some private roads and invoicing those residents was discussed. It was stated that all the residents of a private road would need to cooperate and collect the funds. Director Parisi said we need to talk about the conditions of some of these roads.

T. Arsenian said you'd need to incorporate these criteria, and there can be no exceptions. It's an enormous expense to take private roads to public roads. You would need legal authorization.

Commissioner Gardner said it would only happen if the residents of the road want to do it.

Bill Wagner said if the announcement isn't made until 9/1/15, it's too late for the larger roads to get a plan together. He said the original statute says towns may appropriate money for plowing private roads; however there should be a separate appropriation with it broken out so it can be presented to the town.

Green Communities: Commissioner Reed recommends a sub-committee be organized. He the Planning Board discussed Green Communities at their last meeting. Selectpersons Murphy and Wilkinson have volunteered to participate on a committee; the schools need to be involved. A "billboard" Facebook type of communication was recommended to get the word out about this while the town's website is still under development. It was recommended that perhaps something on Good Morning Gloucester and Rockport Ramblings might be helpful. Commissioner Reed said he will discuss this during his reappointment at next Tuesday's Board of Selectmen meeting. Commissioner Reed spoke about the criteria. He said we need a builder/contractor to participate on this as well. E. Battistelli said we should be mindful if this committee, when formed, would need to hold public meetings, maintain minutes, etc. Director Parisi said there are some key town residents that should be on the sub-committee, some members of town committees, etc. Commissioner Reed said it may be difficult to get to the 20%; we don't have an industrial zone.

Schedule Date for Sediment Transport Study Presentation: Applied Coastal's best dates are 6/8 or 6/10, Mon. or Wed at 6pm. We will reserve the Peggy Brenner Friend's Room at the library for the presentation. T. Arsenian recommends having someone from Coastal Zone Management present.

MBTA: Commissioner Gardner said the MBTA wants to put in electric towers to each locomotive; they are under a consent decree to do that. The plan requires them to get easements from the town for all the conduits to place those electric towers so the trains can charge overnight. They will need easements from the town. The DPW has a problem with the drainage from Evan's Field; we'd like to increase the diameter of the pipe so we need an easement to go over their property to do that. G. Leblanc and J. Parisi met with Nitsch Engineering to discuss the project a few weeks ago. We want to do some drainage work, as well as the other catch basin, bring that out to Railroad; presently it goes under the tracks. They know what we're trying to do. We are not sure if what we need is going to be taken care of. It sounds like they are going to do only what they need to do. E. Battistelli inquired if our proposal would cost the MBTA any additional funds. T. Olson said it could cost them additional monies.

9:20 PM Ongoing Capital Projects

Bearskin Neck Seawall: complete

Front Beach Seawall: some masonry and railing work is underway

Pigeon Cove Seawall: FEMA final project worksheet, we have Chapter 91 and are fully permitted; we will need to put it out to bid. T. Olson questioned rebuilding; we are hoping for 75% reimbursement. Work can't be done from March to June, there was discussion on whether the funds should be spent even though the lawsuit continues.

8:25 PM **Other Issues of Discussion**

Tickler List:

Cell tower lease funds
Green Communities/Energy efficiency
Sewer use regulations
Transfer Station Redesign
DPW Facility
Paving Plan

Next Meeting: Sediment Transport 6/8/15 at library at 6pm, 6/24/15 at the Police Station at 7pm.

9:30 PM: Commissioner Gardner moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.