

DPW Commission Meeting  
Wednesday, May 28, 2014, 7pm  
Community Room, Rockport Police Station

7:00 Approval Items

Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes: Commissioner Sena moved to accept the minutes of the April 30, 2014 meeting as drafted, seconded by Commissioner Reed, Vote: 3-0.

Approval of Sale of Cemetery Lots - none

Open Discussion: Larry Hale was in attendance and said the plowing of private roads is still an issue. He said he was told it would change and it hasn't and he said the Board of Selectmen said you're not supposed to be on private property.

Harbor Advisory Committee: Chairman Skip Montello and Phil Crotty presenting. They are here to ask for support on the extension of Granite Pier. They have submitted an application to the CPC for \$5,500 to update the 50 year old Army Corp. of Engineers study. He said the Harbormasters are enthusiastic about it; Bruce Tarr had been contacted. They received three engineering proposals to update the 1965 study; the costs range from \$4,900 to \$5,500. There are 420 individuals waiting on the mooring list. On 4/15/14 S. Montello made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen had said it was alright to proceed to the CPC committee. On 4/25/14 they met with J. Parisi, because this proposal won't go anywhere unless the DPW is in support of it. Director Parisi told them that the Commissioners needed to see the proposal. The ACOE has funding through Section 107 Small Harbors Development funding. The cost in 1964 was projected to be \$465,000, so it would probably be about \$4.6M now. They will do a free appraisal, then it comes back to the town and the ACOE. If there is interest, we move forward with the engineering study; the ACOE would pay \$100,000, the town and the ACOE would split any costs greater than the \$100,000. Construction could take five years, the ACOE pays for the first \$7M completely. If it's more than \$7M, it's an 80%/20% split, with the town paying 20%. They said they would need a letter from the Board of Selectmen first; on 5/21/14 they presented to the Harbor Advisory Committee, the vote was 7-0 to support the request to the Board of Selectmen. On 6/10/14 the CPC will vote on the \$5,000 to engage an engineering consultant to update the 1965 report. Then, if approved, it will go to the Fall Town Meeting. There are two tracks, state and federal. The State is CPC, \$5,000, the federal is the ACOE. They are here seeking support from the DPW Commissioners on both tracks.

S. Montello said that DPW involvement would be minimal if the Army Corp. of Engineers is involved. He said one group, the Granite Pier Committee, is not in favor of this due to an increase in automobiles and traffic. S. Montello said the town could gain perhaps 300 additional moorings and it would be more protected.

Chairman Gardner said if we went the state track, then the Army Corp. of Engineers pays \$7M, if

the ACOE says no, he inquired if there is alternate funding available. S. Montello said one of the charges of the \$5,000 study is to determine what funding would be available.

Commissioner Reed said it makes sense to try to find out about this; he is in favor of it.

Commissioner Sena said he is in favor of this personally, the \$5,000 will tell us either move forward or drop it; but it should be explored.

S. Montello said with the support from the DPW Commissioners, they can move forward to the Board of Selectmen.

Chairman Gardner said he is in favor of this as well.

Commissioner Reed moved that the Commissioners support the application to the CPC for \$5,000 to fund the feasibility study for the extension of Granite Pier between Granite Pier and Gull Island, in support of the Harbor Advisory Committee Project and to send a letter of support to the Board of Selectmen to initiate the Army Corp. of Engineers recon. appraisal, seconded by Commissioner Sena, Vote: 3-0.

#### 7:15: New Business

Sewer Connection Request for 29 Landmark Lane: Jeff Amero was presenting; he said the site failed Title V, there is a property transfer and the seller is going to have to fix the problem. They either can re-do the septic or put the sewer in. The Purchase and Sale will be executed over the next couple of days. J. Parisi said this is a private sewer extension project, if the grade is such that a grinder pump is necessary, we could go grinder pump all the way as well. The cost will be picked up privately. It's really the only property there that's not already on the sewer. Commissioner Sena said if they go grinder pump, after five years there is no responsibility for the town. The system failed in April of this year; they have two years to correct it. August 29 is the tentative closing date.

Motion approving extension/connection pending engineering:

Commissioner Reed moved to approve the sewer extension/connection for 29 Landmark Lane, pending engineering plans that are acceptable to the Rockport Department of Public Works, seconded by Commissioner Sena, Vote: 3-0.

Evans Way & Evans Field Entrance Improvements: Director Parisi said this is located at the backside of Ace Hardware. There are resident concerns about all the activities that occur at the field during baseball season and at night. There are cars parking anywhere they can for easy access to the field. There have been some issues of littering and noise. After the Traffic Committee meeting, some brush has been pushed back and the area has been cleaned up, they exposed a hydrant and put some "no parking" signs on the sloped hill. Evans Way was repaved so the asphalt is in good condition. There is a section of paved area, on town land, that could be used for organized parking. Evan's Way doesn't meet the criteria for plowing except that the town needs to access to it.

Beth Sullivan, 4 Summit Ave., said she met with J. Parisi along with other concerned residents. She said the parking is their major concern. There is designated parking for the fields but some people park incorrectly. She said there are over one dozen kids under the age of 8 in that area, and there is a blind curve. She said they just don't need the traffic. She said they oppose this.

Kathy McConnell, Evan's Way, said her mom just moved in with a wheelchair and she is concerned about additional traffic.

Chairman Gardner said this is happening because the town doesn't have decent parking for Evan's Field. The access and parking for the field is dismal. We need a much better plan for access from the train station. Director Parisi said the Parking Committee approved this. It was determined that parking would only be allowed on one side of the road. He said we wanted to put some structure to this area and handicap parking was very important.

Beth Sullivan said they were told was there going to be a requirement for H/C parking spots. They are fearful that if designated parking is put in, now they're all going to jockey for the six spots. The police aren't doing anything to enforce the parking. It's a little dirt road with a little bit of black top. There's a blind curve on Summit, there are a lot of children there and residents with wheelchairs. Evan's Way has been patched; it's dirt and gravel, with potholes. A fire destroyed foliage along the way. It could become overflow beach parking. She said this started at the Parking Committee; the Police Chief was there.

J. Parisi said this came here because public parking is under the control of the DPW Commissioners. He questioned if we want to utilize this area for parking for the field or not.

Commissioner Reed said he is familiar with this area. He said it didn't used to be dead-end, and it never got used. Parking used to be at the lumber yard; there was no hardware store. He said it is tight down there, and questioned if there is a way to make a turnaround at the field end. Director Parisi said he'll need to take a look at it.

Chairman Gardner said this is worth taking a look at this; he is not familiar with it. He suggested this be tabled so we have a chance to look at it.

### Workforce Assessment

J. Parisi distributed a listing of all DPW employees, including any applicable licenses. It is detailed with different "divisions", as well as driver's license categories, hydraulic, blasting, water distribution, water filtration, wastewater treatment, plumbing, etc.

Chairman Gardner questioned if there is a succession plan if something were to happen to a key staff member. He asked if there are in-house staff members that could be trained or would we need to go outside. J. Parisi said it is difficult to find experienced candidates for these kinds of positions; we end up recruiting from other communities. We need to be sure we're competitive in the marketplace.

Chairman Gardner said we need to put together a plan if a foreman leaves so we won't be stuck. He said we should be doing more grooming.

Director Parisi said when we have an opening; the job descriptions are fairly loose. We need more specifics around exactly what our needs are at the moment. We have to post open positions for ten days and look at in-house applicants; they can also be posted externally. He said we are not required to take an in-house applicant if they're not the best candidate.

Commissioner Reed questioned how the license process works. Director Parisi said they are part of the job requirements, prior to hiring an individual. He said we certainly promote that employees get the license maybe within six months from date of hire.

Director Parisi said the highway division could use a skilled staff member.

8:15 Ongoing Business

Long Beach Transport Study: Chairman Gardner said we asked for questions and comments based on the initial Applied Coastal presentation so we could provide some feedback to them. We asked them to create more of a narrative so it's more digestible and might explain what is happening to the beach and why. Also a projection of what the beach might look like if we do nothing 50 years down the road with different options for preserving the homes and the beach. He said Applied Coastal will come back with a draft and we can have another opportunity to refine the draft before it goes out. He said the Town Administrator had asked the DPW to come up with a plan for FTM for how we would spend a relatively small amount for footings, revetment, and patching the existing wall. Chairman Gardner said beach nourishment would do more to stabilize the wall than anything on the wall. He said we could probably get footings, revetment and patching for about \$2M. Director Parisi said the Town Administrator asked for various options rather than the \$14M previously suggested. Chairman Gardner said we're in the midst of having one study completed. Commissioner Sena said the 1931 wall has outlived its lifecycle. The wall is moving, it has no footing, dumping any money on that wall, is not beneficial, but beach nourishment may buy us some time. He said the revetment won't be \$2M, it will be more and beach nourishment is 5 years out. Commissioner Reed said we are doing something already; we may have something to look at by the end of the summer. Commissioner Sena said the 1958 wall isn't the issue. Perhaps a tie-back system on the 1931 wall would be beneficial; that will be less than \$2M. Director Parisi said the drainage issue could be resolved with this as well. There may be 1,000' or 1,600' that needs work, perhaps we don't have to do the whole wall. Commissioner Sena said we need a structural engineer; permitting should be minimal. Commissioner Sena said he will schedule a meeting with the Town Administrator to determine what is needed for Fall Town Meeting.

Ward Talbot, 26 County Road, asked if there is a possibility of relieving hydraulic pressure on the backside of the 1931 wall. Commissioner Sena said that would need to be addressed.

Director Parisi said if beach nourishment is five years out, it's probably in Phase II.

Open projects: We have funding for Marmion Way, Penzance Road and the Bearskin Neck turnaround.

Pigeon Cove, Back Beach, Granite Pier Seawall Repair:

Tim Olson said Pigeon Cove is the larger project, it's underway with specifications, mitigation, with everything the town has voted for, so April of 2015 at best for permitting to be complete; construction probably will be in June of 2015. Permitting can be up to a one year process. FEMA requires that projects be completed within 18 months from declaration or extensions need to be requested. After the first extension FEMA is looking for forward progress. We still don't have FEMA's final worksheets. We're waiting for final information on the projects. Still waiting for Millpond Dam to close out, there is still a backlog around declaration disasters.

At Spring Town Meeting funds were appropriated for Marmion Way and Penzance Road; a decision needs to be made if we move forward.

Transfer Station Regulations Review – postponed.

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

Next Meetings:

06/18/14 Energy Efficiency Workshop  
07/09/14 DPW Commissioner Meeting

Tickler List:

Energy Efficiency  
Community House Facilities Manager  
Sewer Use Regulations  
Transfer Station Redesign  
DPW facility  
Status of Objectives  
Beautification Committee – Back Beach  
Water & Sewer Rates  
Sediment Transport Study