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May 29, 2018

Public Works Committee Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Public Works Committee was held on Tuesday, May 29, 2018, at DPW Headquarters, 301 Broad Street, at 5:00 PM.

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

Committee Members Absent: (none)

Others Present: DPW Commissioner Lenny Laakso
DPW Superintendent Gary Withington

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: Solicitor Pusateri stated via telephone that he is undertaking a title search, so no action should be taken at this time on the petition. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 048-18: Councillors Elizabeth Walsh and Marcus DiNatale along with resident Mary Fritz to erect jersey barriers at the corner of 400 Rollstone Road (intersection of Rollstone Road and Brittany Lane), to mitigate frequent motor vehicle accidents occurring on residents property.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington has not yet been able to schedule a meeting with the property owner on site. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 104-18: Councillor Michael Kushmerek to install a berm, between Lyman St. and Caswell., for he property located at 131 Longwood Ave. and repair the existing berm on the Lyman St.

Discussion: Councillor Squailia showed a photo of the lawn where it has washed out. Superintendent Withington said that the work needs to be done, with estimated cost of \$1,700. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition and requested that Councillor Kushmerek ask the property owner to install snow stakes to minimize chance of future berm damage by plows.

Petition 113-18: Councillor Michael Kushmerek to repair or replace a plow damaged berm located at 64 Ryefield Road.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the berm was damaged by a plow and DPW should repair it. Approximate cost is \$700. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition and requested that Councillor Kushmerek ask the property owner to install snow stakes to minimize chance of future berm damage by plows.

Petition 114-18: Councillor Michael Kushmerek to repair or replace a plow damaged berm located at 326 Blossom Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the berm was damaged by a plow and DPW should repair it. Approximate cost is \$100. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition and requested that Councillor Kushmerek ask the property owner to install snow stakes to minimize chance of future berm damage by plows.

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

Discussion: Councillor Beauchemin wants to limit pole heights because 75' poles were proposed last year, while 60' poles are being erected this year to serve One Oak Hill Road. This is unsightly. Commissioner Laakso suggested that we obtain an opinion from the City Solicitor on whether the City can impose restrictions on utilities that are already regulated by Department of Public Utilities. The Committee voted, 5-0, to HOLD the petition.

Petition 133-18: Councillor Amy Green on behalf of Shawn Keating, to find remedy to mitigate damage happening at a property located at 23 Munroe St. Damage from snow plows is destroying both the fence & stone wall at this location. Letter from Mr. Keating is enclosed.

Discussion: Commissioner Laakso noted that the property owner has requested repairs to fence and wall for several years. Superintendent Withington agreed that the wall and fence should be repaired, and it is very likely that the damage was caused by snow plows. Estimated cost is \$5,000. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 134-18: Councillor Amy Green, on behalf of Jerry & RoseAnn Baldini, to remove dangerous/problematic trees located at 51 Rainville Ave.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington has looked at the trees and agrees that they are hazardous and should be removed. Estimated cost is \$1,200. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 135-18: ~~Councillor Elizabeth Walsh, to fill small pothole in road in front of 20 Proctor Ave. and install a berm in front of 20 Proctor Ave.~~ AMENDED TO: Councillor Elizabeth Walsh, to fill small pothole in road in front of 20 Proctor Ave. and install a 5 ft berm and repair the driveway apron in front of 20 Proctor Ave.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington visited the site with the property owner. He proposed and she agreed that the City should install a 5 foot long berm and repair the driveway apron at 20 Proctor Ave. The Committee voted, 4-0, to GRANT the petition AS AMENDED. (Beauchemin recused himself)

Petition 136-18: Councillor Amy Green to request a solution for water damage happening at 96 Lancaster Street. (On behalf of Sam Erhagbar, 96 Lancaster Street.)

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that a berm is needed at a cost of about \$600. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition.

Petition 137-18: Councillor Amy Green on behalf of Carol Russell, 2 Forest Park, to request a berm to be installed at 2 Forest Park to eliminate property damage being caused by snow removal and water.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington agreed that the requested work is needed and would cost about \$1,100. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition and requested that Councillor Green ask the property owner to install snow stakes to minimize chance of future berm damage by plows.

Petition 162-18: Councillors DiNatale and Kaddy, on behalf of Donna Goodchild to repair a berm at 109 Vine Street.

Discussion: Superintendent Withington stated that the repairs are necessary and would cost about \$400. The Committee voted, 5-0, to GRANT the petition and requested that Councillor Kaddy ask the property owner to install snow stakes to minimize chance of future berm damage by plows.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 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