

Department of Public Works
Advisory Board Meeting
March 25, 2005

Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Friday, March 25, 2005 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett, Jim Pyne and Dan McIntyre, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty and Highway Manager Mike Mansir. Also present were, Mark Abrahams from the Abrahams Group, Selectmen Executive Secretary Ted Kozak and Town Accountant Heidi Kriger and Citizen Mary Pratt.

West Main Abatement request

Mr. Carty noted that a letter was sent to the Chairman of the Board of Selectman in regards to the sewer betterment placed on the property at 86 West Main Street as part of the phase VI sewer project. The residents stated that they did not request a stub and they do not plan on using town sewer in the future and therefore would like an abatement. Mr. Carty explained the Department of Revenue states that the only grounds for abatement would be if the assessment was more than the enhanced value of the property attributable to the improvement or if it reflects a disproportionate cost of the project compared to other benefited properties. The DOR also clearly states that if the value of the property is enhanced, it does not matter if the owners did not request or may not use the improvement.

Dan McIntyre made a motion that the board recommend that the Selectman not grant the abatement based on the DOR rules. Jim Pyne seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous.

SRF Funding

Mr. Carty notified the board that the town recently received approval of SRF funding for the new well on Fruit Street and Sewer beds for the treatment plant. A town meeting voted authorizing the town to borrow the money, must be in place by October of 2005 to utilize the funding. The funding for the well was not expected, because of the project type and therefore it had been removed from the original warrant and was slated for next year's town meeting. However due to the potential savings with the 1-2% SRF funding an article for the 2005 Special town meeting within the annual was submitted for the well. The funding for the sewer beds can be applied for in subsequent years and is most likely to be approved. Currently the plan is to use funding from the Phase VI sewer project to fund the initial costs for the first module.

Budget Meeting

Mr. Gaucher notified the board that the DPW met with Appropriations and went over the budgets for FY 06. The committee had questions on certain aspects of the budget but seemed to be in agreement with the overall requests. Mr. Carty noted that they would like to see the water and sewer rate plans. A meeting is going to be set up prior to the rate hearing to update town officials.

Caliper

Mr. Carty told the board that he and JT met with officials from Caliper, the owners of the buildings and design engineers to look at what is needed for them to connect to the sewer system. Although Caliper is looking to expand the building, it is for manufacturing space and would not generate any additional flows to the system. The piping is being sized to accommodate future building connections in the park.

Pavement Management

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that he and Mr. Mansir recently met with FST to look at the plan and a review shows that preventative maintenance has worked well and lowered costs to that portion of the program. It looks like monies can be re-allocated to the base rehab of roads in poor condition and start to reduce the backlog of roads that fall into that category. They will be getting ready to set the roads to be done and prepare a contract for the upcoming year.

Rates

Mr. Abrahams told the board that the analysis was updated to better reflect use based on all the current users. For water he presented several options. Option #1 was for an average 14.9% increase that would still produce a \$65,000 dollar shortfall. Option #2 would be an approximate 26% percent increase and would generate a \$39,000 surplus. Option #3 would be a 30% increase with a \$74,000 Surplus.

The Board asked that he look at a rate structure adjusted without the surplus and to look at a scenario that increases the minimum. He will work on that and try to have it ready next week.

The Sewer analysis was reviewed and everyone agreed that option #1 looked to be the best scenario with an 18% increase to the tier 1 users and a 43% increase to the tier 2 (higher use) users.

Loader

Mr. Mansir told the board that they received a price of \$20,000 to repair the loader. This includes a transmission and other parts to prolong the life another 5 years and push it back on the vehicle replacement schedule. The board agreed this was a good idea.

Articles

Mr. Gaucher told the board there are three articles submitted for the special town meeting and they are as follows:

- New well Fruit St. to take advantage of the SRF funding
- \$1141.20 dollars for a previous fiscal year bill
- Transfer \$37,000 from the solid waste line to the Highway budget

Union

Mr. Gaucher told the board that he and Ted are going to meet with the union in regards to diesel fumes at the current DPW garage.

FEMA Reimbursement

Mr. Gaucher told the board that after talking with people at FEMA, we will be able to add additional hours of time to the calculations for the blizzard reimbursements.

Minutes

Jim Pyne made a motion to approve the minutes of February 8th 2005, Mr. Sonnett 2d , Sonnett and Pyne vote yes, McIntyre abstained (not at meeting)

Dan McIntyre made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4th 2005 meeting, Mr. Sonnett 2d, Sonnett and McIntyre votes yes, Pyne abstained (not at meeting)

Next meeting will be April 12th 2005

Meeting adjourned 9:50am

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Carty