

Department of Public Works
Advisory Board Meeting
May 17, 2005

Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the town hall on Tuesday May 17, 2005 at 7:30 AM. Present were Advisory Board Members Eric Sonnett, Jim Pyne and Dan McIntyre, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Highway Manager Mike Mansir and Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty. Also present were, Selectmen Executive Secretary Ted Kozak, town resident Mary Pratt and Matt Mullally from Earth Tech.

SOUTH STREET TREES

Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the row of pine trees along the property line at #71 South Street (Equipment & Systems for Industry) were damaged by the road construction and in the opinion of the Hopkinton Tree Warden will be dead within a few years and be an expense for the town to replace. Mr. Gaucher said that there is money left from the road improvement project to replace the trees and spare the town from the expense in the future. Mr. Mullally presented proposals for replacing the current pine trees. One option would be to plant Arborvitae's and shrubs that would be resistant to road salt and require minimum maintenance. Another option would be to plant trees (other than pine) and shrubs. The first option is expected to cost about \$10,000.00 and the second expected to cost about \$16,500.00. After discussing the matter the board voted to recommend to the board of Selectmen that the town should proceed with the option of Arborvitae's and

Shrubs at a cost of about \$10,000.00. The motion was made by Mr. McIntyre and Seconded by Mr. Pyne and the vote to approve was unanimous.

Mr. Mullally left the meeting at 7:55 AM.

AMATO FARMS

Mr. Carty advised the board that after the last meeting he spoke with the Upton Water Department regarding the sale of water to Upton for the housing project being proposed for the Amato Farm property. He said the matter had to be reviewed by the Upton Water Board. He said Mr. Leonard (the developer) met with the Water Board and they had no problem with the idea. Mr. Carty said he also checked with several other towns that provide water to other towns and found that all have inter-municipal agreements in place with the stipulation that if a preset limit is reached the water can be terminated. Mr. Carty said other factors to be considered are the possibility of inter-basin transfer approvals and the pending withdrawal permit from the state for new well H2. Because the town is requesting a permit for H2 the DEP is reviewing the entire water withdrawal permit for the town and new requirements could be implemented. Mr. Carty urged caution in approving the sale of water to another town before the permit process is complete for H2 and we know all the requirements and restrictions of the new withdrawal permit. No decision or recommendations were reached and the issue will be addressed again at a future meeting after the permit has been granted.

WEST MAIN STREET SEWER REQUEST

Mr. Carty said the resident at #241 West Main Street has requested a low pressure connection to the sewer line on Oakhurst Road. The property owner has verbal permission for an easement from the neighbor to cross their property. The reason for the request is the failure of the current system and a conventional title 5 system could not be installed due to the small lot size, high ground water, and ledge. Installation of a title 5 system would require variances from the state, which the Board of Health expects would not be granted. The board of Health supports the request to tie into the municipal system. The sewer connection rules, general regulation 2, subsection 3, "The Board may allow connections for those properties not abutting a common sewer that are deemed necessary for public health, environmental reasons, or no viable alternatives exist..

A motion was made by Mr. Pyne that the board should recommend to the Board of Selectmen that the property at #241 West Main Street should be allowed to connect to the sewer line on Oakhurst Road using a low pressure pump, the pump to be supplied by the homeowner. The motion was seconded by Mr. McIntyre and the vote was unanimous to approve.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

Mr. Carty told the board that the state requires a consumer confidence report to be distributed to all the water users before July 1st of each year. He said any time contaminants are detected, even if they are not above the state limits, the report has to list them. This year's report will include detections at the West Main Street storage tank and at well #2 on Fruit Street and well #4 on Pond St..

SEWER BETTERMENTS FOR PHASE 6 – MUNICIPAL LIENS

Mr. Carty said a question had come up regarding how prospective buyers of property in phase 6 of the sewer system would know there were sewer betterments outstanding prior to buying the property. He said the matter was discussed with town counsel Faiman, and Mr. Faiman suggested attaching a note to the municipal lien certificate.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Crosswalks – Mr. Gaucher advised the board that the crosswalk warning signs that were on the crosswalk at town hall and in front of the Korean church had been damaged beyond repair and the police have requested new signs. Mr. Mansir said he was able to locate some old signs that have been put up until new signs can be purchased. There was discussion about sidewalk locations on Main Street and Mr. Gaucher said the state standard does not recommend mid-block sidewalks. Mr. Kozak mentioned that he has seen crosswalks in other towns that have flashing lights imbedded in the roadway that activate when someone steps into the crosswalk. The board told Mr. Gaucher to investigate a lighted crosswalk for the crosswalk in front of town hall and the Korean church.

Unexpected Engineering Bills – Mr. Gaucher advised the board that unanticipated engineering expenses related to Fruit Street land and improvements to Colella's storm drain have caused a reduction in road maintenance work that was planned for this year. He suggested that in the future, engineering requirements for other boards and

committees should be funded from other sources in addition to the road maintenance portion of the budget.

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 26, 2005 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Pyne, seconded by Mr. Sonnett and voted by a unanimous vote.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for June 7, 2005 at 7:30 AM in room 211 at the town hall. Representatives from the Zoning Board will be invited to talk about the DPW involvement in the inspection of 40B developments on Wood Street and School Street.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted

Bruce Prentiss