

Town of Hopkinton
Department of Public Works
Public Works Board Meeting
April 9, 2008
Approved

The meeting was held in Room 211 at the Town Hall and was called to order at 7:30 AM. Present were DPW Board members Dan McIntyre, Jim Pyne and Kevin Kohrt, DPW Water/Sewer Manager Eric Carty, DPW Administrative Manager Bruce Prentiss, Highway Manager Mike Mansir, DPW Director J.T. Gaucher, Board of Health Agent Ed Wirtanen and Town Manager Tony Troiano. Also present were town residents Dave Beattie and Mary Pratt, and from the Downtown Revitalization Committee Anne Mattina and Peter LaGoy, and news reporter Jane Winters.

STAGE COACH HEIGHTS DRAINAGE

Mr. Beattie presented the board with photos of the Stage Coach Heights development that show the drainage problems from the development have not been corrected. He stated that maintenance of the catch basins and swales has not been kept up and that during periods of heavy rain water does not flow into some basins. Swales appear to be of insufficient size to accommodate the volume of water dumped into them.

Mr. Pyne said that the road does not appear to have sufficient crown for proper drainage into existing basins. He also suggested that the board should take steps to assure that the building inspector does not issue additional permits where infrastructure work has been found to be deficient until all deficiencies have been corrected to the approval of the Public Works Director or his representative.

Mr. McIntyre asked Mr. Gaucher to contact Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, the engineers who did the infrastructure inspections, and have them prepare a list of all deficiencies so that the developer can be required to fix all issues.

Mr. Gaucher said that he has spoken to the building inspector, and the building department is willing to work with DPW to prevent future problems.

The board decided that a letter should be sent to the Building Inspector formally requesting the assistance of his office to prevent future problems like this. Mr. Gaucher said he would work with Mr. Prentiss to draft a letter for the board to review.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. McIntyre asked Mr. Gaucher and Mr. Troiano for an update as to why the DPW was told yesterday that their FY-09 budget had to be reduced by an additional \$31,574.28.

Mr. Gaucher and Mr. Troiano explained that the 1.19% increase previously discussed with all departments was a town wide percentage and not a percentage that each department could increase their budget request.

Mr. McIntyre stated that in his opinion the DPW Board, being an independent elected board, should be responsible for determining the department budget and not the town manager.

Mr. McIntyre asked Mr. Troiano if the sewer enterprise fund decided to pay back the general fund 1 year early, could the money be put into the DPW budget. Mr. Troiano said probably not, it would have to go into the general fund.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

Mr. LaGoy and Ms Mattina advised the board that the Downtown Revitalization Committee has submitted 2 town meeting articles to appropriate funds for the repair of sidewalks and improve safety of crosswalks in the downtown area. They said one article would provide a sum of \$95,000 for sidewalk repairs, and the other would provide the sum of \$75,000 for crosswalk improvements.

There was discussion about the sidewalk repairs and crosswalk improvements during which Mr. Pyne and Mr. Mansir both stated that there should be a review of the entire Main Street to determine what repairs should be done. They said to wouldn't be a good idea to spend the funds, if appropriated, making repairs and upgrades if it would all have to be re-done in conjunction with other repairs to the road and intersections that may be scheduled in the next few years.

Mr. McIntyre said that he would be willing to support the sidewalk article to do safety related repairs, but not willing to support work that requires long term planning. The other board members agreed. The board also indicated that they would like a study of the crosswalk options before making a decision regarding support of that article.

Motion – Mr. Pyne made a motion that the board should support the town meeting article for sidewalk repairs in the amount of \$95,000 with the provision that all funds are to be spent under the direction of the DPW Director. Mr. McIntyre seconded the motion and it was approved by a unanimous vote.

After the vote on the motion, Mr. Troiano advised everyone that the Board of Selectmen, as their meeting Tuesday night, voted not to place town meeting articles requiring debt

exclusion or capital requests on the ballot, with only a few exceptions. He said that the Downtown Revitalization articles were among those denied.

QUITT PROPERTY

Mr. Troiano advised the board that the town meeting article regarding purchase of the Quitt property on Wood Street was also among those that would not be going on the ballot as a result of the Board of Selectmen's vote. That means that the town can not consider the land purchase this year.

In light of this development, Mr. Pyne said he would notify the realty agent that the town could not complete the purchase this year. Mr. Gaucher said he would notify the consultant to stop any soil testing scheduled for the property. Mr. Gaucher said he would inform Facilities Director, Mr. Main to cancel the second appraisal of the property.

MINUTES

The approval of minutes from past meetings was put off until a future meeting.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday April 16, 2008 at 6:30 PM in the lecture hall at the middle school.

This meeting was adjourned at 8:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Prentiss, DPW Administrative Manager