**PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE**

**Of the**

**WATERTOWN TOWN COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

# Monday, November 22, 2021

A Special Meeting of the Public Works Subcommittee of the Watertown Town Council was conducted on Monday, November 22, 2021, at the Watertown Town Hall in the Town Council Chambers, 61 Echo Lake Road, Watertown, CT.

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

Meeting called to Order at 6:00 P.M. by Subcommittee Chairman Ken Demirs.

1. **Roll Call**

**Present:** Ken Demirs,Robert Desena, Robert Rettalick, Gary Lafferty

**Also Present:** Mark Raimo, Town Manager; Louis Spina, Public Works Director; Paul Bunevich, Town Engineer; Robert Grandpre, Highway Superintendent; Lauren LaPorta, Administrative Assistant

**Absent:** Rachel Ryan

# 3. Minutes

Robert Desena made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 9, 2021, Virtual Regular Meeting as submitted. Gary Lafferty seconded the motion. By voice vote, the motion passed unanimously, Mr. Rettalick and Mr. Lafferty abstaining.

# 4. Public Participation

None

# 5. Correspondence

The following Items under correspondence were discussed:

A.: Mr. Demirs briefly discussed the letters and emails received from Deborah

Smolley of 760 Middlebury Road, to be discussed under Old Business below.

By consensus the correspondence was marked as submitted.

# 6. Old Business

# A. 760 Middlebury Rd. – Deborah A. Smolley

Mr. Spina discussed his observations of two rainfall events at Ms. Smolley’s property, stating that no flooding of her driveway was observed during either event. Mr. Spina reiterated a longstanding offer from the Town to repave Ms. Smolley’s driveway apron at our expense, but stated that we have not received a reply from Ms. Smolley. Mr. Lafferty asked if this situation was related to the Town’s paving of Middlebury Road, which he was told was not the case. Mr. Desena asked if any complaints had been received from Ms. Smolley since the heavy rainfalls of this summer, and was told that the video Ms. Smolley had submitted to the Subcommittee was undated and the time of the event could not be determined. Mr. Spina said that he will contact Ms. Smolley to see if she will consent to the apron replacement discussed above. Mr. Bunevich submitted to the Subcommittee drainage calculations which supported the Town’s position that during the 25 year design storm event the gutter flow in front of Ms. Smolley’s property would not flood her driveway. By consensus the Subcommittee voted to consider the matter closed, but would leave this Item on the Agenda pending further information.

# B. Buckingham Street/Ball Farm Road

Mr. Spina discussed the situation, which has been a longstanding drainage issue. There has been no response as of yet concerning the application to FEMA for funds to rehab the drainage culvert which extends under the Ordinary Joes building. Mr. Rettalick asked how long this drain has been a problem, which the other Subcommittee members confirming as being of many years duration. Mr. Grandpre stated that the main issue with the drain is that there is a blockage in the line under the O.J. building which is not accessible without excavating on private property, which the Town Attorney has ruled against. Mr. Rettalick also asked who was responsible to control the flooding, as it affects both Ball Farm Road, a Town road, and Buckingham Street, a State road. Until funds become available to fix the condition, the Town and State will mitigate the situation as best as they can.

# C. Turkey Brook

Mr. Bunevich discussed the situation with the ongoing flooding of the Brook. The Highway Department has performed some maintenance in Lower Turkey Brook in response to the extreme storms of the past summer. The Town has no easement or maintenance requirement in this section of the Brook; the work was performed as a courtesy to the affected property owners. In the Upper section of the Brook north of the Sunnyside Avenue bridge, the Town has easements throughout the section extending to Sylvan Lake Road, and has performed some brush and material removal since the storms. Mr. Grandpre said the further cleaning and tree/brush removal in this Section is on Highway’s schedule for this late fall and winter.

By voice vote the above Items will be left on the Agenda pending further information.

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# 7. New Business

# A. Capital Project Updates

Mr. Spina discussed a list of Capital Projects and their status.

1. Main Street RSA Audit: This is a LOTCIP project with a 50/50 cost match: the Town’s portion of the cost is estimated at $128,000.00. Mr. Rettalick asked if the funds for the proposed RRFB’s were already committed. Mr. Raimo said that the project is a package deal, where sidewalks, the RRFB’s and other traffic improvements must be done together and not separately. He said that the $256,000.00 is already allocated for the project, of which $12,800.00 was for the project design.

There was considerable discussion concerning placement of temporary traffic control signs until the project is undertaken. Mr. Desena noted that State permits are required, and that during the winter the signs are in danger of removal by plows. Mr. Lafferty asked if the signs could be placed after the winter season is over. The question of who is responsible for placing and storing the signs overnight was not resolved.

Mr. Desena stated that there was discussion in previous public hearings concerning making Depot Street one-way, and the effects on traffic flow from that alternative. Mr. Raimo said that he will check with the State on the placing of speed limit signs in the interim.

1. Woolson Street Bridge Replacement: Mr. Spina discussed the project, which is a LOTCIP project with a 50/50 match of the DOT estimate of $2,035,000.00. Pending final easement acquisitions the project will hopefully go out for bid in the winter with construction in the spring. A contract for inspection is required and will also go out for bid.
2. Steele Brook Greenway: This is an 80/20 match project with the cost estimate at $2,600,000.00. Interviews for an Engineering Consultant were conducted on 11/5/2021 and a firm was selected for review by CONNDOT.
3. Naugatuck River Greenway: Another LOTCIP project of which considerable survey and preliminary design work has been done by our Engineering Department. Approval has been given by the NVCOG and the Grant Application has been submitted by SLR the Town’s consultant on the project. The Town’s engineering and survey efforts can be submitted as part of the costs for the project.
4. Guernseytown Road Reconstruction: A LOTCIP project which is 100 percent design completed. Cost estimate is $3,000,000.00 and will also have to go out for bid for Construction Inspection. A spring 2022 bid time is expected.
5. ADA Sidewalk/Ramp Project: A project 100 percent paid by LOTCIP = $1,600,000.00. NVCOG is reviewing the project and a Spring 2022 date is anticipated for the project to go out for bid.

Mr. Rettallick questioned the effect making Edgewood Avenue one-way is having on traffic flow in the Main Street area, and if the change is permanent. Mr. Raimo said that this is so until a reconstruction of the road is done, the cost of which is estimated at $300,000.00. Mr. Desena added that the Fire Department was consulted about the direction of travel in conjunction with CONNDOT, Main Street being a State road.

# B. Highway Project Updates

# Mr. Grandpre discussed the projects Highway is involved with:

# Pothole and manhole patching as long as the asphalt plants are open (12/10/21).

1. Brush grinding at the transfer station.
2. Backfilling catch basins and aprons that were rebuilt/repaired throughout the year, but were left until the fall.
3. Curbing and sidewalk repairs.
4. Tree and brush clearing in Turkey Brook (previously discussed).
5. Gorham Street drainage – behind roadway so asphalt not required.
6. Detention pond clearing – as required
7. Bassett Road – King’s hill drainage project
8. Catch basin cleaning with the new Vac-All.
9. Plow training with the Department’s new workers.
10. Dog Park – Drainage and fence (by outside contractor) installation
11. Echo Lake Road drainage – additional crushed stone fill has been placed as required while waiting for pipe to be delivered.

Mr. Demirs asked if there is a plow operator shortage. Mr. Grandpre said that

while the Department is short one worker, either he or Tony Montagano will sub

as necessary to fill in during winter storms.

# C. Engineering Project Updates

No additional information beyond items previously discussed.

# D. Solid Waste Updates

Mr. Grandpre updated Subcommittee on the new Hazardous Waste Collection dates for 2022: April 16th, July 16th and July? 24th. The towns where the events will be held is still to be determined.

Extended hours for the Transfer Station were discussed. Mr. Grandpre said that Michael Caisse, the operator at the Station, was amenable to a third day, most likely Wednesday, which works best for his schedule.

Mr. Grandpre said that an application had been made through NVCOG for a Sustainable Materials grant – Phase 2 of the process will be discussed at a virtual meeting on December 2nd.

**8. Transfers and Appropriations**

**A. None**

# 9. Adjournment

# Robert Rettalick made a motion to adjourn. Robert Desena seconded the motion which was passed unanimously by Voice Vote. Meeting adjourned at 6:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Ken Demirs, Chairperson

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Paul Bunevich P.E. – Town Engineer