

April 10, 2014

Present:

Lee M. Azinheira, Chairman
Manuel Branco, Clerk

Mark S. Nunes, Vice Chairman
David T. Hickox, Director

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Carlos Cardoso, WPC Plant Manager

Paul Pacheco, Superintendent Services & Infrastructure

Steven Sullivan, Superintendent Water & Sewer Division

TOWN CLERK
DARTMOUTH

The Chairman called the meeting to order at approximately 7:30 a.m.

ACTION ITEMS

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to accept and approve the warrants for the bills payable for the period ending April 10, 2014. So voted.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to accept and approve the payrolls for the weeks ending March 14, 21, 28 and April 4, 2014. So voted.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to approve and accept the meeting minutes of March 13, 2014, as amended. So voted.

NEW BUSINESS

Application for Licensed Utility Layer – J&A Landscaping

Mr. Hickox informed the Board that the Department of Public Works received an application for a Licensed Utility Layer from J&A Landscaping. The application included references and the insurance certificate as required. Mr. Hickox's recommendation is that the Board approves their application.

Motion made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve J&A Landscaping's application. So vote.

Update on the Cedars Pump Station

Mr. Hickox updated the Board on the situation at the Cedars pump station. In December 2013, a call out was received that the home next to the pump station had a sewer back up. It was investigated and the Cedars were contacted. They did fix the problem, however, there was a lot of damage to the resident's home. The total damaged came to approximately \$8000 of which the home insurance company covered only \$2000. The homeowner was responsible for the remaining amount and contacted the Town.

There has been a discussion going back and forth as to the Town's role in monitoring private pumping stations. Currently, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection has jurisdiction over these private pumping stations as detailed in the *Sewer Extension Permit* issued by DEP. . The question becomes does the Town have any authority to require that private pumping stations submit annual maintenance contracts or certifications that everything is operating properly.

If the Town opens the process of monitoring and reviewing maintenance records at this pumping station, potentially the same would have to be done with the rest of them. Mr. Nunes noted that the Cedar's went before Town meeting previously and stated that they were going to maintain it and offered residents to tie in. Mr. Hickox will speak to Town Counsel to find out what monitoring, if any, the Town can perform. The Board is in agreement that this is private property and it becomes an insurance liability once the Town becomes involved in the oversight of the station.

Discussion on DPW Personnel

Mr. Hickox informed the Board that in October 2013, warning letters were sent to employees that had excessive absences and patterns of taking Mondays and Fridays off. Most of these employees have continued taking an excessive amount of sick days and disregarded the warning. Currently, doctor notes have to be provided after taking 5 consecutive sick days. The Board was in agreement that this is an issue to be discussed at the next Union contract negotiations. Mr. Hickox will be issuing second notices to maintain a paper trail to be used in the future if needed.

Bid recommendation for Russells Mills Road Landfill – Analytical Services

Mr. Hickox briefed the Board on the quote that was received for the Analytical Services at the Russells Mills Landfill from Rhode Island Analytical.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to award the Analytical Services at the Russells Mills Landfill to Rhode Island Analytical Laboratories, Inc., Warwick, RI for a total price of \$8,094.00. So voted.

Sewer abatement – Landskroener

Mr. Hickox reminded the Board that a few years ago a sewer project was done on Birchfield Road. At the bottom of the road there were two lots assessed, one had a home and one was vacant. Years later when the vacant lot was sold and a building permit was requested, it was discovered that it never should have been subdivided and had been done in error. The owner of the lot took legal action against the Town. The parties involved came to a settlement and the owner was not allowed to build on that lot. The property owner agreed to drop the suit and pay a portion of the betterment but have the remaining balance abated since the lot was created in error.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to abate the balance of the sewer betterment of \$17,774.69 plus interest. So voted.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Garage Expansion

Mr. Hickox met with the Finance Committee and discussed the CIP proposal of the \$4.7 million Highway Garage Expansion project. He was informed that due to the security needs at the School and the unknown factors at the Police Department and the Cecil Smith Landfill, this project will be funded

over the next couple of years. The plan is to appropriate \$1,000,000 in the spring Town Meeting and \$500,000 in the fall Town Meeting this year and do the same next year.

Mr. Nunes expressed his concern that the enterprise funds' contribution of \$800,000 will come out first without the funding from the Town being secured towards this project. Mr. Azinheira suggested allocating the enterprise funds by a percentage as the general fund commitments come in.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to allocate the enterprise funds by a percentage which will be determined by the amount appropriated by the Town. So voted.

Update on NSTAR – North Station Electric Easement

Mr. Hickox updated the Board that NSTAR is in the process of completing an interconnection of the Friends Academy Photovoltaic Project to the NSTAR system. NSTAR has requested access to the town-owned poles. They are willing to contribute \$5,000 towards the construction costs of an access road. Once the construction is complete and Mr. Cardoso has completed upgrading the poles, NSTAR will take over each of the Town-owned poles along Tucker Road and maintain them.

Contract for Structural Design – Salt Shed Foundation

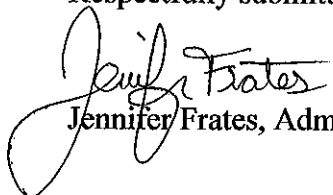
Mr. Hickox received an engineering proposal for the structural design of the salt shed from Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Inc. He expressed that it was a high proposal and Mr. Azinheira stated that he could provide information of another engineering firm that he is familiar with to get an additional price.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to get an additional proposal and the Director is authorized to award accordingly.


Mr. Nunes voiced his concern with the amount of equipment that is accumulating at the Highway Division. He felt that it is beginning to look like a "junk yard". The equipment and vehicles are being sent from Town Hall with no resolution.

Having no further business to discuss that morning, at approximately 8:25 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:


Jennifer Frates, Administrative Assistant

Approved:


5-1-14

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