

Present:

Lee M. Azinheira, Chairman
Mark S. Nunes, Clerk

Manuel Branco, Vice Chairman
David T. Hickox, Director

*Carlos Cardoso, WPC Plant Manager Steven Sullivan, Superintendent Water & Sewer Division
Paul Pacheco, Superintendent Services & Infrastructure

*Mr. Cardoso was absent due to a previously scheduled training class.

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 approve and accept the warrants for the bills payable for the period ending March 3, 2011. So voted.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to approve and accept the payrolls for the weeks ending February 11, 18, and 25. So voted.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to approve and accept the Meeting Minutes of February 10, 2011. So voted.

APPOINTMENT

Meeting with Mr. William Chandler re: snow and ice mailbox policy

The Chairman recognized Mr. William Chandler. Mr. Chandler explained that five mailboxes that he owned were struck by a Town plow on February 1. Mr. Hickox informed the Board that he spoke to Mr. Chandler and notified him of the snow and ice policy, wherein it notes that a mailbox directly hit by a plow would be replaced with a standard mailbox. The Chairman reiterated the policy explaining that it is a standard policy in most communities. He added that they could reimburse Mr. Chandler up to the price of a standard mailbox. Mr. Chandler replied that would be satisfactory.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to reimburse Mr. William Chandler \$75 for the damage caused by a direct hit by a plow to five mailboxes on February 1, 2011. So voted.

Mr. Chandler took the opportunity to discuss another item with the Board. He asked if the Department of Public Works would consider cost sharing the expense to provide some type of precast gutter to protect the fiber optics on Hixville Road when the road is repaved. The Chairman explained that it is the utility company's responsibility to protect its investment and not a public works project. He also noted that most damage to underground utilities is caused by digging.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion on automated recycling RFP

Mr. Hickox reviewed the major highlights of the draft Request For Proposals (RFP). Regarding the section on number of PAYT participants, the Chairman suggested a confirmed minimum base number. The Chairman also suggested checking the dates of publication for fuel rates to allow for the most accurate timeframe for adjustments.

Mr. Hickox also reviewed the revised analysis for automated recycling using three trucks rather than four and the cost of using the retained earnings included compounded interest.

The Board agreed that an informational meeting before the Select Board would be in order before Town Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Application for Abatement of Sewer Betterment Tax – 10 Alden Avenue/Map 152 Lot 23-1

The Chairman recognized Mrs. Nancy Mosher. Mr. Hickox reviewed the item with the Board. He explained that the abatement deadline had elapsed. Mrs. Mosher informed the Board that her late husband usually handled the financial affairs and she was not aware of a deadline. She added that she believed the lots were merged and had learned that the lot in question was not buildable. Mr. Hickox confirmed that Mrs. Mosher received written notification from the Directional of Inspectional Services in 2010 that Map 152 Lot 23-1 is not buildable.

Mr. Branco commented that he did not believe the Board has the authority to abate after the deadline, which is set by state statute. He asked if Town Counsel could review the item. The Board agreed to have the item reviewed by Town Counsel and informed Mrs. Mosher that staff would contact her once they received a legal opinion.

PAYT Official Orange Bags Contract Renewal Year #2

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to accept the option to renew the contract with Waste Zero for official orange Pay-As-You-Throw bags for another year. So voted.

Reach the Beach Relay

Mr. Hickox informed the Board that he was contacted by the Safety Officer regarding the relay race. Office Vieira and the relay planners have requested to use the highway garage parking lot as a race transfer area on Saturday, May 21, 2011.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to approve the use the highway yard parking lot as a relay transfer area for the Reach the Beach Relay on May 21, 2011. So voted.

Draft Agreement between the Town of Dartmouth and Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., for professional services – Faunce Corner Road/State Road (Route 6) Phase I

Mr. Hickox reminded the Board that the Town has met with the state and the state has approved a phase approach to the project. He noted that Phase I is currently on the Department's CIP. After his meeting with the Capital Improvements Committee, it was recommended that Chapter 90 funding be utilized for the engineering of Phase I. The Board agreed.

A motion was made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to proceed with a Chapter 90 project request for engineering services for Phase I of the Faunce Corner Road/Sate Road (Route 6) project. So voted.

Review of Proposal for Engineering Services – MADEP Capital Improvements Plan Grant Program for Medium and Large Public Water Systems

Mr. Hickox reviewed the scope of services. He noted that the goal of the capital improvement program is to make the community aware of the need to prioritize and replace old water systems to meet the Town's objective of having a safe and reliable public water system. For the record, it was noted that Dartmouth has an ongoing water main replacement program.

A motion was made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to approve the proposal for engineering services submitted by Fay Spofford & Thorndike for MADEP Capital Improvement Plan Grant Program for Medium and Large Public Water Systems. So voted.

Discussion re: sewer betterment – Rhode Island Avenue/Map 173-Lot 11

~~Mr. Hickox informed the Board that the Town-owned property was sold. He recommended that the Board reassess the betterment that was previously abated.~~

~~**A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to reassess the sewer betterment plus applicable interest as determined by the Town Collector to Rhode Island Avenue/Map 173 – Lot 11. So voted.**~~

Mr. Hickox informed the Board that map 173-lot 11 was previously town-owned property and the sewer betterment was abated at Town Hall. The property has since been sold. Mr. Hickox recommended that if the property owner wishes to connect to municipal sewer the connection fee reflects the full betterment costs plus any applicable interest determined by the Town Collector. Mr. Nunes asked how the item regarding the abated betterment was picked up. Mr. Hickox replied that a question was asked of the Bidding Aide relative to a sewer betterment on the property. Mr. Azinheira asked how the lot was purchased. Mr. Hickox replied that he did not know. Mr. Nunes asked who owned the property. Mr. Hickox replied he did not have that information but it could be obtained on the assessors' database.

Mr. Hickox said the issue is if someone wants to tie into municipal sewer the connection fee would include the full cost of the betterment. Mr. Azinheira noted that when the Board of Public Works abates it is always with the understanding that if the lot should become buildable the full amount will be paid. Mr. Branco added that the full amount is paid but not through a betterment but rather through a connection fee that is equivalent to the full betterment cost plus interest. Mr. Nunes said he would make that in a form of motion.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to apply a municipal sewer connection fee equivalent to the full betterment cost plus any applicable interest as determined by the Town Collector to Rhode island Avenue/Map 173 – Lot 11 if and/or when a request for municipal sewer is received and granted. So voted.

Request from Big Brother Big Sisters and Big Sisters of RI to place clothing collection bins at the Transfer Station recycling center.

Mr. Hickox noted that the two agencies are not affiliated. He added that the transfer station currently has a Red Cross collection bin. The Chairman suggested developing a policy that includes space availability and collection schedule. Mr. Pacheco voiced his concern regarding the agency campaigning for collections and a conflict that the transfer station is for PAYT participants and permitted town residents only.

A motion was made by Mr. Nunes and duly seconded by Mr. Branco to allow the placement of Big Brother Big Sisters and Big Sisters of RI clothing collection bins at the transfer station with the understanding that only permitted vehicles are allowed to enter the facility. So voted.

Request to expend \$3,000 from Dartmouth's recycling custodial account to share in repair costs of Transfer Station loader

A motion was made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to expend \$3,000 of Dartmouth's recycling custodial account to share in the repair of the New Bedford transfer station loader. So voted.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman asked those present if they wished to discuss any other business that morning. hearing none, he asked for a motion to close the meeting.

Having no further business to discuss that morning, at approximately 8:45 a.m. a motion was made by Mr. Branco and duly seconded by Mr. Nunes to adjourn the meeting. So voted.

Respectfully submitted:

Michelle L. DeFranco, Office Manager/Confidential Secretary

Approved: _____