

Board of Public Works 04/20/2023 – Minutes Conference Room A

DPW Board Members: Thomas A Nephew, Chair; John Patrick Harrington, Vice-Chair; Joe Mercado, Lewis L. Lunn, James T MacDonald

Not in attendance:

DPW Staff: Kenneth Kalinowski, PE, Dir. DPW; Paul Brinkman DPW Business Manager

Also in attendance: Derek Flanders, Parks & Cemetery Operator

Call to Order

Chair, Tom Nephew, called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m., announcing that it was being recorded and will be broadcast at a future date. The video recording can be seen at <https://pepperell.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=126cea7a-3814-4558-a9f2-1c8afe3fd0a0>

Ken announces that Pat Harrington is expected to be a few minutes late for tonight's meeting.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

- March 23, 2023 (Regular)

The vote to accept meeting minutes was deferred to wait for Pat Harrington.

Abatements

None

Water / Sewer

- PFAS (Update) – Ken provided a summary of the PFAS update as was discussed at the March 23, 2023 meeting. Tom reminds everyone that the [recorded presentation is available online](#) and provides much more detail.
 - The EPA announced final proposed PFAS limits (US/Nationwide standard).
 - New EPA limits are approximately 80% lower than MassDEP PFAS limits, with slightly different constituents and some overlap.
 - The EPA proposed limits drop from 20 ng/l(ppt) (MassDEP) down to 4 ng/l(ppt) with a goal of reaching zero (0) ng/l(ppt).
 - These new limits force us to look at water treatment as 2 of our existing well sources would not meet these new proposed limits.

PFAS discussion is paused at this time to be continued following the Acceptance of Meeting Minutes vote.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

- March 23, 2023 (Regular)

At this time, Tom circles back to Acceptance of the Meeting minutes. All BPW members are now present.

Pat Harrington, Joe Mercado and Jim MacDonald were the only members present at the March 23, 2023 meeting.

*Pat Harrington motions to accept the Meeting Minutes for the meeting held on March 23, 2023 as written, Jim MacDonald seconds the motion. (PH; JM; JTM – In Favor) **The motion passes unanimously.***

Water / Sewer

PFAS (Update) – continued

- Town Meeting Article 25 – Funding for PFAS Water Plant
 - Plan to look at the existing 3 Pepperell water sources and where we might get/have other water sources.
 - Nashua Road Well
 - Pepperell is looking at significant costs to comply with PFAS limits (and also Iron & Manganese).
 - Action: Hold as Emergency Only

- Bemis Street Well
 - Complies with both MassDEP & EPA limits
 - Action: Monitor and Protect
- Jersey Street Well
 - Complies with MassDEP limits but exceeds EPA limits
 - Action: Pilot treatment
 - Action: Design treatment plan
 - Action: Construct treatment plan
 - 0% financing currently offered by State loan programs
- New water supplies
 - Utilize existing sources of water, extend water system to Dunstable
 - 40% of cost paid for by Groton and Dunstable
 - Action: Find alternate water supplies in Pepperell, identify new supplies and conduct preliminary analysis

DPW

- Town Meeting [Article 15 – Funding for Cemetery Expansion](#)
 - Requesting the town appropriate \$300,000 to fund expansion of town cemetery for future internments.
 - Funds will allow for building upgrades (non-structural), plotting, fences, and access roadways.
 - Massachusetts General Law requires every community in Massachusetts to [provide a public cemetery for burial](#).
 - Nearing capacity, currently the existing planned cemetery lots have almost all been sold.
- Cemetery Rate Adjustments
 - Derek Flanders is present for the discussion.
 - Derek has compiled and compared surrounding town cemetery rates.
 - We are proposing to simplify the rate schedule and increase the rates for burial, updates will be provided on the town website.
 - Members discuss town costs, perpetual care, current rates, and proposed increases.
 - Members are in agreement that no differentiation will be made in reference plot sales to Residents/Non-Pepperell Residents.
 - Members are in agreement that single burial lots will be available for purchase.
 - The criteria used to manage single lots will be brought back to the BPW at a future meeting.

*Pat Harrington motions to accept the new Cemetery Rates as amended, effective May 1, 2023. Joe Mercado seconds the motion. **The motion passes unanimously.***

- Spring ATM Warrant Articles – review & discussion
 - 26 Warrant Articles, of which 10 Warrant Articles have DPW ties
 - Articles 8, 9, 10, & 11 – standard FY24 DPW Enterprise budgets
 - Articles 12, 13 & 14 – authorization of FY23 Water, Sewer & Storm Water existing budgets to increase use of retained earnings
 - Article 15 – Funding for Cemetery Expansion to be funded from Free Cash and replenished through perpetual care and the sale of lots
 - Article 16 – Funding for Sewer Dewatering Press
 - Article 25 – Funding for PFAS Water Plant
 - It's important to clarify that [Warrant Article 7 – Free Cash for PFAS Cleanup](#) is to fund testing, monitoring and reporting associated with PFAS soil detection at the location of the proposed Public Safety Complex.
 - This is not a DPW Warrant Article
 - This is not actually funding a cleanup, funds are to pay the consultant to deal with PFAS reporting.
 - PFAS still needs to be dealt with whether or not the complex is built.
- Misc. Updates
 - [Supreme Judicial Court Declares Public Comment Policy Unconstitutional](#); KP Law, eUpdate, March 8, 2023

- State law does not require municipalities to provide public comment periods during board and committee meetings.
- Mike Schrader is doing great, cleared for a full return on May 1st
- Heald Street culvert project has started, contract stipulates the project is complete by June 30, 2023.

Review, Approve and Sign Any Documents Requiring Board Signatures

- March Commitments
March Commitments were signed by the Board.

Commissioners Comments

None

Any other matters that may arise which the chair could not reasonably anticipate

None

Adjournment

Pat Harrington motions to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Public Works, Joe Mercado seconds the motion.

The motion passes unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Lane-McPartlan
DPW Program Administrator, Highway Division