

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM
August 9, 2019 – 8:00AM

Committee Members present: Councilor Dale R. Sprague, Chairman
Councilor David A. Witham, Vice Chairman
Councilor Martin Pepin
Councilor Kenneth S. Vincent

Administration/Staff present: City Manager, Bob Belmore
Finance Director, Scott Smith
Director of Public Works, Michael Bobinsky
City Engineer, Gary Lemay
City Clerk, Trish Harris

Others: Richard Michaud, City Councilor

Chairman Sprague called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Motion to accept minutes made by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Vincent, to approve the minutes as amended of the April 15, 2019 meeting. Motion was approved 4-0.

UPDATES ON CITY PROJECTS:

- Complete Streets – Wright Pierce Engineers
City Manager Belmore referred the Committee to a memo from Wright Pierce. On page 2 of the memo is a list of items for discussion.
The 4th bulleted point, is requesting information regarding flashing crossing beacons to be installed on Cemetery Road. Two beacons will be needed.
Director Bobinsky said this will be similar to what is on Stackpole Road.
Councilor Witham said he will support this for consistency.
There was discussion about the range of pricing; it is believed that they will be under \$10,000 each. Staff is still firming the price.
Consensus of the Committee is to move forward. This is a complete streets project and now is the time to install these beacons.

Bullet 5 is regarding the incorporation of a rain garden or grass swale on Cemetery Road between the roadway and the athletic fields. This would be in addition to closed drainage. After brief discussion, the Committee is in favor of a grass swale.

Bullet 6 is regarding curb stops. There was discussion that there is one remaining property that is undeveloped on Cemetery. It will cost approximately \$2,500-3,000, for the water line to be run to this property. Councilor Sprague said it is possible that the larger lots on

Cemetery could build accessory dwelling units and will need additional water lines. He stated it would be best to send letter to all residents on Cemetery Drive regarding utilities.

Councilor Sprague asked about Doelson Street and connections. There are drainage issues at the end of that street. They should also look into utilities there.

On page 1 of the memo, it speaks of a modified alignment of the intersection of Cemetery Road onto West High Street. This will be made into a straight intersection, not a Y. The Committee was in agreement that this is a good idea.

There was brief discussion regarding school signage at that intersection.

Councilor Witham asked about parking along Cemetery Road.

City Manager Belmore stated that this will be addressed. Director Bobinsky said that there will be parallel parking along the school side of the street.

- Road Resurfacing – Pike & Continental Paving

Memo in packet from Gary Lemay, City Engineer.

City Manager Belmore stated paving will begin toward the end of August, first of September, pending contracts with Pike and Continental. Pre-construction conferences and meetings will be scheduled prior to paving. Pike will be paving about 20 streets. The schedule will be shared when it is available.

There was brief discussion about Pike's prior work on the intersection of Blackwater Road and Route 108. Staff stated that PIKE will not make any corrections to it.

- TAP Grant – CMA Engineers

Memo in packet from Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Works and Utilities.

City Manager Belmore explained that the preliminary design is 55% complete. There are a couple dozen properties that require temporary and permanent easements.

There was discussion about the intersection of Memorial Drive at High Street; there will be a flashing pedestrian crosswalk with push button activation. Handicap tip downs will be addressed and there is discussion of a catch basin on the corner to address ponding.

Councilor Witham said he would like to see the curbing on the westerly side of Memorial Drive remove and replace with granite curb.

- CMAQ Grant – Sebago Technics

Memo in packet from Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Works and Utilities.

City Manager explained that we have options for the light synchronization. Dover is doing their own upgrade. We could consider an intermunicipal agreement with Dover to use their technology for our lights, or hire Sebago on an annual contract, or purchase the technology for ourselves to synchronize the 6 intersections on High Street.

Councilor Witham supports having our own traffic management system. It is approximately \$5,000 annually to contract this function out.

Councilor Sprague asked if it was possible to have an additional tax for the big box stores to assist in the cost of traffic light management. Director Smith doesn't think anything like that exists.

Councilor Witham asked if the lights would be on pavement loop detection or pole mounted cameras. Director Bobinsky said the desire is to move in the direction of cameras.

Director Bobinsky said training on the program would be needed, or Sebago could oversee the timing of the lights.

- WWTP upgrade – Wright Pierce Engineers
Memo in packet from Gary Lemay, City Engineer.
Wright Pierce is 90% done with the design, and has been submitted to the state. It will be going out to bid in Nov-Dec. This will also be going through the Planning Board as a courtesy review.
- Pavement Condition Assessment – BETA consultants
Memo in packet from Michael Bobinsky, Director of Public Works and Utilities.
City Manager Belmore said BETA Consultants have done some fieldwork. They will be doing in person assessments of about 10% of the roads. There will be a presentation to the full Council in November.

STATE OF NH DOT ROUTE 108 COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

City Manager Belmore said they are looking for information on key components before they invest a lot of time.

There was discussion regarding bike lanes and where would they be.

Councilor Witham stated, in terms of winter maintenance, having the bike lane in 5' shoulder would be more beneficial. Consensus of the Committee was to keep the bike lanes within the 5' shoulder on the road.

The sidewalk on Route 108 is heavily used between Todd's touch and the Works. They would also like to see a sidewalk at Avis Goodwin.

There was lengthy discussion of crosswalks by Avis Goodwin, and other areas, as well as pedestrian refuge areas in the median strips. Councilor Sprague said he would like to see these breaks in the median so drivers don't use the median as a travel lane & the medians act as traffic calming, they are also aesthetically pleasing, with landscaping and mulch.

Councilor Sprague stated that he would like to see pull off lanes at Coast bus stops.

There was discussion about the grass strip that needs to be maintained by the city.

City Manager Belmore stated that the engineers are considering a potential roundabout at the intersection of Blackwater Road on Route 108. Councilor Witham said this would take significant land at the corners which would affect the businesses that are on the corners.

Councilor Pepin said having a light at that intersection allows a gap in traffic to get out of some of the businesses. A round-about will not work there, Committee consensus to recommend against one.

There was brief discussion about some businesses that are in the right of way, specifically, Todd's Touch and White Mountain Pool and Spa.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilor Vincent said he recently saw removable speed bumps which could be used on Memorial Drive. These are reasonable priced and could be removed in the winter before storms.

Councilor Witham said school is in session during the winter months, when the speed bumps would have to be removed.

Councilor Witham said, as we move into the paving projects, he would like to see Lily Pond at West High Street addressed as they are married in.

Councilor Sprague asked about the patches on Main Street. Director Bobinsky said they are working on an updated schedule. They plan to get it done this summer. Councilor Sprague said he is impressed with how the Main Street resurfacing is holding up.

City Manager Belmore stated that he received notification that the State has the intersection of Blackwater Road at High Street by Rite-aid and CVS in cue for beginning redesign in the State's 10-year plan.

Councilor Witham suggested that we wait to see how our signal upgrade will affect the intersection. He suggested that Staff contact the State and have them push the project out in the plan.

City Manager Belmore stated that he is aware that the road is being damaged by trucks turning into and out of Cumberland Farms. This is on our radar.

City Manager Belmore also stated that the new liquor store entrance/exit closest to the pond is not paved in that area. Gravel is being pulled onto the road. There was brief discussion about traffic signage on the island near the entrance to the liquor store.

Councilor Vincent excused himself.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Pepin, seconded by Councilor Witham, motion passed 2-1. Councilor Sprague opposed. Meeting adjourned at 9:19am.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk