

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 30, 2010

6: 00 p.m.

Hampden Town Office

1. Minutes of 7/26/2010
2. Old Business
 - a. Resolution Supporting Extension of Truck Weight Limit Pilot Study
 - b. 3-Town Meeting regarding Hampden Academy Re-use
 - c. Grant Application – Safe Routes to School
 - d. Street Light Policy Discussion
3. New Business

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes

July 26, 2010

Attending:

Chairman William Shakespeare

Councilor Tom Brann

Councilor Andre Cushing

CEO Ben Johnson

Councilor Janet Hughes

Councilor Jean Lawlis

Town Manager Sue Lessard

PW Director Chip Swan

1. Minutes of June 28, 2010 Meeting - The minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously on a motion by Janet Hughes.
 1. a. Code Enforcement Officer Ben Johnson was present to discuss an issue on Libby Lane related to both a property owner who was trying to get sufficient road frontage for a development and the town's need for a turnaround for plow trucks. It was the consensus of the committee to support the idea of accepting a turnaround for use by the Public Works Department and that whatever frontage was created by that action would be available to the abutting property owner, but that the creation of the turnaround would be limited to that which immediately abuts the end of the road owned by the Town and not further onto private property.
2. Old Business
 - a. Mayo Road Update -The Public Works Director gave the Committee an update related to the Mayo Road project. It is scheduled to be completed by mid-October, pipe laying will be completed within two weeks and some paving should be done by later in August. A conflict with job site personnel and the Water District Superintendent was discussed along with what steps had been taken to resolve that situation.
 - b. Streetlight Acceptance Policy - Draft -The Committee reviewed the draft policy presented by the Town Manager and asked that it be scheduled for discussion at the next meeting.
3. New Business
 - a. Tree Trimming on Town Roadways - Councilor Shakespeare - Councilor Shakespeare discussed concerns over the need for tree trimming on the side of Emerson Mill Road that does not have power lines and Public Works Director Swan informed the

- group that the Department was talking to a tree trimming contractor about that issue already.
- b. Truck Weight Limit Increase – The Town Manager explained that the current federal pilot project that allows 100,000 lb trucks to use the interstate north of Augusta expires in December of 2010. Maine Municipal Association is compiling information to assist our congressional delegation in working to keep that pilot project going. Towns are doing resolutions of support and petitions. Motion by Janet Hughes, seconded by Tom Brann to support the extension of the Pilot Project, vote unanimous.
 - c. Water District Rate Increase Proposed – The rate increase proposed is an average of 19%. The public hearing is Thursday, July 29, 2010 at 6 p.m. at Reed's Brook Middle School, and the opportunity to intervene runs through August 28, 2010.
- 4. Public Comments - None
 - 5. Committee Member Comments – None

Respectfully submitted,


Susan Lessard
Town Manager

RESOLUTION

In Support of Extending the Truck Weight Limit Pilot Study Increasing the Truck Weight Limit on the Entire Length of Maine's Interstate System

WHEREAS, the provision in the *Federal Department of Transportation Appropriations Act, 2010* (PL 111-117), which increased the weight limit for six-axle vehicles traveling on Maine's entire Interstate System from 80,000 to 100,000 pounds will expire on December 16, 2010; and

WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of PL 111-117, the truck weight limit on Interstate 95 north of Augusta and on Interstate 295 and 395 was 80,000 pounds, while the weight limit on the Maine Turnpike was 100,000 pounds; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, municipal officials across the state and the Maine Municipal Association have urged Maine's Congressional Delegation to support legislation enacting a uniform 100,000 pound truck weight limit on the entire length of Maine's Interstate System; and

WHEREAS, the section of Maine's I-95 running north of Augusta was originally designed and built for military freight movements to Loring Air Force Base at weights that exceeded 100,000 pounds; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials believe that the temporary weight limit increase provided for in PL 111-117 will have demonstrable impacts on the preservation of the road and bridge infrastructure and improved public safety on Maine's smaller and less substantially built state and local roads; and

WHEREAS, as a result the economy, fuel prices and improvements in motor vehicle performance, which is contributing to the stagnation of the revenue available to fund state and local projects, Maine's Department of Transportation is falling seriously behind on its highway and bridge maintenance and repair program and is now exploring avenues to share state-level capital improvement responsibilities over the minor collector road system with local property taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, the enactment of a permanent and uniform 100,000 pound truck weight limit increase for six-axle trucks will keep these more productive trucks on the federal Interstate System where they belong, and thereby take some of the pressure off the smaller state and local roads;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Hampden, Maine hereby expresses its support for the extension of the federal truck weight limit increase on Maine's entire Interstate System so that the 100,000 pound limit is made permanent.

TOWN OF HAMPDEN POLICY ON NEW STREET LIGHTS

In order to establish a policy that is fair, consistent and economically practical, the Hampden Town Council will address the installation of new street lights to insure safe movement of vehicles and public safety in the following manner:

1. By Petition or Individual Request – Any resident may bring forth a petition by January 15th of each year which must include signatures from their neighborhood requesting one or more street lights. The petition must be submitted to the Town Manager. The Town Manager will forward the request to the Public Safety Director for evaluation and recommendation.
2. Action by Public Safety – The Public Safety Director shall provide an evaluation and recommendation for all street light requests by March 1st. This will allow for appropriate time to include the request in the next fiscal year budget. The Public Safety Director will use the following criteria when considering a request:
 - a. Are there a large number of vehicles using this road, especially during darkness?
 - b. Intersections
 - c. Dead End Streets
 - d. Past occurrences of accidents at night
 - e. Past occurrences of crimes in immediate area
 - f. Is this a high pedestrian area (i.e. walkers, joggers, etc.)?
 - g. Do sidewalks exist in the area
 - h. Number of people to benefit
 - i. Number of residents to benefit
 - j. Number of businesses to benefit

Once the Public Safety Director has evaluated all the requests based on the cited criteria, he will make a recommendation on each request to the Town Council Infrastructure Committee. The positive recommendations will be listed in an order of priority that assigns the #1 priority to the request that Public Safety determines has the highest rating in terms of public safety concerns. Those not recommended for installation will have a brief statement explaining the reason for denial. The Infrastructure Committee shall review the list of recommendations and prepare a recommendation to the Town Council in regard to the requests by April 1st of each year.