

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

A G E N D A

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009

6:00 P.M.

1. Minutes of April 27, 2009
2. Old Business
 - a. Composting
3. New Business
 - a. Library Roof Repairs
 - b. Truck Bids
 - c. Paving Budget 2010
 - d. Landfill Closure Update
4. Public Comments
5. Councilor Comments

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2009

6:00 P.M.

1. Minutes of April 27, 2009
Included
2. Old Business
 - a. Composting
Mark King from DEP will be here to give a presentation on composting and Bill Michaud will also be here from New England Organics to discuss whether there is anything his company can do to assist the town
3. New Business *Although the primary purpose of this meeting is for the composting discussion, there are several other items that need discussion by the Committee prior to their inclusion on a regular council agenda – they are as follows:*
 - a. Library Roof Repairs – *More of the library roof needs replacement this year. The estimated cost is over \$6,000 so it would need to go out to bid.*
 - b. Truck Bids - *Bids for the truck authorized by the Council need to be reviewed*
 - c. Paving Budget 2010 – *The Public Works Director would like to discuss this with the Committee prior to his budget hearing on May 27th.*
 - d. Landfill Closure Update – *I have information for the Committee in regard to the landfill closure process. We are just 7 months from final waste delivery and there are items that need Council input that will require a recommendation from Infrastructure.*
4. Public Comments
5. Councilor Comments

INFRASTRUCTURE MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2009

Attending:

Chair Tom Brann	Sue Lessard, Town Manager
Mayor Matt Arnett	Chip Swan, Public Works Director
Councilor Shannon Cox	
Councilor William Shakespeare	
Councilor Andre Cushing	
Councilor Jean Lawlis (late)	

The meeting was opened at 6 p.m. by Chairman Brann.

1. Minutes of the 3/30/09 Infrastructure Committee meeting were reviewed. There were no corrections and the meetings were accepted by unanimous consent.
2. The Town Manager and the Public Works Director provided an explanation of the recommendation for the Council to approve acceptance of a sewer line constructed on property owned by Hughes Brothers on Coldbrook Road. Part of the acceptance would include the connection to that sewer line of the Angler's Restaurant project that has been previously approved by the Planning Board for which Hughes Brothers had already provided an easement.

Motion by Matt Arnett, seconded by William Shakespeare to recommend to the full council that the sewer line extension off Coldbrook Road constructed by Hughes Brothers be accepted by the Town with the existing permitted connection of Angler's Restaurant. Vote 5-0.

3. David Caliendo – Board of Assessment Review Application
Motion by William Shakespeare, seconded by Shannon Cox to recommend to the full Council the appointment of David Caliendo to the Board of Assessment review. Vote 5-0. Due to Mr. Caliendo's long-term service on the Planning Board, it was not deemed necessary for an interview to be held.
4. Public Works Equipment – request to go out to bid for Truck
The Public Works Director provided information to the Committee regarding a 1998 Sterling Truck that is due to be replaced in the coming year. Common practice is for new trucks to be put out to bid in the fall and new trucks to be received approximately six months later. Due to the deteriorating condition of the Sterling, the Director requested permission to go out to bid for the truck now so that the delivery would be prior to the next winter season. This would save the Town the cost of further extensive repairs to the 1998 Sterling and still allow the new truck to be paid for in the next budget year.

Motion by William Shakespeare, seconded by Andre Cushing to recommend to the full Council that the Public Works Director be allowed to put out a request for bids for a new truck, with delivery in the next fiscal year. Vote 5-0.

The Infrastructure Committee has also requested that the Finance Committee consider the idea of additional funding for Public Works equipment over what is necessary for the purchase of the truck in order to build up the balance in that account.

5. Proposed Private Pump Station – SAD #22 New High School Project
The Public Works Director explained that as part of the design of the new high school there had been discussions between the SAD #22 engineers (WBRC) and the Town about the best way to handle tying the site to the Town's sewer system. The pump station on Western Avenue nearest the site has older piping to it and the slope from the school site would be so minimal that gravity feed would be difficult. The best alternative which allows the school to tie into the Reed's Brook line would require a private pump station on SAD #22 property. The Town's Sewer Ordinance allows those only with the permission of the Town Council.

Motion by Matt Arnett, second by Shannon Cox to recommend to the full council that SAD #22 be permitted to have a private pump station on their property to serve the new high school project under the terms and conditions outlined to WBRC in an letter dated 4/23/07 from Public Works Director Chip Swan. Vote 5-0.

6. Route 1A Sewer – This project will be ready to go out to bid within a week or two.
7. Mayo Road Update – This project has been put on the back burner until the Route 1A sewer project is out to bid. After that the Public Works Director will meet with the engineers and the few property owners in that area that will require construction easements.

Also discussed as part of this item was the serious concern over the speed of traffic on Western Avenue as it approaches the Mayo Road intersection from the west. The 'blind spot' from the railroad crossing toward Mayo Road has created a large number of near misses. The Town Manager and Public Works Director were directed to contact appropriate officials at the Department of Transportation to discuss the need for speed reduction in that area.

8. Transfer Station
 - A. Bruen request for decal.

The Town Manager explained that Mr. & Mrs. Bruen own a tree service business in Hampden and that every single one of their vehicles has the company name on the side of the vehicle. Our rules do not allow contractor or construction vehicles with logos on them access to the Transfer Station, Mrs. Bruen is requesting that we make some accommodation for them to be able to use the station even though the vehicles have logos. After a good deal of discussion of possible solutions, it was the consensus of the Infrastructure Committee to recommend to the Town Council to leave the decal issuance rules as they are. As a result, the Bruens will have to make alternative arrangements for their household trash or remove the logo from one of their vehicles.

B. Additional Discussion on Transfer Station Operation for 2009/2010

All Committee members were given an opportunity by Chairman Brann to voice their opinion on the operation of the Transfer Station and whether or not the current operation should continue or whether it should be amended. Councilor Shakespeare believes that the Transfer Station should be open on Friday – Sunday of each week only and that all waste types should be accepted on those days. It is his opinion that it would be a more effective and convenient way of operating the station. He also indicated that he had talked to many people who were inconvenienced by the fact that they could only dispose of C & D and wood two weekends a month.

Chairman Brann indicated that he personally hated the operation as it now stands because of the fact that he has to store items between collection weekends for c&d and wood, but that due to the fact that the operation was producing the desired results – namely lower costs and more efficiencies – he would be supporting it continuing as is.

Councilor Cox, Councilor Cushing, Mayor Arnett, and Councilor Lawlis all indicated their support for continuing current operations due to the numbers – both in financial savings and in use patterns – that indicate that it is a successful manner of running the Transfer Station.

The Town Manager discussed statistics on use at the transfer station in regard to the c&d and wood, which indicates that approximately 23% of transfer station users utilize the c&D, wood, and metal disposal area. Also, the amount of municipal solid waste disposed of at PERC by the Town has gone down since 2005, and 48% of that amount is hauled to PERC by private haulers who are contracted by residents and businesses of the community.

There was discussion related to possible reconfigurations of entering and leaving the transfer station to make it more effective and reduce any possible

wait times. The Town Manager and Public Works Director were instructed to review the site and see if changes were possible.

Motion by Matt Arnett, seconded by Jean Lawlis to recommend to the full council that the existing transfer station operations be maintained for the 2009/2010 fiscal year.

The Composting discussion will be held at the May meeting and there are possibilities of some changes in regard to brush and leaves that may provide a more cost-effective, 'greener' method of disposal than the current one.

Also discussed was the problem of how to handle the fact that many people were still allowed to access the Transfer Station without a current decal through the current 'warning letter' system. The idea of late fees and fines were discussed as a means of controlling this behavior.

Motion by William Shakespeare, seconded by Matt Arnett to recommend to the full council that a February 1st deadline be established for obtaining Transfer Station decals, beginning with the 2010 year and that persons without current stickers after that date be denied access until they had obtained the sticker. Vote 3 – 2.

Councilor Cox also raised to additional subjects for consideration by the Infrastructure Committee, which were the idea of a Community Garden and a fenced-in Dog Park. The Services Committee will also be considering these items.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Lessard
Town Manager