



Department of Public Works | 860.584.6125

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 9, 2021

TO: Mayor Ellen Zoppo-Sassu
Board of Public Works

FROM: Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

RE: BPW April – Director’s Report

Please find attached a summary report of the Department’s activity/issue/concerns for the March Board of Public Works meeting.

1. Covid-DPW has been severely impacted by Covid in April. The administrative staff managed by Lindsey Rivers consists of 3 staff members. All 3 staff members are out with Covid. We were able to utilize a Fleet Division employee who is on light duty to assist and the part time employee has remained at work. Maintaining Administrative operations has been a challenge and credit goes to Lindsey along with the staff that provided help. In addition, to DPW Admin Division Engineering has also been impacted by Covid. The Civil Engineer tested positive which forced two inspectors to quarantine. All of the impacted employees were not vaccinated. In response to DPW’s being impacted the City has revised its policies with respect to employees classified as close contact due to work. They will be encouraged to receive vaccines and will no longer be placed on workers comp, unless they do not receive the vaccine for medical conditions.
2. DPW staff preparing policies and procedures associated with Lock Out/Tag Out and Haz Communication and Blood Bourne Pathogens and training is scheduled for 4/22/21. Work zone safety training was conducted on March 16 (Street & Engineering Divisions). DPW will abate all OSHA compliance items by the April 26 deadline.
3. As indicated in packet, DPW roadway paving/ reclaim program starts Monday 4/12/21. DPW will be retaining a portion of the millings stored on Peacedale Site for future use. We will also retain process from reclaim and will store a portion of the transfer station for use at



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the Birch Street parking lot. In addition, we may go out to bid to sell some of the millings the remaining portion will be provided to Tilcon.

4. Park Dept. - Birch Street parking lot. DPW has started removing trees. Several of the trees are too tall to remove with our equipment and DPW will be renting a taller bucket truck. We are also arranging for Supreme Inc. to take the pine timber/tree trunks. It will reduce disposal/chipping cost and we will receive a small fee for the tree logs. We did discuss having them take tree trunks from future trees that DPW cuts, however Supreme stated that they do not want trees from along the road. They contain embedded dirt/small rocks that damage their saw blades.
5. Central Fire House: Renovations at Central Fire House are substantially complete, however we continue to have problems with the garage doors. The General Contractor installed a new door opener at one of the 8 doors which appears to confirm that the primary issue is the previous installed openers. In addition to issues with the door opener mechanism there is also installation/workmanship issue. In response to the garage door problems DPW is currently obtaining a quote to replace and correct all the doors openers if the contractor does not take corrective action. The cost, estimated at \$20,000 will be taken from contract retainage (\$55,000).
6. DPW Engineering working on finalizing submittal of encroachment permit to DOT to close Route 6 south of Clark to reconstruct rail road crossing.
7. DPW V.P. Kelly Road facility used for Farms to Family food distribution on 4/10.
8. Contractor tree removal and trimming at West Cemetery complete.
9. Building HVAC systems being converted to heat to AC operation mode. The City Hall system is referred to as a two pipe system that either heats or cool the building. In order to switch from one to the other valves and HVAC systems have to turn on/off. Although the changeover does require DPW action/time the primary concern with the current system is comfort of building occupants. The City Hall renovation project will include the replacement of the system.
10. DPW Landuse is initiated the process of rewriting the City's Zoning Regulations and it appears that DPW's request for funding to remap City Wetlands will obtain funding.

Feel free to contact me with any question or concerns at 860-584-6113.