PUBLICATION WORKS COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

The Public Works Commission met at 7:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2019, at 141 Keyes Road, Concord, Massachusetts. Pursuant to Chapter 303 of the Acts of 1975, notice of the above meeting was duly filed with the Town Clerk, Town House, Monument Square, Concord, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Commissioners:
K.C. Winslow
James Terry
Steven Ng

Absent:
Andrew Boardman
Peter W. Wallis

Staff:
Richard K. Reine, M.S.C.E., CA Public Works and Engineering Director
Chris Olbrot, P.E., Town Engineer
Anna R. Trout, Administrative & Special Projects Coordinator

Other:
Robert Hilsinger (League of Women Voters Observer)
Richard Jamison (Finance Committee Observer)
Alice Kaufman (Select Board Observer)

A: ACTION ITEMS

A-1 through A-4 - The meeting was convened at 7:15 p.m. by Commissioner Winslow.

The meeting minutes from February 13, 2019, were approved.
The next two PWC meetings were scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 at 7:15 P.M. at 135 Keyes Road. and Wednesday, May 8 At 7:15 P.M. at 141 Keyes Road.

D: DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

D-1: Review PWC Calendar Draft

Director Reine mentioned that the Volunteers of America sewer waiver is now scheduled for the April 17 Public Works Commission Meeting but this is still tentative depending on when appeal package is complete and submitted.
D-2: Roads Program Briefing

Director Reine explained that a Roads Program Briefing is provided for the Public Works Commission each year to present a preview of what the program will look like for the current and upcoming year. Public Outreach meetings are held with residents on site. Town Meeting will be looking at a debt authorization of 1.4 Million Dollars. $800,000 dollars of that total is for the typical roads program; $600,000 dollars will be for contingency funding for the Cambridge Turnpike Improvement Project. The contract for the first phase of the project has been awarded to J. Tropeano at 3.8 Million Dollars. The second phase was awarded to Cairns from Windham, New Hampshire. The bid was significantly higher than the Engineer’s estimate for the project, which necessitated the construction contingency funding of $600,000.

There was a decrease in our system wide Pavement Condition Index (PCI). The goal has been to maintain an 80 PCI. One of the factors contributing to the decrease of the PCI over the last few years has been the impact of a set aside for the Cambridge Turnpike Construction contingency. These Town funds are leveraging the 7.5 Million Dollars that we obtained from MassDOT for a flooding mitigation resulting from the Crosby’s Corner Project. The work that has been completed related to the Crosby’s Corner project increased impervious areas including pavement adding additional stormwater and exacerbating the flooding on Cambridge Turnpike.

In addition, unlike many other communities who are experiencing large backlogs of deteriorating residential roads, Concord has placed a focus on the residential roadways as well. Some of these roads have not been touched for many decades since they were first constructed. Some examples of these roads include Hunters Ridge Road, Caterina Hts., Nimrod, Adams and Shadyside Ave. These are long roads that have low average daily traffic. For the past ten years we have dedicated a minimum of $350,000 of our roadway funding to these roads in need of attention. These roads, although, necessary to improve have little impact on the system wide Pavement Condition Index (PCI).

Mr. Olbrot went on to explain the details of the Roads Program. Every four years a Pavement Condition Inventory is conducted. We just moved over to a new platform called “Streetscan”. This inventory assigns a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) to each segment of road. The numbers range from 0 which would be the worst condition to 100 which would be the best. Five years after new pavement is installed you start to see a gradual decline in the condition of the pavement. Crack Seal or other treatment is performed to keep the pavement in good condition. If the road’s condition warrants, a Mill and Overlay treatment is performed. In other cases when the roadway is severely deteriorated a reclamation and full depth treatment is recommended.

Sections of Monument Street, Old Marlboro Road, Walden Street and Sudbury Road will be paved this season. This comprises 2.38 miles of roadway. The
Roads program funds are used for construction of the roads in addition to drainage and performing a robust patching program.

Asphalt adjustment costs tend to fluctuate, which necessitates some contingency funding. This is tied into a Mass DOT index.

D-3: Town Meeting Coordination

Director Reine requested that the Public Works Commission reaffirm their commitment and support for the Emerson Field Project and specifically the Community Preservation Act (CPA) funding which is being sought at this year’s Town Meeting in Article 22. All Enterprise Fund Articles are on the consent agenda, but we assign Commissioners to present those articles in the event they are voted off the consent agenda. Kerry Lafleur will present Article 7 and 8 which are combined with the other municipal capital and the revolving funds so there is no need for a Commissioner to present the Road Program this year. We will want to make sure that the Town Manager, Director Reine or a Commissioner is assigned to respond to any questions that may arise. The Water Main Borrowing Article is the only other item, for which we will prepare a presentation by Commissioner Terry who volunteered to handle this item. Director Reine will distribute the other articles amongst the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Terry MOVED and Commissioner Ng SECONDED, and it was UNANIMOUSLY VOTED as follows:

To affirm our recommendation for the Community Preservation Commission article that includes $300,000 for Emerson Field Renovations and to request the Moderator to indicate our support at Town Meeting.

D-4: Director’s Report

- **Nagog Pond** – We are in active litigation with Littleton. The Superior Judicial Court (SJC) dismissed the case that Littleton had filed for both the appointment of the three commissioners as well as the claim being filed in the SJC. A hearing will take place in Land Court tomorrow to discuss two issues. One is the Acton Water District motion to intervene that we had objected to, and the other is the motion to dismiss from Land Court by Littleton. We are also still working with the DEP on interest in the Littleton Cohbs Well modeling to ensure the impacts on Nagog are quantified accurately.

- **Cambridge Turnpike Project** – National Grid is laying their replacement gas line at this point. J. Tropeano will be mobilizing over the next two weeks. The road will likely be closing in the morning and opening back up in the evening. Several weeks after that, for Phase II, the road will permanently be closed in the areas where work is being done, with access for people to their homes and the Mill Brook Farm at all times, from different sides depending on where the construction is.
• **Public Works Week** – This year’s event will occur on Thursday, May 23. This is the 14th year this event has been held with the 8th grade students from Concord’s Middle School.

• **369 Commonwealth Avenue** – Gerow Property – this is a “green” demolition project coordinated by Concord Public Works.

• **Compost Site Resident Sticker Program** – Stickers will be distributed at the Compost Site when it opens on Saturday, April 6.

• **Wind Storm Feb. 25** – There was a significant wind storm resulting in over 30 calls for tree related issues.

• **Winter Maintenance** – There were six long duration snow storms in February into March. Thus far this season there have been 42 responses for winter maintenance with a total accumulation of 41 inches.

• **Emergency Catch Basin Repair** – A failing catch basin at 57 Lowell Road was repaired.

• **Water Meters** – In the Capital Plan we have budgeted for meter refurbishment and replacement. CMLP is moving forward with their Smart Meter Program. We read the meters through a transmitter called an ERT. The signal from the meter is transmitted for data collection. There is a portal that residents can log into to view their water consumption statistics.

**D-5: Commissioner’s Comments**

None.

**D-6: Public Comments**

When asked about the status of the snow maintenance budget, Director Reine responded that we are now into the deficit allowance budgeted at $170,000. Final numbers are being reconciled.

When asked about the length of time that it will take to resolve the Nagog Pond issue – Director Reine responded that a schedule for summary judgment will be prepared sometime in the April/May timeframe. The hearings should take place shortly after that. We expect that in the fall we should have a ruling. An appeal could be taken after that ruling, which could be another 18-24 months. That’s why we made a deliberate decision not to move forward with Phase I, which included the Ozone System, site work and selective demolition, because if we had awarded the contract we would have risked our ability to put Nagog online this summer when we may need it. We decided to concentrate on finalizing the intake design and permitting, to be in a position to award the intake construction this upcoming fall when the system comes offline. We will then be in a position to understand where we are with the litigation. Phase I and II would then be put together into one project.

Every four years the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) gets together to look at the universe of projects, which includes 97 communities that are represented by this group. They determine which projects will be considered
for the long range transportation plan, which is the twenty year plan. You need to be on this twenty year plan in order to be part of the Transportation Improvement Program. This program funded the Route 62 paving project, Flint’s Bridge, Heath’s Bridge, Pine Street Bridge and many other projects. They are responsible for about 2.85 billion dollars over the next 25 years of Federally funded dollars to program into the region. The rotary is one of those projects. About eight years ago the rotary was removed from the Long Range Plan for funding constraint reasons. We are now advocating to get the Route 2 Rotary Project back on the Long Range Plan.

There was a warrant article for repaving the road that runs past the Beebe Center. When asked about the cost of this project, Concord Public Works provided some feedback.

**ADJOURNED:** 8:54 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna R. Trout
Administrative & Special Projects Coordinator
Concord Public Works

Approved,

K.C. Winslow
Public Works Commission

PWC Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2019
Page 5