



**Seymour Public Works Department**

721 Derby Avenue  
Seymour, Connecticut 06483  
Tel. (203) 735-5838  
Fax (203) 734-5713

COPY RECEIVED  
DATE: 9/19/11  
TIME: 9:05 AM  
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Dennis G. Rozum  
Director

Board of Public Works Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 12, 2011 at 7:00 PM  
Public Works Garage

Members present: Chairman Sean Walsh, Vice-Chairman Wayne Finkle, Secretary Stephen Cochran, Karl Trybus, John Putorti

Members not present: --

Others present: John Boanno, Ed Bomba, Robert Koskelowski, Jr., Michael Laban, Valerie Pollack, Craig Stevens

- Sean Walsh opened the meeting at 7:03 PM

ITEM #1: Salute to the flag

ITEM #2: Approve minutes of August 8, 2011 Regular Meeting

→ Motion to approve minutes of August 8, 2011 regular meeting with the following spelling corrections: Cochran (rather than Cochrane) and Karl (rather than Carl) Trybus.

Motion: Karl Trybus                      Second: Stephen Cochran

Vote- Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0

ITEM #3: Financial report

→ Sean Walsh asked Craig Stevens if he spoke to Doug about separating the regular overtime and heavy equipment pay accounts into two separate line items. Stevens said he will contact Doug about this.

→ Wayne Finkle asked why the gasoline account was so high (58.17%). Stevens said that the account is awaiting reimbursement from other town departments.

→ John Putorti asked why the overtime account was so high (23.23%). Stevens said it was in part due to the recent tropical storm.

→ Finkle asked why the sanitation repairs and maintenance account (58.64%) and sanitation electricity (50%) were also high. Stevens noted that some funded were encumbered. Walsh will look further into why these accounts are high.

ITEM #4: Public comment

→ John Boanno, speaking on behalf of his mother-in-law Valerie Pollack of 25 Walnut Street, provided a brief history of a water drainage problem on the property, referencing Board of Selectmen and Board of

Public Works meeting minutes dating back to February 2010 in which the problem was discussed. He then stated that he has three firms coming to the property to evaluate the situation. He also provided the Board with aerial shots of the neighborhood from 1965 and present to show how various developments, particularly the creation of two manmade ponds and piping running under the transfer station, have altered drainage. He also noted that trees removed from the ball field at Matthies Park have caused the land to erode.

→ Michael Laban, 10 Clifton Street, speaking as a citizen and an employee of the department addressed some concerns that the recent tropical storm brought to light. First, Laban said employees worked around the clock during the storm for four days in a building without power. The police station and fire houses were powered by generators, but at the Public Works garage the generator only powered a few lights. Additionally, other first responders were provided with showers and food where Public Works employees were not. Laban noted that the First Selectman opened the showers at the middle school to town residents without having extended the same offer to Public Works employees. Citizens Engine Company was the only group that offered its showers and food to the department. Second, Laban stated that the department's kitchen is hardly functional. The stove and refrigerator were salvaged from the transfer station and the electrical wiring is so poor that two appliances cannot be used at once. Third, Laban said that the condition of the Public Works garage is poor. There is a large hole in a side door and the roof has been leaking for years. Laban pointed to ceiling tiles with water damage as well as ceiling lights filled with water. Basic supplies, like paper towels, soap, and toilet paper are always lacking and town custodians only clean the building once a month, whereas other town buildings are cleaning daily or weekly. Lastly, Laban stated that morale has been low because the breakroom television and coffee maker have been removed. Laban encouraged the Board to invite members of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen down to see the building and equipment and concluded by saying the bottom line was the employees are simply asking to be thought about. Ed Bomba also noted that first aid kits are needed.

#### ITEM #5: Discuss Tropical Storm Damage

→ Stevens presented the Board with a list of work performed during Tropical Storm Irene as well as a cost breakdown for the storm. Putorti thanked Stevens and the department for keeping the roadways so clean during the storm. He noted that the head of CL&P praised the department on the news for keeping the roads in town passable. Stevens also referred back to the comments Mike Laban made earlier regarding the storm and the treatment of the department. He said Laban's concerns were 100% valid. Stevens sent a letter to Citizens thanks them for their support (providing lights, a ziti dinner, and showers) during the storm.

Motion to add discussion of 25 Walnut Street to the agenda.

→ Motion: Wayne Finkle                      Second: Karl Trybus

Vote – Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0

→ Walsh said that he understands the problem and that the Board of Public Works has sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen because resolving the problem is beyond the department's control. The Board

of Selectmen turned the problem over to the town's legal counsel who determined the town is not responsible. Walsh said unfortunately there is nothing more this Board can do.

Motion to add Public Works department concerns to the agenda.

→ Motion: John Putorti Second: Karl Trybus

Vote – Yes:5, No:0, Abstain: 0

→ Walsh first addressed the generator. He said he was unaware of the problem. Stevens said that he got an estimate for the parts and labor to get the generator online and it will be done soon. Walsh said that once the generator is up and running it should be put on a maintenance program. Walsh then said the Board is just an overseeing board and does not have any say in the day-to-day operations of the department. Therefore, the Board cannot control what happens with the kitchen, coffee maker, and TV. Walsh said that he is sympathetic to the needs of employees as he is a Public Works employee in another city and after having worked 139 hours during the recent storm he touched base with Stevens to make sure the department was alright. Regarding Bomba's request for first aid kits, Walsh said first aid kits and fire extinguishers should be put in every vehicle as soon as possible. Finkle will look into the janitorial services schedule for the building and who is responsible for providing day-to-day supplies like soap and toilet paper to the department. Walsh also vowed to personally go to the First Selectman tomorrow and address some of these issues.

ITEM #6: Other business

→ No other business was discussed.

ITEM #7: Adjourn

→ Motion to adjourn at 9:25 PM.

Motion: Karl Trybus Second: John Putorti

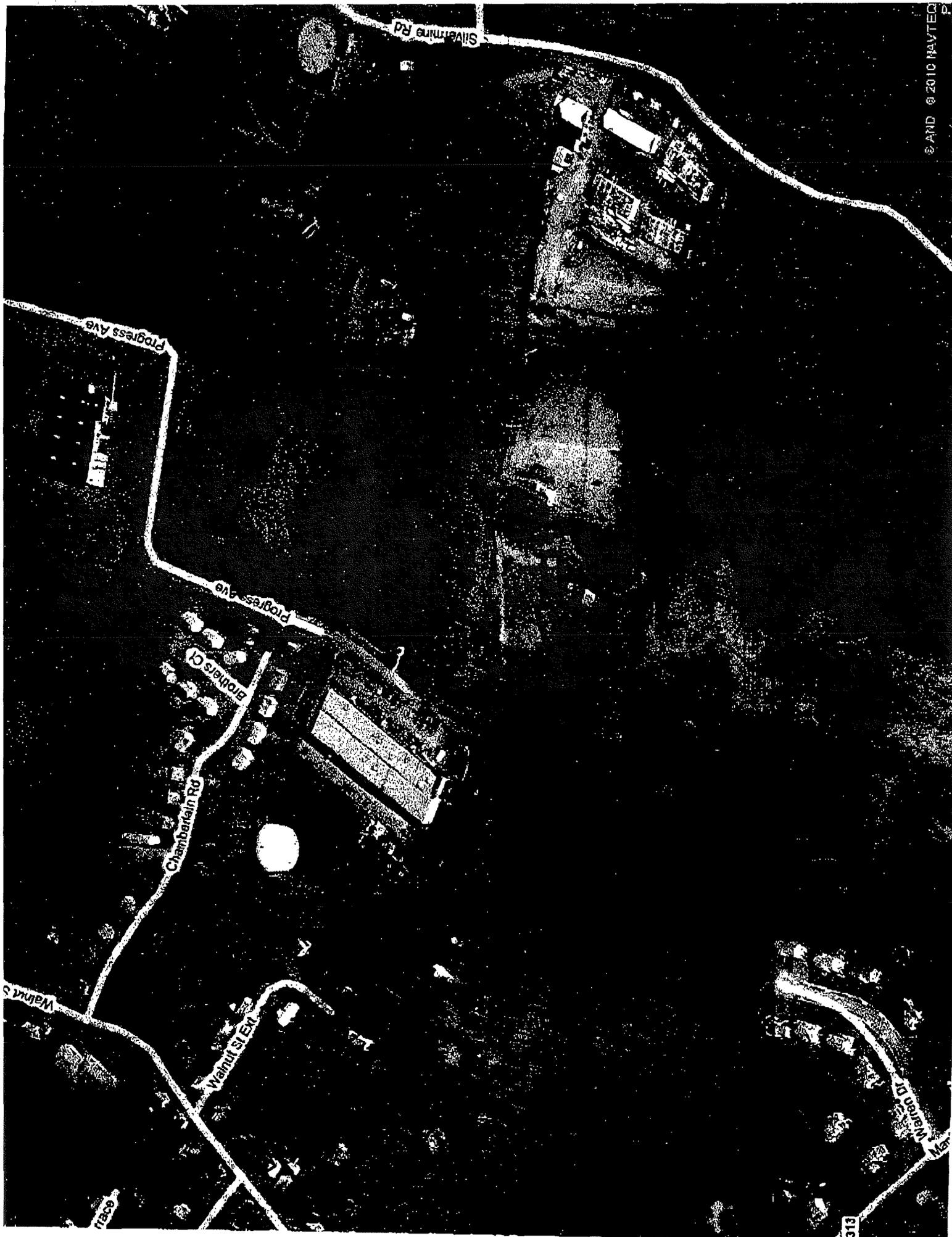
Vote – Yes: 5, No: 0, Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Knott





© AND © 2010 NAVTEQ