

**Special Meeting Minutes  
Board of Public Works  
Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 PM  
Public Works Garage**

**Members present:** Al Bruno, Bill Stowe, Annmarie Drugonis

**Members absent:** Sean Walsh, Rich Demko

**Others present:** Frank Gabinelli, Tony Deprimo, Jordan addis

**Item #1: Call meeting to order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:11pm.

**Item #2: Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood and recited the pledge of allegiance.

**Item #3: Public Comment**

Frank Gabinelli, who lives at 37 holbrook road, wanted to thank Annmarie Drugonis for sending down food to the crew after the storm.

**Item #4: Approve minutes**

Bill Stowe made a motion to approve the minutes

Second: Al Bruno

Approved 3-0

**Item #5: Discussion on plow truck incident**

During the last storm the electronic components in truck 28 started burning up. The truck went back to the vendor, New England truck service, the next day. The vendor had it back and ready for the next storm. The department had the truck back in two days. This was good customer service by the vendor. The truck was picked up hour before the next storm began. This incident resulted in the department being down one plow about halfway through the storm. This truck is only a month old. The vendor changed over the wiring harness. The department will monitor the truck, but Tony Deprimo was pleased with the customer service. Al Bruno suggested that they should be given a loan truck by the vendor in instances such as these.

**Item #6: Take action on crew lead position**

This crew lead position is for leading the parks. It has been posted. Mr. Deprimo stated that Jordan Addis has been doing a good job with the parks and would like board's approval to make him official.

Motion to accept Jordan Addis as lead for parks: Al Bruno

Second: Bill Stowe

Approved 3-0

**Item #7: Take action on crew lead position**

This crew lead position is for the lead on roads. It has been posted. Mr. Deprimo stated that Frank Gabinelli has been doing a good job with the roads and would like board's approval to make him official. Mr. Deprimo also stated that he would like to thank both Jordan Addis and Frank Gabinelli for all the work they do.

Motion to accept Frank Gabinelli as lead for roads: Al Bruno

Second: Bill Stowe

Approved 3-0

**Item #8: Discussion on snow storms**

The department has been getting a lot of positive feedback. It has been a hard season with all of the snow storms. They are doing the best they can. Overall, the department is doing really well. There have been no major accidents this year. This is impressive, considering half of the fleet is made up of older trucks. The department has plenty of salt. Mr. Deprimo stated that they are trying hard to not go over for overtime and not have to request transfers. The amount of salt they had to work with has been challenging with all of the storms we have been having. The department has done well working within budget. There has been only one transfer for materials, and none for overtime. During one of the larger storms, the department had guys working for over 30 hours straight. 17 guys have done everything without having to bring in outside help. Mr. Deprimo stated that they try hard to not have to bring in others, and his team works very well.

**Item #9: Discussion on seasonal help**

Mr. Deprimo stated that they put the ad in the paper for Board of ed consolidation. Today was the due date for resumes. He wants to focus on maintaining instead of playing catch-up. The department received compliments about trees being taken down at the middle school. Going to look at other areas that need trees cut. Currently, the department is working on tree trimming in the neighborhoods around town. After this, they will be looking at areas that needs trees out. Trees near the police department were taken down for safety and added visibility. Also, the department cleaned up the area near the new trail.

**Item #10: Financial update**

Mr. Deprimo stated that they are doing fairly well at working within the budget. Trees are a big expense, and they may need a transfer. Snow plowing funds are getting low. Catch basins will need to be cleaned out in the spring and the fall. The department will use garbage routes to clean catch basins.

**Item #11: Vehicle update**

The department has been monitoring the issues with the mason dump trucks. Frank Gabinelli has been doing research. The vendor who they use to maintain trucks may not be licensed to work on these trucks, as Frank has found that there are very few places in CT that are licensed. Frank is investigating the quality of the service they are getting. Tires on these trucks are going bald very quickly. Dodge may be having a problem with this. Tires are expensive, and it is an issue to have to replace them so often. Frank said there are people having similar issues with the trucks. Next

time they get a new truck, the department plans on using Ford or Chevy, since Dodge is not working out. The department has had to sink money into the trucks. There is also a no start issue on trucks. An electrical sensor is not working, and so sometimes the trucks do not start. Modern Dodge said that a truck brought in for this issue needed a new battery. However, when they replaced the battery the truck still didn't start. From 2014-2017, about 5 trucks have had this issue. The vendor they are using may not have the proper equipment to fix these trucks. Tony Deprimo said he will start documenting the problems they are having with the trucks to have it on record.

**Item #12: Transfer station update**

All is quiet and well at the transfer station. They are planning on getting rid of the tub grinder. There is an auction place you can put it on for the government. Annmarie said the department can get more money for it if it is fixed before it is auctioned. The budget is too low to do any repairs on the tub grinder now. Public works needs to tell the other town departments before putting it up for auction to see if others want it. Mr. Deprimo said he would send out an email. The department is also looking to get rid of some old trucks that have been sitting for a while. They need to find the titles before auctioning trucks, or donating them to the fire department.

**Item #13: Work update**

In the month of February, the crew picked up 1610 pounds of litter, and used 26 tons of cold patch to repair thousands of potholes around town. A new piece of equipment is being researched for repairing potholes. It is a \$22,000 oven using old millings to make asphalt. It would be low cost after the initial purchase, as it is a recycler using old millings. As there are not a lot of moving parts on this machine, it is not likely to break and will last a long time. The Pothole killer shared by several towns is better for saving time, but it does not do as nice of a job. The town hasn't used that in a long time. It is expensive to buy asphalt, but with this the town could make enough asphalt to fill potholes at a low cost. Bridgeport uses a similar hotbox, and it works well. It runs off of diesel, but can run all day on one tank. It works similarly to a furnace burner. This would be purchased from Tri-State equipment. It is cheaper than other places for the same parts, and it is nearby. The department removed the stone wall at the middle school and put up a new gate at the transfer station. The department is preparing for spring and summer.

**Item #14: Policy handbook discussion**

Sean Walsh is trying to meet with Rich Demko to give him the paperwork and discuss the handbook. This handbook has had some issues with the union contract. The board needs to make sure there is no discrepancy with the union. Mr. Bruno suggested that they should outsource the policy handbook to outside of the department. They need to have handbook that complies with the union contract. Annmarie Drugonis stated that they need to get it done, and the department should have say in what goes in the handbook. She stated that they need input from First Selectman Kurt Miller, the Human Resources department, an attorney, and the Public Works department. Tony Deprimo stated this should be a town wide policy handbook. Annmarie suggested it be more of a Code of conduct specific to Public Works. Tony Deprimo said this would be more of a safety

policy for what they do on a normal basis. He said he will put something together for Mr. Miller to look at and put in input.

**Item #15: Discussion on five-year capital plan**  
tabled.

**Item #16: Other business**

No other business.

**Item #17: Public comment**

No public comment.

**Item #18: Adjournment**

Al Bruno made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm

Second: Bill Stowe

3-0