

Town of Plymouth
80 Main Street
Terryville, CT 06786
www.plymouthct.us

Public Works Board
Tel: (860) 585-4001
Fax: (860) 585-4067

MINUTES
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, July 25, 2023
Assembly Room, Plymouth Town Hall, 5:45PM

1. **Call Meeting to Order** – The Regular Meeting of the Public Works Board was called to order on July 25, 2023, by **Chairman Joseph Carey** at 5:46 p.m. in the Assembly Room of Town Hall, 80 Main St., Terryville, CT
2. **Roll Call** – Members in attendance included: **Chairman Joseph Carey, Mark Lewandoski, Carl Johnson, Gary DiFlippo, Nate Brown-Town Council Liaison, Jim Schultz**-Highway Sup't. It is noted for the record that **Paul Pronovost** notified the Secretary that he would not be present at the meeting but did supply a copy of his report via email to all members.
3. **Fire Exit Notification** - pointed out by the **Chairman**.
4. **Pledge of allegiance** – Lead by the **Chairman**.
5. **Acceptance of Minutes (06-27-2023 Regular Meeting Minutes)**
MOTION: Carl Johnson made a **MOTION**, which was seconded by **Mark Lewandoski** to accept the minutes of the June 27, 2023, meeting and the **MOTION** passed.
6. **Monthly Reports**
 - a. **Public Works Director**
Submitted via email – From Paul Pronovost, Interim Public Works Director.

Date: July 25th, 2023

Re: July Final Interim Director's Report

This is my final report as I withdrew my application on Wednesday the 12th and will be leaving the town on Friday.

New streetlight poles have been installed on Timothy, Fountainhead and Tumblebrook Rd. to replace the wooden ones that had fallen. These are now aluminum poles that have a longer life span.

The Napco Dr. Bridge project is on schedule and should be ready for advertisement in August.

To answer some of the questions that were raised at the last meeting.

As far as the drainage bids are concerned, they were not copied and pasted from another town as suggested. This has been the Town of Plymouth's bid that was on file and used in the past. As of this date, only one bidder has had issues with the bid and no other bidder has contacted this office with concerns or questions.

As far as the cost analysis, it may have been confusion on my part as I was only cc'd on the email, and I was trained that if you are cc'd means that you are only being kept "in the loop" and that no action on your part is required at this time.

In closing I would like to thank those board members and town council liaison for supporting me in the last year in trying to get acclimated to how the Town of Plymouth works. Unfortunately, there are those that see a different direction for the department and in my opinion, might be using their position on the board for other reasons than the betterment of the town.

Respectfully submitted.

Paul Pronovost

Discussion: - None.

b. Highway Superintendent

James Schultz, Highway Sup't. gave a brief overview of various work that his crew has been working on which included: Response to Service Requests, Line Striping (yellow), cross bars and walks, Reclaiming-Meghan, Schroback and Preston Rds- work being done in house. Storm clean up and repairs.

Paving – Contractor pulled out as we were not ready with prep work (drainage, cb's, etc)

We continue to mow, sweep, and perform maintenance. Addressing problems on Allentown Rd near Lane Hill Rd, Wolcott Rd, Fall Mt. Lake Rd-sink hole near dam- pipe is collapsing.

Reviewing application for vacant Highway Dept. positions.

Never received an answer on drainage bid. Met with Mayor Kilduff today and was told to focus on storm clean up for now. Mayor is Acting Public Works Director until a new replacement is found.

Gary DiFlippo questioned whether the paving contractor gave us a timeframe of when he can return. **Jim Schultz** advises that we cannot ask him to come back without having the roads ready. We only have a contract with one company and since drainage work was not awarded we cannot get any of the work done.

Gary DiFlippo is concerned that we will not be able to get them to come back.

Councilman Nate Brown advised that he spoke with the Mayor today and recommended that we possibly reject all the bids so that we can use the CROG bid. We can then rebid the contract later in the year when we have more time. He feels this would be in the best interest of the Town.

There is general discussion, several individuals in the audience ask to speak. They will be allowed to comment under Item #9.

7. Old Business – none

8. New Business – none

9. Public Comment

Dick Doyle, 262 North St., Plymouth, CT

Mr. Doyle asks for clarification as to whether the Mayor is in charge of the Public Works Department and is acting in the capacity of its Director. If so, did he direct the Highway Superintendent to stop paving and send the contractor away?

Mr. Schultz advised that he is working on storm clean up, we stopped paving and the contractor left Town because our roads are not ready to pave.

Mr. Doyle advises that North St., washed out once, it was graded and ready for the next step; now due to additional rain, it has washed out again and will need to be regraded again. How long are we going to continue to do this, not one road is ready in Town. The road has been unpassable for 3-months. Schroback has been rolled, but not graded and is also not passable, who has the answers?

Gary DiFlippo states that if the Mayor is in charge, he should be here to answer questions from the residents instead of putting our Highway Sup't. on the spot or our Interim Public Works Director should be here.

Peter Omichinski, 33 Tunnel Rd., Terryville, CT

Mr. Omichinski states that Tunnel Rd is falling apart. Water from the roadway enters his property and washes his yard out. It is the Town's responsibility to control the water shedding from their road. There is a catch basin that was installed uphill that does nothing. The road is crumbling, he has been complaining for 5-years and nothing has been done. He contacted the Mayors office last week and was told that the Mayor would be present at tonight's meeting.

Dick Doyle, 262 North St., Plymouth, CT

Mr. Doyle questions whether there are any procedures in place to deal with Emergency situations like this.

Councilman Nate Brown explains that the Town has to follow provisions of the Charter and State Statute, the only time requirements are waived are during Emergency Declarations due to storms and hurricanes.

Carl Johnson comments that this is a risk management issue. We need to have procedures in place to deal with these types of issues; we need a multi-year plan to schedule work in the future.

Jim Schultz advises that we have 64 service requests for curbing.

Gary DiFlippo states that we need to take care of the public.

Zack Morin, 3 Gear Dr., Terryville, CT, owner of 3-Leaf Construction, feels that this is a waste of time and money. He submitted a bid, **Jim Schultz** is not in charge, Paul Pronovost is not here and CCOG is overprices and we will be spending more money than we need to be. The Town has the bids, the taxpayers want to see the work being done; the Mayor should be here if he is in charge.

Alan Yard, 452 Preston Rd., Terryville, CT

Mr. Yard states that the CROG pricing is an exuberant amount of money. He will contact the Mayor as a taxpayer of the Town to discuss this, he feels they are three times the cost of the bids that were received. He is unhappy with a lot of work being done in Town and questions the cost we are paying, i.e. work behind IGA, tree work being done that is not needed, etc.

Gene Szalapski, 23 Schrobach Rd., Plymouth, CT (Blueberry Farm)

Mr. Szalapski states that he has been dealing with this mess for the last 3 years, the road is a mess, and its condition is affecting his business. Something has to be done now.

Dick Doyle, 262 North St., Plymouth, CT

This is an Emergency situation; doesn't the Mayor understand this. He suggests that the bids not be thrown out; call the 3-lowest bidders in, come up with a scope of work for the (3) affected areas, come up with a cost for non-prevailing work and award to all three bidders. If this is not feasible, bite the bullet and award the work to the lowest bidder at the cost that was submitted; it is still cheaper than the CROG bid.

Jim Schultz explains that in addition to working with a skeleton crew, he is trying to take care of telephone complaints, he is doing the best that he can. He only has a paving contractor and until a decision is made about the other work his hands are tied, there is too much prep work to do and not enough in-house staff to get it done. He estimates 3-

crossings and 24 catch-basins to prep before he can call the paving contractor back. It is estimated that there are approximately 2-3 weeks' worth of work.

Mark Lewandoski recommends that the 3 low bidders be called in and that we work with them to get this done for at least the (3) locations discussed; he does not see a problem with this. These are companies that we are familiar with, and they want to help.

Councilman Nate Brown will contact the Mayor, he has still not seen a bid tab of the numbers submitted. He will do a cost analysis and recommend that the Mayor reach out to the lowest 3-bidders. They can determine the best course of action.

Gary DiFlippo discussed position vacancies, we need to hire people who know what they are doing, he feels we have hired incompetent people in the past.

Carl Johnson recommends moving on from here. We need to sit down as a Board and set goals for 5 to 10-years down the road. We need to put it in writing and make a plan, because this scenario is what happens when there is no plan in place.

10. Chairman's Report

Chairman Carey reports that the Public Works Search Committee met to choose its candidate, the position was offered to the most qualified individual that fit the Town's needs; per the letter received from our Interim Director, he has withdrawn his application. No other candidate met our requirements, and the Mayor has decided to start this process over.

11. Commission Member Comments

Councilman Nate Brown advises that the bridge at Napco Drive is on schedule, hoping to advertise in September.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: **Gary DiFlippo** made a **MOTION**, which was seconded by **Mark Lewandoski** to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and the **MOTION** was voted on unanimously.

Submitted by,

Pamela Pelletier
Recording Secretary