

Agenda Notes 20200611

Shard Villa Road – The paving is complete. Shoulder stone is scheduled for the week of June 8, weather permitting.

Police Dept Re-use Project

We had a pre-construction meeting this week. The contract is being reviewed before finalization. Work is expected to start June 15.

Library Window Projects – We put two (2) projects out to bid; historic and general painting. We received two bids from regional contractors for the historic project, but one bidder combined both projects into one bid.

We did not receive any other bids for the general painting.

Fire Truck Purchase – Status

Fire Chief David Shaw will update the Committee on the status of this project.

Police Department Building Re-Use Project Change Orders for Alternatives

Two alternatives submitted with the bid from VMS Construction need to be considered and sent to the Selectboard. They are the overhead doors (2) for the original control building and the fire alarm system for the cruiser garage and the control building. The overhead door alternative is \$7,800 and the fire alarm system is \$11,000. I request the committee send these to the Selectboard for approval.

Court Square/Street Water Main Improvement Project- Bid review & relationship with the Class 1 Paving Projects

We received one (1) bid for this project, from Champlain Construction, Inc. Their bid is \$1,828,654.83. The engineer's estimate is \$1,304,125. It seems that the CoVid has disrupted the bidding climate and affected contractors in different ways. Discussion will be about paring the project to fit with the VTrans schedule and our budget.

VTrans' Class 1 Middlebury Paving- I had a conversation with Brandon Kipp, Project Manager for VTrans. We discussed the possibility of going ahead with the Rt 30 & Rt 125 project, but delaying the Rt 7 project. These are separate projects because of funding sources; Rt 7 is a federal route. I was thinking that we might chose to phase the water main to assist our cash flow. The reality is that VTrans would rather continue with their project schedule than chop it up. Their project is a good construction season's worth and prefer to keep the economies-of-scale (larger quantities of work) as opposed to mobilization/de-mob costs times two (2), and smaller quantities. I totally understand this position. They don't seem to be too concerned about the public perception of damage to new pavement.

Back to the water main project – My thought is to build the Court Street water main from Court Square to Cross Street water main first, in spring of 2021 (re-bid in winter of 2020-21). We will need to be complete by July 15th. VTrans would complete all Class 1 paving in 2021. In 2022 or 2023 build the section from Seymour Street over to Court Square. We would disturb the pavement at Main St & Seymour Street and at Merchants Row-South Pleasant-Court Street intersection. There is a possibility of grant funds for this time period.

Water & Wastewater Budgets

The updated budget sheets are attached, with only minor changes.

The Water Charges are seeing an increase of \$185,570 to fund the first year of a 10-year note and the initiative to increase capital improvements. In order to raise this revenue, the base rate and the user rate will need to be increased. As we discussed last year, we try to balance the needed revenues between the base rate and usage rate. Increasing only the base

rate puts more burden on the smaller users. Increasing only the usage rate puts more burden on the large users. I am suggesting a base rate increase from \$50 per quarter to \$60 per quarter and a usage charge increase from \$3.43 to \$3.73 per quarter.

Wastewater Charges: I have increased the quarterly base rate by one (1) dollar (to \$31), which raises revenues by \$8,559. There is no change recommended in the usage charge. Agri-Mark's usage charge has increased (per agreement). This has stabilized the need for a usage charge change. There is one more step increase in that agreement beginning January 2021.

Effect of CoVid on budgeting – It is difficult to forecast to what extent that these budgets will be affected. We pumped ~ 24% less water in April compared to April average. May was down 10%. Obviously, school (and Middlebury College) use will be down for several months. Restaurant use may come back sooner. I think the best strategy is to set rates according to the expenses, but expect that capital improvement funds would fluctuate (downward).

Committee Name Restoration

Attached is an email thread providing background for considering the naming of this Committee; restoring the name back to Public Works Committee.

Public Works (Wikipedia)

“Public Works is a multi-dimensional concept in economics and politics, touching on multiple arenas including: recreation (parks, beaches), aesthetics (trees, green space) economy (goods and people movement, energy), law (police and courts), and neighborhood (community centers, social services buildings). Essentially it represents any constructed object that augments a nation's physical infrastructure.”

The term public works includes government-owned and operated infrastructure as well as public buildings, such as libraries, public safety, schools, city halls (town offices), court houses, etc. Public works generally

refers to physical assets needed to deliver public services. Public services include both infrastructure and services generally provided by government.

The Town has a Public Works Department. We belong to the American Public Works Association. My job title is Public Works Planning Director.

“Public Works” is a centuries-old and easily recognized term.

Infrastructure

There are numerous definitions and uses of this word. A Google search is suggested if you desire. It can be used for hard or soft infrastructure, private and public.

Other Possibilities – Public Asset Committee; Building & Grounds Committee