

Minutes of the Public Works Committee on February 25, 2014.

Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
P. Vetro
J. Golden

Also Present

R. Tomasco, Acting PW Director
L. Streit, Secretary
S. Johnson, Open Space

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes

A motion was made by Vetro, seconded by Golden to accept the minutes of the December meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Anderson noted that the Board did not meet in January due to Public Works' Board of Finance budget meeting.

Director's Report

The snow removal costs to date are \$394,750.00. Last year's costs, prior to the 3' storm, were \$65,393.00; after the 3' storm the year to date was \$307,000.00. Last year the City was reimbursed \$250,000.00 due to the storm being declared a state of emergency. There has been more snow this year than last year: this year 66", last year 53". Richie stated that wind mileage determines a blizzard (30 mph) and this year, storms have not been declared a state of emergency. A discussion followed regarding alerts to clear the streets of cars so that they can be plowed. Anderson stated that people are walking in the streets due to no access to sidewalks. It was discussed that East Town Road is a private road and not a city road.

Gulf Beach access was discussed. Richie reviewed that the beaches and parks are closed in the winter and it is not in the budget to have the manpower and overtime to plow/clean them in the winter. The streets and buildings are the priority as well as the most used areas. Richie stated that he went to meetings with other towns and found that some towns hire 25 trucks and private vendors and have a much bigger snow budget.

Vetro reported that Bassett and Elder Streets are both dead ends and houses get plowed in; there is nowhere to put snow. Richie will look into this. Anderson stated that snow operations have been good this winter, generally speaking. Richie stated that they are trying to do all of the streets.

Golden stated that the street sign has been fixed at Joyce Court and she is thankful. Also, snow removal has been amazing for the first year ever.

Drywells are to be put in for drainage at Walnut Beach.

Roads to be paved have been discussed with the Mayor. Interviews for the Public Works Director are complete; the new Director should be hired within a month.

Transfer Station was discussed; the large scale is rented from Beard. A scale went out to bid and would be \$97,000.00. Public Works will be doing the demo; to jack hammer the deck out and there will be two entrance/exits. This needs to be complete by May in order to prepare for bulk pick up. Golden asked if the public will still be able to use the transfer station during this. Richie stated that they would. A discussion followed regarding combination plates and dump permits.

Anderson stated that for the 375th Anniversary, approval has been received to operate the headquarters out of the Fowler Building and he asked where they could order bunting from. Richie stated that he would check with Sly. Anderson asked about dimensions for flags/banners for the poles downtown. Richie stated that there are no receptacles for flags on those poles.

Steve Johnson stated that he wanted to understand Public Works rules in order to collaborate for projects. Richie stated that Public Works is limited budget wise and suggested contacting Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and community groups. Those entities are not a conflict; otherwise it would be a union issue. Johnson asked about sidewalks. It was discussed that residents and businesses are responsible for their own sidewalks. Johnson stated that he had to walk in the street on Bridgeport Avenue by Stop and Shop due to the snow. Richie stated that that would be a Police Department matter. Johnson asked about trash bins at beaches and parks and that the season is Memorial Day through Labor Day. Richie confirmed that and that Highway and Sanitation picks up the bins. A discussion followed that dog feces is a problem in the parks.

The next meeting will be on March 24, 2014.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit