Minute of the Public Works Committee on February 22, 2021

**Present Also Present**

E. Beatty C. Saley, PW Director

T. Giannattassio S. Johnson, Assistant Director of PW

P.Vetro J. Rosen, Mayor’s Assistant

R. Vitale L. Streit, Recording Secretary

W. Willis

**Minutes**

Beatty stated that the minutes need clarification on the budget; that the budget represents a decrement not a flat budget and that she would bring it up at the next Board of Alderman meeting. A motion was made by Giannattassio, seconded by Vetro to approve the minutes of the January meeting as amended. The motion carried unanimously.

**Director’s Report**

* We have had lots of snow and have expended a lot of energy trying to keep the roads clear. This season has had more snow than any season in the past 6 years. Public Works has been trying to keep the vaccination days open at Parson’s with all the snow. A pipe cracked at Parson’s and had to be fixed. The last storm lasted for 36 hours and there was a bad issue with getting enough salt; inventory was tight. Two long term employees retired in January with 20+ years of experience. It has been a hectic month and it has been a challenge with employees and quarantines.

Giannattasio asked if the funding was exhausted, with the amount of snow and shortage of salt, for budget purposes. Chris stated that it has, and they are using Town Aid funds. There have been $440,000.00 in expenditures to date. The Forman, Tom Hunt has been doing a tremendous job. Steve stated that salt has been on back order. Giannattasio asked how much salt costs per ton. Chris stated the cost is $51/$52 per ton for untreated salt and $62 for treated salt and 22 tons is typically purchased. Some salt was from DOT in Milford and Chief Edo helped facilitate this. Giannattasio asked about the capacity for storage. Chris stated 700 tons; the plan is to raise the roof in order to be able to dump the triaxle directly.

* Beatty stated that at the last meeting Vitale brought up that this was an overly cautious budget. She reviewed the report she prepared to present to the Board of Aldermen: that Public Works is a core element and plays a critical role in public safety; key to the administration of the beautification of Milford. Public Works’ budget is a large budget, only second to the Board of Education and gets reimbursements from various grants and State and Federal agencies. It is early in the budget process and a matter of increased demand for services where Public Works requires additional manpower in order to continue to provide these services. Chris stated that he was happy that no positions were cut in the process but agrees that they are spread thin as a department. Giannattasio stated that he feels it is a great report to present.
* Giannattasio asked what will happen when the City acquires St. Gabriel’s and if that will be an increase in maintenance for Public Works. Chris stated that he is not sure who will be responsible for this building. A discussion followed regarding leases to different entities and different responsibilities and how that varies by type of Agency based on services provided, resources of the Agency, etc. and that this needs to be looked at and discussed further. Steve stated that this year was unique with COVID-19, the amount of snow and the August storm. Public Works is working hard to meet the demands.

The next regular meeting will be on March 29, 2021.

A motion was made by Vetro, seconded by Gainnattasio to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit