



Borough of Jewett City



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BOARD OF WARDEN & BURGESSES

SPECIAL MEETING

MARCH 24, 2015 @ 1:00 PM

Received For Record At Jewett City, Conn.
On 3/30/15 At 11:50 AM

Attest:
Maureen Pridemore Borough Clerk

The Special Meeting of the Board of Warden & Burgesses held in the Griswold Town Hall Selectman's Conference Room, Second Floor on Monday, March 24, 2015 was called to order by Acting Warden/Senior Burgess Timothy Sharkey at 1:10 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Motion to appoint Leona Sharkey as Acting Clerk was made by Burgess Connelly, second by Burgess Sorder. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

ROLL CALL:

Leona Sharkey, Acting Clerk read the roll call. Present: Acting Warden/Senior Burgess, Timothy Sharkey, Burgesses, John Connelly and Laurie Sorder. Absent: Warden, Alan Geer, Burgess, James Krueger, and Bailiff, William Czmyr, Jr. A quorum was determined.

ALSO PRESENT:

First Selectman, Kevin Skulczyck and Director of Public Works, Todd Babbitt.

New Business:

Discussion on road/sidewalk/sign concerns within the Borough with First Selectman and Director of Public Works Department.

Acting Warden/Senior Burgess Sharkey stated that he and Burgess Connelly rode throughout the entire Borough assessing every road. Burgess Connelly stated that he created a key 1 – Poor, 2 – Good, 3 – Very Good and a hyphen was excellent. Burgess Connelly stated that overall the roads were either poor or good. There were none in fair condition; however, there were some in excellent condition.

Burgess Sorder asked Mr. Babbitt what is the anticipated ability to do roads within the Borough this coming year based upon the information compiled. Mr. Babbitt stated that he will not be able to do any roads until the road study comes back, which will be within 8-10 weeks. Mr. Babbitt explained that it is a new software program that allows him to break out the Borough roads from the Town roads and the software will tell him which roads need attention right away and which ones can wait. The program will also Mr. Babbitt to put in for example \$500,000 and the program will tell him where the money would be best spent. First Selectman Skulczyck stated that the bottom line is Borough roads will get done and Mr. Babbitt agreed.

Acting Warden/Senior Burgess Sharkey asked what is the process used to determine the outcome of the road study. Mr. Babbitt stated that they take everything into consideration from long cracking, alligator cracking, contour of road, loss of asphalt, etc. All of this data is compiled and mapped and the sidewalks are listed as an alternate item. The sidewalk study portion will let you know where the worst areas are and you can use this information for grant applications in the future.

SPECIAL MEETING

-PAGE 2-

MARCH 24, 2015

Mr. Babbitt stated that the program used for the road study will not only tell you where you can get the best bang for your buck when the money is input into the system, but it can also give you a long-term projection.

Burgess Sorder asked Mr. Babbitt if they take into consideration how much the roads are traveled. Mr. Babbitt said they do not conduct a traffic study.

Burgess Sorder asked if they were going to repair or replace the bridge on Ashland Street considering the amount of deterioration. Mr. Babbitt stated that the engineer told him that it only needs to be repaired. Mr. Babbitt stated that the Jewett City Water Company is supposed to stub out a line for Ashland Street and Mr. Babbitt wants to schedule it so that the bridge can be repaired at the same time because there is no sense in repairing it now if the water company is going to dig it up.

Mr. Babbitt stated that there are a lot of repairs needed after this harsh winter that call for crack sealing and pot holes. American Industries is due to open within the next few weeks and once that happens the public works department can obtain hot patch to do repairs and stated that they will start with the roads that have been done within the last 15 years first. Mr. Babbitt also stated that the department has been out every day for the last two weeks making repairs and Acting Warden/Senior Burgess Sharkey stated that he has seen the department members out making the repairs.

Mr. Babbitt stated that he has talked with Representative Brycki about possibly getting the State to change their contracts so that Griswold along with other towns would be able to get millings that this department can use to fix roads, as it would be a huge cost savings and their budget is already \$100,000 in the hole because of all the snow storms.

Discussion was had regarding the removal of snow from the sidewalks within the Borough. Mr. Babbitt stated that if you are going to enforce the ordinance that it should affect all sidewalks and not just the main routes, North Main Street, East Main Street and Slater Avenue, as those are the primary areas that the public works department cleared snow and billed. Mr. Babbitt also asked the board if they would consider either amending or repealing their sidewalk ordinance as the public works department took over the roads in 1994 and the sidewalks are part of the roads and the fact that the public works department does the work and billing. Regarding this matter, Mr. Babbitt stated that they inadvertently billed the wrong parties, as a lot of the houses are missing house numbers and his crew was guessing the number for the residence they cleared. Mr. Babbitt asked if we would send a letter to the Fire Marshall asking him to enforce people putting numbers on their house. Acting Warden/Senior Burgess Sharkey stated that he would have a letter sent. Mr. Babbitt also asked if the Leona Sharkey, Tax Collector would be able to send a notice out with the bills this year siting the responsibility of the sidewalks to the owner with the town ordinance # and where they can access it from, and the Mrs. Sharkey stated she would do that for the upcoming bill cycle.

Burgess Connelly asked if the State of CT will remove snow from the sidewalks on Main Street since it is a State Road. Mr. Babbitt said no they would not because their focus is on clearing the roads to allow the cars to pass through; however, they push the snow from the intersection on to the sidewalk of the gas station, which is not right.

Burgess Sorder asked if you clear the roads and the businesses clear the sidewalks, then where do they put the snow. Mr. Babbitt stated that the businesses are good and they put the snow mostly at the edge of the sidewalk; however, the public works department has problems with people throwing the snow out into the road, which

SPECIAL MEETING

-PAGE 3-

MARCH 24, 2015

according to state law they cannot do that, so Mr. Babbitt stated the plan is to create a town ordinance that reflects the same with penalties.

Mr. Babbitt spoke about the overflow lot adjacent to the old nurses' building parking lot that is dirt and is used as a designated parking area during snowstorms for off street parking. Mr. Babbitt stated there are problems with people just leaving their vehicles there and then the public works department cannot clear the lot. Mr. Babbitt stated that they are going to purchase signs that clearly state it is an overflow lot along with the time to remove your vehicle after a storm ends if not it will get towed.

First Selectman Skulczyck asked Mr. Babbitt if he would make sure that the Jewett City Fire Department is plowed, as it is public safety and complaints were brought to him saying that it was not being plowed. Mr. Babbitt stated they always plow the ramp to the firehouse to ensure the trucks can get in and out, as well as plow a route for them if there is a call that comes in. Acting Warden/Senior Burgess Sharkey stated that he had received a complaint from the Chief of the department stating it was not plowed and showed Mr. Babbitt the pictures of the unplowed ramp that were sent to him from Chief Hanson. Mr. Babbitt assured the board he had spoken to the chief and they came up with a plan on how to handle it from this point forward.

Burgess Sorder made a motion to contact the Borough Attorney regarding the sidewalks and who shall retain ownership to oversee ordinance of sidewalks. Second by Burgess Connelly. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Burgess Connelly made motion to adjourn, Second by Burgess Sorder. All in favor, aye. Motion carries.

Special Meeting duly adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,


Leona Sharkey, Acting Clerk

Regular Meeting April 6, 2015