



Warner Municipal Budget Committee

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 17, 2017
Approved

Chairman Mike Cutting opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.

Committee members in attendance:

- ◆ Mike Cutting - Chair
- ◆ Martha Bodnarik
- ◆ Kimberley Edelmann - Selectmen's Rep
- ◆ Alfred Hanson
- ◆ Martha Mical - Vice Chair

Excused:

- ◆ Jonathan Lord
- ◆ Pete Newman - Water Precinct representative

Also present: John Leavitt

1. Site Visit - Department of Public Works / Highway Department

The committee met with Tim Allen, Director of Public Works, at the highway department garage, sitting in the multipurpose meeting room / break room / kitchen area. In the tours of 2016, it was pointed out that the DPW would like to be able to put a room upstairs; a kitchen and maybe a bunk area. Asked about this, Tim said he still wanted to do that.

Before doing that project, Tim said he wants to focus on the needed sprinkler system. He has a quote for internal work at about \$84,000 but still needs a quote about work outside. The water holding tank would need to be below ground level to prevent freezing. He is thinking there is more than enough room over by the solar array for that.

Asked about dry chemical systems, Tim pointed out that they can run twice as much.

A water-based sprinkler system would require movement of the water in the system on a regular basis. This can be done automatically. Tim spoke about a system at Hopkinton's Camp Merrimac which has a 35,000 gallon tank.

Tim talked about the gravel pit, saying work was finished up for now. All of the mined areas had been graded and seeded with grass. He believes there's still 8 to 12 years of gravel left in the pit. He also said there's a lot of solid rock there which could provide another 1 to 2 years of material. Tim added that some people complain about the truck traffic in that area. He said he recently mailed a letter to the local residents to provide an update on activities.

Asked if the planning board had ever visited the town pit, Tim said no. He added that Towns are exempt from their own zoning ordinances.

Mike Cutting, referring to the pit as the "Jim Henley pit", recalled that it was over 20 years ago when Allen Brown looked at the pit and felt it could provide 10 years worth of gravel to Warner. The 37 acre lot was purchased for

\$102,000. Tim referred to the pit as a “diamond to the town” as it continues to provide gravel.

In 2012, a master plan / reclamation plan for the pit was produced by Dave Eckman. Tim said he's going to have Mark Moser from Moser Engineering in Henniker take a look at the pit as it stands today. Tim wants to be particularly careful due to the water bodies in the area.

A tour of the garage area followed, which included identification and discussion about the various pieces of apparatus. In response to a question about the 10 wheeler, Tim said it was a great investment that has resulted in saves labor hours, fewer trips on the road, and less fuel.

Tim said the 2006 Ford 550 dump truck should be replaced. The pickup truck that Tim uses also needs to be replaced. Tim noted that he had submitted his CIP last month. He was looking for between 150 and 170K per year. The budget committee would be reviewing that report in coming weeks.

Asked about road projects, Tim said he hoped to get to Red Chimney or Burnt Hill in 2018.

2. Site Visit - Recycling Transfer Station

At 7pm, the committee visited the Recycling Transfer Station.

Varick Proper talked about a need to relocate the compactor in the next 5 to 10 years, expecting that work to cost over \$100,000. The current location is one of the chief design flaws of the station, a design which did not make good use of the elevation changes on the site to best advantage. Varick also noted that in well designed recycling stations, the trash is at the end of the line, more towards the exit.

In terms of design, Varick noted that the current station has too much mixing of employees and the public. If he were to resign the transfer station, he would include more definite division of areas.

Varick spoke about tonnage. For a long time, that was a good metric of the success of the station. Weight was the gold standard. Varick noted that with everything getting lighter. What might be a better metric? He also noted that the volume of recycling was changing, evolving. Biodegradable materials, instead of being recycled, can go into the compactor.

Asked when curbside trash pickup would make sense, Varick said he didn't have an answer for that.

In terms of recent improvements, Varick noted that the expanded parking lot has helped. The whole parking lot will receive a skim coat in the near future to fill in cracks.

Varick said the heating systems are working well. Varick stressed that citizens need to keep their used synthetic and natural oils separated, not mixed.

In 2018, Varick plans to hold a Household Waste Day. The last one was in 2016. As a way to keep the budget from fluctuating, Varick pointed out that years that have HW Days could alternate with years that have maintenance projects.

Varick pointed out that the Wood Bank sited on the far west side of the parking lot actually belonged to the Energy Committee. Citizens who would like some wood should contact that committee.

In terms of the operating budget for the transfer station, Varick said expenditures were right in line with where they should be at this time of year. In regards to part time labor, they are a little behind. Currently, there are 5 part time and 2 full time employees. Most work 16 hours per week. One is putting in 7 to 8 hours at the highway department. Varick is evaluating ideal staffing levels. He is also contemplating how to make the job attractive.

Varick noted that in terms of revenue, the improved economy means more volume of goods coming in. He shared that they have received \$12,000 sales on recyclables year to date. In terms of plastics, the prices track the price of

crude oil. Also in revenues, they have received \$7,000 in fees. He feels that is a little on the soft side.

Who can use the Transfer Station? Warner residents. They need to come to the Transfer Station to receive their decals to put on their vehicles.

In response to a question about what happens with glass, Varick said it is broken using the skidsteer then put to use in road projects.

3. Adjournment

The tours and meeting was adjourned at 7:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberley Brown Edlmann
Acting Recording Secretary