

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
September 19, 2023

The meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Barry Christman. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Christman were Keith Endy, Gene Gabel, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also present were councilman Charles Neubauer; Lorraine Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark LLC; Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc.; and Tom Unger, SDE, Inc.

Mr. Christman called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

Mr. Christman made a motion, second by Mr. Endy, to approve the minutes of the August 22nd, 2023 meeting of the committee. The motion was approved.

Street Supervisor Report

Mr. Hansley reviewed the report on the activities during the month of September. Mr. Hansley and Mr. Unger advised the committee that New Enterprise has not completed the punch list items for the 2023 Street Reconstruction Project. Both expressed their displeasure with the performance of New Enterprise. The contractor has not been paid and Mr. Unger stated that SDE will deduct the allowance for traffic control because New Enterprise did not provide any traffic control. New Enterprise has not provided a date for completion of the punch list items.

Mr. Unger reviewed the bid tabulation for construction of the Proposed Salt Shed. The low bid in the amount of \$255,550.00 was submitted by Amric Construction, Inc., 705 Narvon Road, Narvon, PA 17555. Mr. Unger stated that electric service to the building was not included in the bid. The cost to run the electric service to the building for lighting and garage door opener will be under \$21,000. SDE, Inc. is preparing the electric plan for receipt of quotes. Mr. Unger stated that Amric Construction was the successful bidder on Douglass-Berks and Muhlenberg Township's salt shed construction projects. The committee agreed to recommend Borough Council award the bid for construction of a salt shed to Amric Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$255,550.00.

Mr. Hansley discussed with the committee the 2025 Street Reconstruction Project. Streets slated for repaving in 2025 include Rhoads Avenue from Jefferson Street to Berks Street; and Monroe Street from East 4th Street to East Second Street. Mr. Hansley noted that repaving of Rhoads Avenue could be delayed, suggesting that Rhoads Avenue could be replaced by Highland Street. Following discussion, the committee agreed that Mr. Hansley should rework the 5 Year Street Reconstruction Plan and present it for the committee's consideration at the October Committee Meeting. Mr. Endy requested Mr. Hansley provide the revised plan to him for review in advance of the meeting.

Unfinished Business

MS4 – Stormwater Ordinance – Mrs. Loder advised that she has been told that SSM has completed revisions to the Stormwater Ordinance; however, at this time she has not received a copy of the revised ordinance.

Discussion was also held on the rain garden bump out at Fifth and Franklin Street. Borough staff and SSM, Inc. will continue to monitor the function of this garden during periods of heavy rain. It was noted that during high flow rain events storm water is flowing around the garden on Fifth Street flowing across Franklin Street but not flowing into the basin on the east side of Franklin Street. SSM personnel have inspected the garden during rain events; however, have not yet personally witnessed a significant enough rain event. SSM personnel and borough personnel will continue to inspect the garden during rain events and will record the flow of water in an effort to find the best resolution.

New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

Public Comment

There being no public comment and no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. was made by Mr. Christman, second by Mr. Endy. The next meeting of the Public Works Committee will be held on Tuesday, October 24th, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Manager