

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 20, 2022**

The meeting of the Public Works Committee was called to order at 8:05 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 Lori Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; and Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark LLC.

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

Mr. Christman made a motion, second by Mr. Gabel, to approve the minutes of the July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting of the Committee. The motion was approved.

**Street Supervisor Report**

Mr. Hansley reviewed the monthly report on the activities of the street department.

**Unfinished Business**

**MS4 General Permit** – Pollution Reduction Plan – Rain Garden/Curb Bump Out Project – Notice to Proceed was issued on August 22<sup>nd</sup> with a substantial completion date of October 21<sup>st</sup>. Construction Master Services, LLC has started construction; as of this date the project is going well. The bump out at Franklin and Fifth Street is complete with the exception of landscaping and CMS has begun work at Franklin and Sixth Street.

**2022 Annual Paving Project** – The paving project is complete with the exception of a soft spot in the municipal parking lot and directional arrows at the driveway entrance from South Reading Avenue. CMS is expected to return shortly to complete this work. The certificate of payment will not be processed until the work is complete.

**Community Park Bank Stabilization** – Mr. Newhard is preparing a bank stabilization plan for consideration by the Borough.

**New Business**

**ROW – Weed Control** – A lengthy discussion was held on the approval by Borough Council of a motion to prohibit the use by the Borough of glyphosate based products for weed control. Discussion at the Council Meeting included use of a horticultural vinegar for weed control. Mr. Hansley informed the committee that the horticultural vinegar would have to be applied two to three times per season at a cost of approximately \$8,000 per application. Mr. Hansley also stated that commercial applicators do not use horticultural vinegar, the Street Department staff would have to spray the right-of-way, parks and Town Center Parking Lot, which is not possible with the current staffing of the department. Mr. Hansley advised that the cost for Ehrlich to spray the right of way in 2022 was \$4,600.00.

Mr. Hansley also advised that he spoke with the Department of Agriculture on the subject. The Department of Agriculture handles pesticide licensing and enforcement of state regulations on use and application of pesticides by license holders. The Department of Agriculture representative, Steven Detweiler, advised Mr. Hansley that glyphosate based products are approved for use by the Department of Agriculture and have not been proven to be cancer causing.

Information published by the EPA on the use of glyphosate based products was also provided to the elected officials via email. The information states that regulatory agencies in the USA, Canada, Japan, Australia, and the European Union, as well as the Joint Meeting on Pesticide Residues of the United Nations and World Health Organization looked at cancer rates in humans and studies where laboratory animals were fed high doses of glyphosate. Based on these studies, they determined that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic. The EPA assessed long-term feeding studies in animals, and found there is no evidence glyphosate is toxic to the nervous or immune systems. They also found it is not a developmental or reproductive toxin. The EPA has also determined that children are not more sensitive to glyphosate as compared to the general population.

Following all discussion, the committee asked Mr. Hansley to reach out to pesticide applicators to confirm that they only use glyphosate based products and to obtain additional information on the use of a pre-emergent.

### **Public Comments**

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. was made by Mr. Christman and seconded by Mr. Endy. The next meeting of the Public Works Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Manager