

**Board of Public Works  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date: December 13, 2021**

**Time: 6:00 p.m.**

**Place: Library Program Room  
Library Plaza**

**In attendance for all or part of the meeting were the following:**

Robert Shaughnessy	Chairman
Dave Carriere	Vice Chairman
John Cusick	Member
Tom Reynolds	Superintendent
Dan Bowen	Assistant Superintendent
Rod Procaccino	Town Engineer – not present
Ann Marie Sacchetti	Board of Public Works Secretary

The meeting convened at 6:00 p.m.

Robert Shaughnessy motioned to open the meeting and reviewed the agenda with one appointment, action items, items for discussion, minutes and Superintendent's report.

**Seconded** by John Cusick

**All in favor.**

**ACTION ITEMS**

- 1) Draft letter from BPW to various parties re: PFAS Regulations – Town Code 285.29.1.

Dave previously drafted (2) letters regarding substances (PFAS) to the Marshfield Municipal Code 285-191.1. One letter is directed to DEP, DPU, DTE, Eversource, Comcast and Verizon with action requests and the other letter is directed to the utilities with action requests. Currently he has drafted a letter regarding PFAS for residents as a point of information regarding the chemical. Marshfield's testing to date has not had any PFAS contamination that exceeds the Mass. DEP threshold. By being aware of certain products that contain the chemical one may choose to avoid them if possible. Dave proceeded to read the letter. He would like the Board's consideration on the letter.

John Cusick would like the input from the Board of Health. Tom indicated that the State does not yet have standards or guidelines of products containing the chemical. He said that tomorrow there is a zoom meeting with DEP and Worcester Poly Tech which will discuss the outline in which they are proceeding with. Bob Shaughnessy stated risk communication is dangerous. He said tomorrow DEP is having the webinar which he invited Staff to participate. He said we don't want to ring the fire alarm when there is no fire. It is a subject we can include in the CCR report; have a dedicated section to residents who live near a well site outlining dos and don'ts. He would like to draft a document for the CCR report which is due within the next two months. We can focus in with our counterparts; Board of Health, DEP and the State Public Health to create a document which could be put on the website. The idea that we have a By-law that was passed at Town Meeting that prohibits certain things should be used as a vehicle for communication to be included in the CCR report.

Dave said he would go along with the consensus of the Board but he will exercise his privilege as a citizen as well as a Board member to go out on his own and get on WATD and on Marshfield Community Television and the chips fall where they may. Bob said the word has to be focused within the community and would like to propose working with the BOH to create an informative document and then send a focus letter. Dave said he respects Bob's opinions but is not marching with him. John

appreciates Dave's work but said we don't have a problem yet and does not warrant a letter to be sent out. We can include different agencies in the whole discussion. Dave said he will go with the consensus of the Board on a formal basis but will not hesitate to go out to the public as an individual as his right.

Bob said he would go on WATD but he wants to get the message correct and straight forward.

Bob said he would defer action to a future meeting in order to have more information. Dave said he acknowledges that.

## APPOINTMENT

6:30 PM Mr. Gasser – Transfer Station

Mr. Gasser requested to meet with the Board regarding his issue with the increasingly constricted opening of the swap shop at the Transfer Station. Also, his second issue is with a tall pine tree on Town owned land that has subsequently died and poses a safety risk. Based on surveys of his property the tree in questions is clearly outside his property line. Bob Shaughnessy stated the Swap Shop has been closed since Covid began. Tom said we did have it closed for some time. Items brought there was rubbish and Staff has had to remove the items continuously. We have had issues with certain individuals who do not follow rules and interfere with our daily operations. The swap shop was more of a courtesy for residents but the stuff going there is broken. It is not worth the effort to keep it open. Mr. Gasser said one man's trash is another man's treasure. He contends it is used by many people and should remain open. He said that the schedule for swap shop hours was not consistently available according to signage. He said there is a pattern of obstructing use of the swap shop. He said when he goes by the scrap metal bin there are many valuable items in it. Dave Carriere stated that he reviewed the statistics from 2019, the last full year before Covid. The swap shop "trash" the material that was left there because no one wanted to take, amounted to 61.04 tons. Swap shop trash amounts to roughly 18.25% of the total trash that we have to remove at a cost. It is a significant amount of trash that does not have a fee collected to help pay for its disposal. Fifty percent of what goes into the swap shop is trashed out because no one takes it. We have had people leave bags of garbage there. It has been abused. Dave said he is completely in support of the Staff minimizing its opening. John Cusick said it is open two days a week. Tom said the hours are on the web page and is updated. John asked if a sign could be made at the entrance, Tom said he would do that. He thinks two days a week for it to be open is sufficient during these trying times. Bob agrees with John, Dave, and the Superintendent. Once the pandemic is over we can revisit the hours. We have to be flexible in public health issues. He agrees with Dave that a lot of trash is there and people look at it as an easy way to avoid using the pay-as-you throw bags.

At this point Bob asked Mr. Gasser about the tree issue. Mr. Gasser provided the Board with a detailed letter stating the tree (s) issue. Bob asked him about the condition of the tree and he said it was dead. Tom stated that he had the arborist look at the tree and he said it is not dead. Bob said that he will go and look at the tree. He said there is a difference of opinion between the Town and yourself on whether the tree is alive or dead. After this past storm we have trees down all over Town but the tree you are referring to is still standing. Bob stated he will get in touch with the Town arborist and the Tree Warden and look at the tree this week and thanked Mr. Gasser for coming in and bringing it to the Board's attention.

Mr. Gasser became derogatory about Staff. At this point John Cusick told him he did not want to hear any more of his complaints about the Staff.

Appointment ended.

## BOARD DISCUSSION

- 1) Dredge Spoils Update

John Cusick indicated that phragmites were mowed at the area across from Harbor Park and why are we storing dredge spoils from Marshfield Yacht Club. Why are they not taking care of their own. Tom indicated that the dredge spoils were at Parsonage Street to dry out. They were going to go to Clay Pit Road. The first amount went on Rexhame Beach. The first permit allowed for the spoils to be put at Rexhame Beach. The balance is at Parsonage Street. It was too silty to go on the beach. John indicated to Tom that there was nothing in the permit that would allow it to be put in the dredge spoils area. Tom said the permit would have to be amended. John said they would need another special permit because it is over 500 cubic yards and to be signed off by DEP. John said the yacht club should be taking care of their own dredge spoils. Tom stated this issue was negotiated prior to him retiring last August. How it ended up at Parsonage Street he did not know. Dave indicated it was done during Shawn's tenure. Tom said he is working with DEP, the Town Administrator and Town Engineer at this time. There is a good possibility it will not go to the dredge spoils area. If there are transportation costs, we will be going back to the Marshfield Yacht Club for that.

## 2) Labor Cost – Snow & Ice

Dan Bowen drafted the letter per the Board's request regarding clarification within the Indirect Policy regarding the use of Enterprise employees and their labor cost as incurred through Snow and Ice events during regular work hours. Board members reviewed the letter with minor edits. Dan will revise the letter with the edits.

### VOTE TO ACCEPT MINUTES – 11/8/21 & 11/22/21 Open Minutes

**MOTION:** Robert Shaughnessy motioned to accept open meeting minutes of 11/8/21.  
**Seconded:** John Cusick All in favor.

**MOTION:** Robert Shaughnessy motioned to accept open meeting minutes of 11/22/21.  
**Seconded:** John Cusick All in favor.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

#### 1) Update on 965 Plain Street

Tom indicated that utilities sub was on site today. Meeting is scheduled today with contractor, the project manager and the designer. The management team is scheduled for next Monday.

#### 2) Update on Marshfield Hills Sidewalk Project

The street signs will be completed. Crosswalk signs done today. Everything is where it should be except for the signage.

Tom reviewed the working hours for the holidays. Tom will put signage at the Transfer Station and the message board regarding the holiday hours.

Dan brought up the issue with a previous abatement request. He drafted a letter to the resident on behalf of Tom and the Board. There was a discussion regarding the meter at the residence. Board members reviewed the letter to be sent to the resident.

### NEXT MEETING – January 10, 2022

At this time the open meeting of the Board of Public Works for December 13, 2021 adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Ann Marie Sacchetti, Board of Public Works Secretary