

**Board of Public Works
Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 16, 2015

Time: 7:15 p.m.

**Place: Marshfield Town Hall
Hearing Room 2 Second Floor**

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

Stephen Hocking	Chairman
Robert Shaughnessy	Vice Chairman
Chris Ionta	Member
Thomas Reynolds	Superintendent
Shawn Patterson	Deputy Superintendent
Dan Bowen	Business Manager
Tom Scollins	Advisory Board
Ann Marie Sacchetti	Board of Public Works Secretary

The meeting convened at 7:30 p.m.

Steve Hocking opened the meeting and reviewed the evening's agenda which included 1 appointment. He explained this meeting was in regard to the removal of snow from the turf field at the High School.

Appointment:

7:30 p.m. Ballfields

Tom Reynolds opened the discussion. He indicated that at last week's Board of Public Works meeting this issue was discussed. This meeting was scheduled to continue the discussion. Tom stated that he had contacted a number of area towns and none of which are clearing off the turf fields. He traveled several South Shore areas and discovered not one field was cleared. Quincy was the only the town he was aware of that did. He said today he was at the High School working on the track and a representative from Northeast Turf was there and suggested that we should not be on the track and he would not put anything on the turf field. Tom stated he does not have the manpower nor the equipment to remove the snow from the field. Further research he has done indicates that only powdered snow could be removed but no more than ten inches.

John Powers of Boles Road was in attendance and addressed some of the issues that concerned Board members. He stated the funding concern was no longer an issue as the School Department has said they will fund the clearing and will be at no cost to the DPW. Mr. Powers said they had received two proposals to clear the field but could not get them certified by Field Turf Inc. He said they are now working directly with Field Turf Inc. out of Canada (the manufacturer of the turf), they clear snow through their maintenance division. He has a proposal from them to clear the field. He referred to the maintenance guidelines as provided by MONDO. His contention is that the turf manufacturer is doing the work according to their own maintenance guidelines therefore the scope of their work is covered under their warranty. He stated that Town Counsel has reviewed the documents and finds everything in the package legally acceptable. He would like to see "Town of Marshfield" on the insurance policy.

Tom Scollins implied the removal is not taking place due to budget constraints of the DPW but Tom Reynolds stated that he has spoken with all the athletic directors and no one is putting equipment on the turf fields. He said Quincy skimmed only.

Tom Reynolds stated that there are some "settling" issues on both fields which they have brought to the Building Committee's attention and he has concern putting equipment on them would cause additional damage. He has spoken to Northeast Turf in regard to the problem and they told him once the snow is melted off fields, they are booked for nine weeks straight conducting repairs.

Northeast Turf was the installer of the turf at the High School and they had provided a proposal for the snow removal. John Poole of the company was confident that there was sufficient room on the sidelines for the snow.

As he previously stated, Tom Reynolds has concern for the depressions that have formed. He has told the Building Committee of this several times and also walked the areas on both fields with Brait.

Bob Shaughnessy questioned the funding. The proponents indicated that Tom Miller of the School Department stated that the school will pay for the removal. Bob commented and asked, they have extra money, plenty of funding (?). Bob asked about the schedule for usage. The athletic director, Mr. Madden was present and stated the first team that is scheduled to use the turf on April 6, 2015. Bob stated that even if we removed the snow the turf would still be wet and icy; certain footwear is a concern.

Tom Reynolds stated that the field must be groomed before games can be played on it. Grooming cannot take place until the temperature rises. Grooming is done for the games, not practice.

Bob Shaughnessy stated there is melting going on at this time. The real issue is April 6th is the pivot time.

Last week we were told that not clearing now will hamper the schedule; he focused in on the schedule. No games are going to be forfeited if we don't have practice. Mr. Madden, the Athletic Director, said they can move the game if the field is not ready by April 6. He is in contact with other teams and the schedule can be adjusted accordingly. Other teams in his conference are in the same position as we are, just waiting.

Tom Reynolds stated, that no other fields of area towns have been cleared with the exception of Thayer Academy in Braintree and Quincy skimmed only.

Steve Hocking asked if there had been any research in renting a location. This could be a much less expensive proposition than the thousands of dollars to clear the field.

Steve stated that he is going to allow Tom Reynolds to review the materials as provided by proponents of the snow removal and will rely on his expertise and his opinion to decide on the issue. We have a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers of the Town; people who use the fields and the people who do not. There is a nine week waiting period for repairs on the fields if something should happen; he is not willing to take that chance.

He will abide by Tom's decision.

Chris Ionta is for it as long as the owner accepts the problems. We have had an unusual amount of snow and he feels the manufacturer's warranty is limited; it is a risk liability.

Bob Shaughnessy agrees that the manufacturer's warranty is limited. If snow removal is allowed, and having someone on it, could open the door to nullify the limited warranty. By not allowing the snow to melt naturally and figure out where the divots are along with the unevenness that exists, we could enter into a dispute. He does not want to take that risk. His answer is "no".

Steve Hocking stated that Tom Reynolds will review the documents and relay his findings to the Board members and will contact Tom Scollins on his decision.

Action Items:

1. Minutes Hold
2. Tabled Items None
3. Old Business None
4. New Business None
5. Executive Session None

At this time the Board of Public Works open session for March 16, 2015 adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Marie Sacchetti,
Board of Public Works Secretary