

Infrastructure Committee Meeting

October 5, 2021 at 10:00am

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Held Via Hybrid Method

Members Present: Chairman Benn, Jack Armstrong, Amy Kyle, Larry Bortner, Bob Warburton, Kurt Zanelotti, Tim Leahy, Susan Brennan, Tim Bergin, Larry Sanchez

Staff Present: Building Official Schuchman, Public Works Director Locke, Town Clerk Menominee

Chairman Richard Benn called the meeting to order at 10:00am. He started the meeting by asking all members to introduce themselves. Chairman Benn, Jack Armstrong, Amy Kyle, Larry Bortner, Bob Warburton, Kurt Zanelotti, Tim Leahy, Susan Brennan, Tim Bergin and Larry Sanchez all introduced themselves as the newest members of the Infrastructure Committee. Chairman Benn then introduced Public Works Director Locke.

Public Works Director Locke described Plan A as being that there are approximately 44 discharge valves on the bayside in various states of ill repair or lacking anything to stop water from coming back every time. He originally went before Council, requested 11 backflow preventors and after installing those saw great results. 14 more were requested from the Council and they were also installed. Public Works Director Locke said that 18 more back flow preventers have been ordered but have not arrived yet. He said preventors stop normal high tides from pushing back up through the 12-inch pipes and coming into the roads. Once all 12-to-16-inch backflow preventers have been installed then Public Works will start working on installing the 8-to-6-inch pipes that run between resident's yards and along the streets and drain into the basins everywhere on Bayside. Mike Locke said that they are not quite there yet, they will start that project once they finish the discharge pipes. He also mentioned that he keeps one in the yard in case a backflow pipe was defective and will be installed along with the next 18.

Chairman Benn described Plan B as being additional piping including a catch basin installed on Farmington Street. He said that Mike Locke said that problem had largely been fixed by digging a trench with a backhoe. Mike Locke provided some background by saying that for years, stormwater would collect and create a large pond covering the road with nowhere to go at the Our Harvest intersection on Farmington Street. He said that a 30-yard trench was dug allowing water to disperse. Now a small puddle will exist after rainstorms dispersing within 48 hours. Chairman Benn said that this project would cost \$32,000 and is budgeted already. He also said that as long as the water is dispersing within 24-48 hours that should not be an issue, but did say that the issue that needs to be corrected is the couple inches of water that people have to drive through during and after storms. Mike Locke said that the original plan was to connect 2 basins across the street from each other allowing the water to leach out and drain.

Mike Locke did say that they want to camera all the drains and basins and use riprap along with other ideas down Farmington Street.

Bob Warburton suggested using a basin along with a French drain or run it to the east end of the lagoon. He said that if you connected two basins then all the water coming down the road would overflow each catch basin.

Mayor Vicki Carmean said that you cannot divert storm water runoff onto someone else's property and the more storm water runoff you can catch up by Our Harvest, the better off the rest of Farmington Street is.

Roy Williams suggested using impervious blacktop. Mike Locke said that it would never leach due to other issues. He also said that he could tear it up and put gravel down, but it would need more maintenance than it already does now. That is when he got into the issues of using impervious blacktop saying that it needs to be cleaned and maintained to work properly, using many more manhours.

Jacque Napolitano wondered if the trucks parking there would interfere with the French drain. Mike Locke said it would be more of a tank than a basin to support the weight of delivery trucks. Bob Warburton reminded everyone that delivery trucks are no longer supposed to park there, and they are supposed to park out on Route 1. Mike Locke said that if residents of Farmington see less of a problem there with delivery trucks, then maybe they could look into using a smaller vault.

Amy Kyle asked if the water is only 2 feet underground then what would stop the water table from coming into the catch basin/vault. Mike Locke said that is where the idea came of piping the water across the street.

Chairman Benn asked about the status of the grant, Mayor Vicki Carmean was not sure about the status either. Amy Kyle suggested getting the documents and drawings together to understand the solutions more clearly. Mike Locke said that his personal opinion was that this project might be a little bigger than what is currently needed for Farmington Street after they were able to trench, it became a little less of an issue than it was.

Mike Locke said that if Public Works had a pipeline camera, then they could clearly see what the issues were in each pipe. Chairman Benn asked how much the camera would cost and did not understand why they did not have one already. Mike Locke said that he did not want to get one for cheap that would break or get one that is overkill. He said that he is looking for a 30-foot camera.

Chairman Benn proposed tasking Mike Locke with researching for a camera that would suffice for all the jobs that he needs it for. Mike Locke said that he would like one that records, that way he is able to show the Council.

Chairman Benn said he was looking for a motion to propose up to \$3,000 for a pipeline camera.

Amy Kyle suggested looking at all the problems they are talking about need to be looked at individually instead of being written off. She said we should look at each problem and determine if we can fix it or not and then move on from there. She also wanted further clarification on Mike Locke's plan.

Plan C is an inventory and software package that would come in and put into a program. Mike Locke said that DeIDOT uses this type of system, it will let you see every catch basin, every pipe. It comes with a contractual fee to use the system; you would send what you wanted to change to the moderators of the program.

Chairman Benn said that something needs to be done now. He stated that residents and property owners are frustrated about a problem that they were frustrated about 6 years ago. Chairman Benn said that the cost of each backflow preventer was \$1500-\$1700 per piece. Also, he thought the camera was a solution that would help Public Works get this job done faster. He did say that he was all-for a better

long-term plan as well. He also said that he believed that public works needed a camera to identify problems.

Amy Kyle felt like as a whole they need the plan as a bigger picture and not make rash decisions without being cognizant of what they are doing overall. She said the committee needed to develop a bigger plan as a whole.

Chairman Benn worried that Public Works was taking on too much as a whole. Amy said that's why she was worried about the bigger picture, should this be something that is done by a contractor for the very first time. Mike Locke stated that he has never sat on an Infrastructure Committee meeting, and he has been tasked for specific solutions and not a whole problem. He said that he knows all the trouble areas, but he needs the camera for day-to-day duties. Siting specific examples.

*Jack Armstrong made a **MOTION** to propose a recommendation to Council for a pipeline camera valued up to \$3,000.*

Amy Kyle seconded.

MOTION passed unanimously.

Chairman Benn said that he misread the last meeting with Mike Locke. He understood that the problem on Farmington Street was solved. Mike Locke clarified that sometimes there is a puddle and other times there are not. Chairman Benn questioned whether the problem was large enough to deserve \$32,000. Chairman Benn said that he was waiting for rain so he could determine whether this was a really large problem. Mike Locke suggested everyone in the Committee go take a look and determine for themselves whether it deserved \$32,000 or not. They clarified that it would involve connecting two basins together so the water could flow down both sides. Mike Locke said people should go look at it to see what is really going on. Chairman Benn stated there is an easement on the Clower property. Amy Kyle asked for a recommendation from Mike Locke. He said he could see both sides, it could help with the ponding, but it might be overkill. Mike Locke said his recommendation has been to revisit the problem. Amy Kyle wondered what the process should be. Mike Locke asked for members of the Infrastructure Committee members to look at the Farmington Street area after rainfall and determine from there.

Amy Kyle made proposed to make a motion for all the members to meet with Mike Locke to look over all documents, meet with residents, ask for opinions from people to determine what should be done about the problem.

Chairman Benn said that if they don't need to spend that amount of money even if it is budgeted, if the problem doesn't deserve that much. Mike Locke reiterated that the problem used to be a lot bigger before they dug the trench. Chairman Benn said that he just wanted to solve problems that would alleviate bayside flooding. As of now, the new backflow preventers are still on backorder due to Covid shipping problems. Mike Locke was assured that the Town would be made a priority. Mike Locke said that they had received a quote from a contractor to install the pipes and to install only 11, it was \$33,000 and that was a deal because he understood he would get the rest of the contract which the price would go up on. Mike Locke reiterated that he could call the person every day, but it would not come quicker than they are coming already. Bob Warburton wondered if we should order the 6-to-8-inch pipes now so they would come in quicker. Mike Locke said he did not have an inventory for those

yet. He wanted to complete the big pipes, but also said he would be fine if the committee wanted to change the plan too.

Bob Warburton suggested adding bulkheading or berm that would help on Essex and Farmington Street. Pat Schuchman said the bulkhead would have to be landward of the riprap according to DNREC. She said that once the riprap is there it is there forever. Chairman Benn said they would have to tear the road out to do that. Mike Locke said part of the problem was it wouldn't matter how much riprap or berming was built and Farmington Street was a perfect example, the pipe is sitting at water level, it comes up the side of the pipe and coming up into the street. Public Works said they laid riprap in a semi-circle on the same problem on James Street and it is working. Boat ramps are another issue for flooding. Chairman Benn said there are a lot of property issues too.

Chairman Benn said that it sounds like there is a lot on Public Works plate. He asked should the Town outsource some of the inventory or more manpower for Public Works. Mike Locke said that he was not sure how to answer the question, it may not be fast enough for everyone to like, but he did assure the Committee that they could get it done.

Amy Kyle asked what the optimal path was to get more done sooner considering there were a couple issues. She said maybe they want to accelerate some type of needs assessment or maybe a public workshop that would bring in the neighbors to talk about their problems. She wondered maybe they could get this done this year. She also liked the idea of ordering the 6-to-8-inch valves early that way they are not waiting 6 months.

Mike Locke said that he would not have a problem ordering multiple 6-to-8-inch valves, it would just take Council approval. He said that he is not going to put a backflow preventer on the back end of every pipe. He just needs to dive down into them with a camera to start taking an inventory. He also said he needs to get with Pat to discuss some legalities, especially the pipes that the residents have installed themselves. Chairman Benn said that while we are waiting for the valves, we order the camera and begin the inventory and also relook at Farmington Street drainage.

*Bob Warburton made a **MOTION** to revisit Farmington and devise a plan.*

Jack Armstrong seconded.

MOTION passed unanimously.

Jack Armstrong asked if we had an inventory of what is out there now in regard to the backflow preventers. Mike Locke said he has mapping of basins and pipes running from basin to basin. He did say that they had a good framework, but some had changed, and some pipes had been added. Mike Locke said he would be using this framework as his guideline.

*Amy Kyle made a **MOTION** to ask Mike Locke to assess what might expedite his process to get that inventory updated sooner.*

Chairman Benn seconded.

MOTION passed unanimously.

Jack Armstrong asked when the first backflow preventer was installed. Mike Locke said it was June 7, 2021. He also said he had 24 installed backflow preventers to date, he keeps an updated spreadsheet

that is located on the website. Mike Locke also said that they have been working better than advertised for normal high tides and are stopping 80-85% of water. They will never be able to get to 100%. It was going to be a continuous problem for quite some time. Mike Locke said that his plan was to come up with a preventative maintenance schedule as well after they had installed all the backflow preventers.

Chairman Benn suggested looking into antifouling paint. Mike Locke said he would come up with a preventative maintenance schedule they could clean the flappers and make sure nothing has gotten in there. Chairman Benn said to use the antifouling paint on the opening of the valves. Amy Kyle said you do not want metals in your canals. Chairman Benn said it would help with the mollusk problem, but Mike Locke said this were not smooth surfaces and they are rubber. They would check with the developer. He also said that this has always been the plan to replace and then continue to check on them.

Roy Williams questioned what Mike Locke's next step was going to be- doing the camera work and then go to Council and revisiting Farmington Streets drainage problem. He said it would give Mike a better understanding of how they are deteriorating overtime.

Mike Locke said that all 3 Public Works members are involved in this project, but they are coming into a slow time aside from decorations and coming into a time when it is conducive to this type of work.

Jack Armstrong made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting.

Amy Kyle seconded.

MOTION passed unanimously.

The first Tuesday of the month at 10am was set as the Infrastructure Committee meeting time.