



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, November 9, 2022

Present: Councilors Leary (Chair), Gentile, Danberg, Laredo, Kelley, Kalis, Norton and Crossley

City Staff: City Engineer Lou Taverna, Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle

#492-22 Eversource petition for Grant of Location in Hammond Street

EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install 65'± of conduit in a northwesterly direction from manhole MH 11192, approximately 345' northwest of Essex Road to provide underground service to #393 Hammond Street (Ward 7).

Action: Public Facilities Approved 8-0

Note: Eversource Representative Jacqueline Duffy presented the above request for a grant of location on Hammond St. She noted that this work was necessary to provide electric service to #393 Hammond St.

The public hearing was opened and with no member of the public wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Laredo motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#493-22 Eversource petition for Grant of Location in Walnut Street

EVERSOURCE ENERGY petitioning for a grant of location to install one (1) JO pole #437/34 w/ anchor guy and remove one (1) JO pole #437/34 on the westerly side, near the intersection of Walnut Place (Ward 2).

Action: Public Facilities Approved 8-0

Note: Eversource Representative Jacqueline Duffy presented the above request for a grant of location on Walnut St. She noted that this work is being done at the request of MassDOT as part of an effort to repair the Walnut Place intersection.

The public hearing was opened and with no member of the public wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Norton motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

494-22 Request for water main extensions in Cross Hill Road
Aurel Garban, on behalf of 45 Cross Hill LLC, 14 Rangely Rd, Brookline, MA 02467 petitioning for drain main extension in CROSS HILL ROAD. to extend the drain main from the point it terminates to +/- 85 feet up to the frontage of #45 Cross Hill Road.

PETITIONER TO PAY ENTIRE COST

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 8-0**

Note: Verne Porter, representing Aurel Garban, presented the above request for a drain main extension on Cross Hill Rd. He noted that this work is to add an overflow connection to the drainage system as part of a reconstruction effort on the house. While the house already has the minimum drainage standard as set forth by the City, this area continues to have drainage issues. Mr. Porter added that every other house in the area has a similar overflow connection.

The public hearing was opened and with no member of the public wishing to speak the public hearing was closed.

Councilor Kalis motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#497-22 Appropriate \$150,000 from Certified Free Cash
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from June 30, 2022 Certified Free Cash for the purpose of purchasing the replacement of a 2004 trackless sidewalk clearing tractor.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 8-0**

Note: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle presented the above request. He explained that this money is to replace one of their six main units used to clear snow from sidewalks during the winter. The unit to be replaced is in serious need of repair, and their vendor recommended not repairing the unit, which is rare and speaks to the condition of the unit. He added that the new unit would be equipped with a Tier 4 emissions system, which would be much cleaner than the current unit. Commissioner McGonagle noted that this is the second consecutive year that the DPW has requested to replace snow equipment, and that these units become more critical each year.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Does anyone manufacture an electric version of this equipment?

A: Commissioner McGonagle said that there is a slightly larger piece of equipment that is electric. He added that DPW is on the list to demo this unit and hopes to try it out this winter once the unit is made available.

Q: What is the next oldest piece of equipment, and what is the age range of our field of six units?

A: Commissioner McGonagle said that the next oldest is a 1998 unit. As for the other units, the DPW has two 2005 units, one 2006 unit, and one 2019 unit.

Q: What is the goal for linear miles of sidewalk that you aim to clear this year?

A: Commissioner McGonagle explained that the goal is 84.5 miles. He added that when units break down, it becomes increasingly difficult to meet this goal. Since these sidewalks are critical routes to school, transportation, and village centers, they sometimes use Bobcats to backfill.

Q: What is the source of energy for this unit?

A: Commissioner McGonagle explained that this is a Tier 4 diesel unit, which is the cleanest diesel unit available.

Q: When will the electric unit be available?

A: Commissioner McGonagle remarked that the unit is available now, but due to high demand, the DPW has not been able to demo the unit. He fears that it may be too big for Newton's sidewalks but will not know until he is able to test the unit. Commissioner McGonagle added that the electric unit may be suitable for clearing parking lots at the Village Centers.

Councilors made the following comments:

A Councilor remarked that come budget time, sidewalk snow equipment must be a priority. The councilor added there's often multiple units that break down, lessening the DPW's ability to keep up during snow events. Commissioner McGonagle confirmed this to be true.

Councilor Danberg motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Leary, Chair