

**TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE**  
**A JOINT MEETING OF THE D.P.W. SUBCOMMITTEE and TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 6:00 PM VETERANS ROOM**  
Minutes

1 Call to Order

2 Roll Call: DPW Members: Councilor/DPW Chair Michael Marketti - Councilor Joseph Daou (absent), Councilor Gus Steeves, Citizen Members Steve Lazo and Kevin Splaine  
Also in attendance: Town Manager, Michael McCall, Heather Blakeley, DPW Director, James Merchant, Sewer Dept., Steve Gregoir, Water Dept., Karen Harnois, Finance Director, Jack Jovan, Town Councilor, Resident George Chenier and Maureen Doyle

3 Consider and approve Joint DPW/Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 19, 2022. Voted 3-0-1

4 Citizens Forum: No one spoke.

5 Review FY2023 Department of Public Works Budget in the amount of \$1,968,809.00 and entertain a motion to vote to submit to Council as presented. Town Manager McCall deferred to DPW Director Heather Blakely who stated she would go line by line. Salary and wages has increased 9.9% Page 1 shows requests for salaries for everyone. Page 3 shows a request for a staff engineer at \$75,000 per year and a new maintenance position for \$49,666. Those two together shows an increase of \$124,666.00. Discounting the new position, the budget has only been impacted by \$716.00. Two positions have been filled. An additional position will be needed. Heather confirmed the workload has increased and more than one person is needed for every site. Heather advised Citizen Member Splaine the new hires were not hired as union labors for the first 6 months as union contract is still pending. Heather addressed increase for part time employees. Two hired for June and 2 for September. Due to minimum wage increases, salary increases apply. Heather confirmed for Citizen Chenier that the DPW pays water and sewer via the Enterprise Fund. Councilor Steeves questioned solar contract and asked if there is any increase in savings. Heather confirmed the solar contract would need to be reviewed. Splaine opposed the hiring of a staff engineer for the new position citing the fact additional help is needed but not a class engineer. After much discussion regarding removal of title of "Engineer" from the budget, motion was made to amend the agenda and remove the title of "Engineer" from Budget made by Kevin Splaine, Seconded by Steve Lazo, voted 3-1. Motion to accept budget as amended made by Kevin Splaine, seconded by Steve Lazo. Vote 3-1

6 Review FY2023 Snow & Ice Budget in the amount of \$400,000.00 and entertain a motion to vote to submit to Council as presented. Heather confirmed no change since last year. There is \$65,000.00 for labor and \$335,000.00 for special services. There are funds in account that safely could be transferred to another account. Motion to accept by Kevin Splaine, seconded by Steve Lazo. Voted 4-0

7 Review FY2023 Water Enterprise Budget in the amount of \$4,285,827.00 and entertain a motion to vote to submit to Council as presented. Heather with assistance from Steve Gregoire stated the water are basically level funded. Motion to accept by Steve Lazo, seconded by Councilor Steeves. Voted 4-0

8 Review FY2023 Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$4,928,994.00 and entertain a motion to vote to submit to Council as presented. Heather with assistance from Jim Merchant at Viola discussed budget for Sewer Enterprise Fund. Motion to accept Steve Lazo, second by Kevin Splaine. Voted 4-0

9 Adjourn Motion made by Steve Lazo, Seconded by Kevin Splaine. Vote 4-0. Meeting adjourned 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Chair Marketti