

Public Safety Committee  
Council Chambers  
September 18, 2019  
7:00 PM

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor David Walker  
Councilor Robert Gates  
Councilor Geoffrey Hamann  
Councilor Peter Lachapelle  
Councilor Jeremy Hutchinson

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Michael Bezanson, PE, City Engineer  
Dan Camara, GIS Asset Mgmt. Technician  
Gary Boudreau, Deputy Police Chief  
Tim Wilder, Assistant Chief FD

Minutes

Councilor Walker brought the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

1. Public Input

There were no members of the public present for public input.

2. Speeding Concerns from Whitehall Road to Tara Estates on Salmon Falls Rd.

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that there are no updates because there was an issue with the speed trailer. He stated that it was going to originally be placed near the crosswalk near Frisbie Hospital, then would be moved closer to Salmon Falls Road. This was kept in committee until next month, and Deputy Chief Boudreau will update the committee.

3. Dead End/No Outlet Signage Request-Sonata Court

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Councilor Walker said that a 'no outlet' sign is used where there is a network of roads from which there is no other exit. A "dead end" sign would be appropriate for Sonata Court since it terminates in a dead end. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to install a "dead end" sign at the entrance to Sonata Court. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

4. Old Dover/Tebbetts Intersection-Road Safety Audit Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Mr. Bezanson said last week they held a Road Safety Audit meeting for the Old Dover Road/Tebbetts Road intersection. There were about a dozen people who attended including City staff, Councilor Lauterborn, a representative from SRPC, DOT and their consultant. DOT and their consultant ran the meeting. The people present at the meeting went over the history of safety issues and improvements at the intersection, perceived problems, conducted on a site walk and reconvened to review noted issues and potential solutions, including short term improvements, such as re-painting a stop bar and improving signage, and long term improvements, such as discussing relocation of utility poles with utility companies for line of sight, and maybe installing a 4-way stop in the area or a compact roundabout. Mr. Bezanson said that during the meeting a PowerPoint presentation was used for discussion and taking notes; DPW intends to put this presentation on its web page. DOT said that there are highway safety funds available. Deputy Chief Boudreau said he attended this meeting and on his way home there was an accident with minor injury: one vehicle coming from the Somersworth area made a left turn onto Tebbetts Road and was hit by a vehicle heading southbound on Old Dover Road towards Somersworth. Mr. Bezanson said the final report could take 16 weeks to complete.

5. E911 Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Deputy Chief Boudreau said the biggest news he has is the street name changes: in East Rochester, Main Street will change to Autumn Street and Portland Street, and in Gonic, Main Street will change to Pickering Road - this will happen on Monday, September 23, 2019. Councilor Lachapelle asked about the little Street off from Pickering Road in Gonic. Assistant Fire Chief Wilder said that street name will change to Electric Avenue on Monday, September 23, 2019, as well.

6. Emergency Management Update

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Assistant Fire Chief Wilder said the trailer should be delivered next week; and, that they will initially store it at Station 2 in Gonic. Once the new DPW facility is completed, they will discuss with DPW options for storing it at the new facility.

7. Seasonal Cold Weather Shelter

Councilor Walker summarized the issue. Councilor Hutchinson said that he didn't have an update, but on a side note the new Fidelity Committee met for the first time; the 3 mayors are meeting with the county commissioners and are working on their own plan. Councilor Lachapelle said they could ask the Mayor for an update.

8. Other

Corner of Church Street and Demeritt Street-Gonic

Councilor Lachapelle said a couple of residents were concerned regarding the line of sight at the corner of Church Street and Demeritt Street. It is hard to see beyond vehicles parked near the fire hydrant on Church Street when the vehicles are making a left turn from Demeritt onto Church. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that a vehicle cannot park within 15 feet of a fire hydrant in either direction nor within 30 feet upon the approach to a stop sign. ***Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to paint cross-hatch markings for no parking withing 15 feet of the fire hydrant on Church Street near Demeritt Street. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gates. Unanimous voice vote carried the motion.***

Autistic Child Sign-Salmon Falls Road

Mr. Bezanson said he did some research on the "Autistic Child" sign that was requested for Salmon Falls Road. "Autistic Child" is not a recognized sign with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Some jurisdictions have put them up, but those jurisdictions have put in place certain requirements that need to be met. He said that requirements have included the need for a statement from the child's doctor as to the extent of the disability; and, parents would need to notify the jurisdiction when the child becomes a certain age or moves away. Councilor Walker asked if they were any other options. Mr. Bezanson stated that "Autistic Child" signs fall into the same category as "children at play" signs; they are not recognized by the FHWA. The MUTCD states that "the purpose of an advance warning sign is to provide advance warning to the road user of unexpected conditions on or adjacent to the roadway that might not readily be apparent". Mr. Bezanson said it wasn't against the law to install these signs, but studies have shown these type of signs to be ineffective. Councilor Walker said that there is not much that can be done.

## Request of information from NH Northcoast Railroad

Deputy Chief Boudreau said that the Police Department had a request from NH Northcoast Railroad's attorney to get data regarding the Haven Hill Road trestle bridge. They are applying for federal grant funds to try to raise the height of the tracks to allow for more clearance underneath. Deputy Chief Boudreau said that he is not sure if they reached out to DPW yet as they are trying to get support.

Councilor Lachapelle made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:19 PM. Councilor Gates seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Laura Miller, Secretary II.