



*City of Rochester, New Hampshire*  
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT  
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## **MEMO PUBLIC WORKS & BUILDING COMMITTEE AGENDA**

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**TO:** PUBLIC WORKS AND BUILDINGS COMMITTEE  
**FROM:** PETER C. NOURSE, PE  
DIRECTOR OF CITY SERVICES  
**DATE:** July 21, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** Public Works & Buildings Committee Meeting  
Meeting Date *Thursday July 27, 2023, at 7PM*

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There will be a Public Works and Buildings Committee Meeting held on Thursday July 27, 2023, at 7PM. This meeting will be at City Hall in City Council Chambers

### **AGENDA**

1. Approval of the June 15, 2023 PWC Minutes
2. Public Input
3. Municipal Bridge Inspection Report
4. Drinking Water Level 1 Audit and Balance Results
5. Sewer System Master Plan Update  
*(for background details on this program please see 3/17/2022 Public Works Committee Minutes or video)*
6. Drinking Water Lead Service Line Inventory Update  
*(for background details on this program please see 9/15/22 Public Works Committee Minutes or Video)*
7. Tebbetts Road/ Old Dover Road Intersection Improvements Project Update:
8. Updates to Chapter 223 of City Ordinances: Streets and Sidewalks
9. Sidewalk Tractors
10. Other

**Public Works and Buildings Committee**  
**City Hall Council Chambers**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**June 15, 2023 7PM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Councilor Donald Hamann, Chairman  
Councilor Jim Gray, Vice Chairman  
Councilor John Laroche  
Councilor Alexander de Geofroy  
Councilor Steve Beaudoin

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Peter C. Nourse PE, Director of City Service  
Lisa Clark, DPW Deputy Director DPW  
Dan Camara, Coordinator GIS & Asset Mgmt.

**MINUTES**

Councilor Hamann called the Public Works and Building Committee to order at 7PM

**1. Approval of May 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

*Councilor de Geofroy made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting as presented. Councilor Gray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

**2. Public Input**

There was no one present for public input.

**3. Sidewalk Rehabilitation**

Mr. Nourse stated that each year money is set aside for the rehabilitation of sidewalks. In FY2024 the amount set aside was two hundred fifty thousand dollars. Mr. Nourse stated that the Department of Public Works keeps track of the condition of the sidewalks and he noted that a major survey of sidewalks was completed a number of years ago. Mr. Nourse discussed the process of selecting the sidewalks to be rehabilitated. He stated he brings his priority-based recommendations to this Committee and the Committee makes the decision as to which sidewalk to proceed with, and then makes a recommendation to the full City Council for approval. Mr. Nourse stated that there is still a portion of Oak Street to be completed and the City Council had approved Walnut Street for the next project. Mr. Nourse explained that the field conditions on Walnut Street are not optimal for sidewalk rehabilitation at this time. He stated that the North side the sidewalk is above the roadway elevation, but on the south side it is below roadway. Mr. Nourse explained that replacing the South side would cause drainage problems at individual properties. He noted that we could replace the 1300 feet of sidewalk on the north side or move to a different street in the city. A 2019-2020 Strafford Regional Planning map depicting the conditions of the sidewalk within the city was displayed. Mr. Nourse explained that some of the sidewalks shown would be completed as part of infrastructure projects. Mr. Nourse stated that

Railroad Avenue has about 1,400 feet of sidewalks in poor condition and Pickering Road has about 400 feet of sidewalk that are in poor condition. He stated that these sidewalks see a lot of foot traffic as they are in a school zone and that this might be an area for consideration. Mr. Nourse also noted that Charles near Broad Streets sidewalks are in bad condition. He stated there is approximately 1,200 feet of sidewalk in this area. Mr. Nourse stated that Olde Farm Lane is in very poor condition as well and there is approximately 1,000 feet of sidewalk for consideration. Councilor Hamann stated if they stuck with Walnut Street the road would probably need to be altered on the south side as vehicles will not be able to get out of driveways without scraping bottom. Councilor Gray asked Mr. Nourse if he thought there would be enough money to do Pickering, Railroad Avenue and Olde Farm Lane. Mr. Nourse stated there would not be sufficient funding for all of that. He noted the price for concrete sidewalks to be approximately \$150 per linear foot. Mr. Nourse stated that the City is going out to bid and he will have updated pricing soon. Councilor Beaudoin said he would be in favor of Railroad Avenue because of the school. Mr. Nourse said there would be enough for Railroad Avenue and maybe a portion of Pickering Road. Councilor Larochelle said that when you think about sidewalks you should think about pedestrian traffic and that he was in agreement with Railroad Avenue sidewalk. Councilor Gray said he would be in favor to do Railroad Avenue. Councilor de Geofroy said if it wasn't for the releveling of the road he would be in support of staying with Walnut Street. Councilor de Geofroy asked if there was going to be a project in the future to re level Walnut. Mr. Nourse said there was not a planned project for drainage to Walnut Street.

***Councilor Gray made a motion to recommend to full council to approve Railroad Avenue for sidewalk rehabilitation and to rescind the previous Walnut Street Approval. Councilor Beaudoin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.***

#### **4. Drinking Water Consumer Confidence Report (CCR)**

Mr. Nourse stated that NHDES requires the CCR Annual Report be completed by July 1 annually. He stated that the report is available on the City of Rochester website under Public Works, Water Quality Tab and that its location on the website is noted on the outgoing Water and Sewer invoice. Mr. Nourse stated that the City of Rochester CCR is noted in the industry as one of the best CCR'S in the State for presentation. He stated that it contains a lot of information about water including information on Rochester's drinking water sources, information on contaminants and the 2022 testing results, contacts to safe drinking water hotlines for questions, water shed information, and it gives some background on major water projects. Councilor Larochelle asked Mr. Nourse if they sampled for lead at the faucet. Mr. Nourse said yes that they have about 70 sites for testing and that they rotate those sites as 30 sites are required each time. He stated that the lead testing is required every 3 years. Councilor Larochelle asked if any of the sites go close to exceeding the limits. Mr. Nourse said they do not. Councilor de Geofroy asked about the VOCs and how much of concern is there with this. Mr. Nourse stated that back in May 2022 there was a minor exceedance in the Gonic area due to a valving issue that has since been corrected. He stated that this is tracked with a rolling average and that any exceedances of the rolling average require the City to send a notification out to everyone on the water system. Mr. Nourse noted that exceedances here in Rochester are rare, but it is not uncommon in the larger NH City's. Mr. Nourse state explained that staff is proactive with flushing and other practices that keep the water from aging in the system.

## **5. City Cemetery Mapping**

Mr. Nourse stated that per Chapter 49 in the City Ordinance the City Manager is responsible to control Haven Hill Cemetery, by Tebbetts and Rochester Hill Road, Old Cemetery by Willow Brook in back of U-Haul on South Main Street, and the Old Town Farm Cemetery located adjacent to Home Depot parking lot on North Main Street. The ordinance says that the City Manager is to dispose of vacant lots. The funds that are received for these lots is to go to the Board of Trustees of Trust Fund. The City Buildings and Grounds Department maintains Haven Hill and Old Town Farm cemeteries by doing light maintenance in the spring and fall. The City pays the Cemetery Association to maintain The Old Willow Brook Cemetery behind U-Haul. Mr. Nourse stated he has received requests for internment at the Haven Hill Cemetery. He noted that this cemetery has dates back to the 1700's and possibly the 1600s. There are 350 marked graves in Haven Hill Cemetery. Mr. Nourse stated that he had contracted with Topographic Survey Co. to use ground penetrating radar to determine unmarked graves. The owner of Topographic, Robert Perry, is an expert in cemetery mapping and has been featured on television for his expertise in cemetery mapping. He stated that Mr. Perry has found at least 50 unmarked graves and he is also working to map the Old Town Farm Cemetery. Mr. Nourse stated that it has happened that family members have interned cremains without documentation and that there is now a sign up at Haven Hill Cemetery that says "Do Not Disturb call DPW". Councilor Hamman asked about the cost to map the cemeteries. Mr. Nourse stated the City paid about \$12,000 for Haven Hill Cemetery and he noted that the FY2024 includes \$15,000 for continued mapping and maintenance. Councilor Beaudoin asked if this was a statutory right to maintain the cemeteries. Mr. Nourse said yes it is.

## **6. Rt. 108 Complete Streets Project**

Mr. Nourse wanted the committee to beware of this project. He stated it is a Department of Transportation project and majority of it is not in Rochester. Mr. Nourse explained that this is in the NHDOT 10 year plan, and that it is currently in design with construction scheduled to start in 2024. The project will start in Dover and there will be a public hearing late in 2023. He further stated that this is a \$30 million dollar project that's purpose is to improve multi modal access safety for 5 miles of Route 108. This will be from Indian Brook Drive in Somersworth to Innovation Drive in Rochester. The goal is to apply the complete street principal to balance the need of motored, non-motorized and transit users in the corridor. Dover, Somersworth and Rochester will all be conducting public hearings late this summer or fall. Mr. Nourse said that he's looking to have Rochester's Public Hearing after Labor Day to have more participation. He stated it will likely be held at the new DPW facility. .

## **7. Other**

### **Route 202A-Full Plaque**

Mr. Nourse stated that the new Route 202A water main extension project has a water atmospheric storage tank. The manufacturer Aquastore is scheduled to place a commemorative plaque on the structure. Mr. Nourse stated that the other plaques in the City on our other water tanks have plaques that note the installation date and other things like the tank like size and capacity. Mr. Nourse stated that the planned plaque for this location notes the dates, Mayor, City Council, and key City Staff. He said this would be similar to the one completed for the new DPW Facility. Mr. Nourse asked the Committee for their preference and for a recommendation for full City Council on the plaque. The

Committee discussed it briefly.

*Councilor de Geofroy made a motion to recommend to full councilor that the commemorative plaque on the new water storage tank follow the same format used previously noting the sitting councilors, mayor, and others. Councilor Beaudoin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.*

#### **Public Works and Buildings Committee July Meeting**

Mr. Nourse stated that he would be at the EPA for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Meeting July 19-21, 2023, and he would not be available to be at the July Public Works and Building Committee as scheduled. He stated he had discussed this with Councilor Hamann and if acceptable the Committee will combine the July and August meetings, and it will be held July 27, 2023. The Committee agreed that this is acceptable.

#### **Nitrogen & Phosphorus**

Mr. Nourse displayed and discussed the data for Nitrogen removal at the plant. The data is from 2015 to March of this year. He noted that the flow is going up due to growth and Inflow and Infiltration. He stated that the increase flow is a problem due to the EPA's computation method used to determine the nitrogen maximum levels. Mr. Nourse said that we are currently compliant and will likely meet the permit limits for 2025. Mr. Nourse stated that Phosphorus is going up as well. He stated that this is coming in from the septage receiving facility and from lagoons that are full. He stated to meet the proposed limits from the EPA significant and costly upgrades will be required.

*Councilor Hamman made a motion for adjournment at 7:43 PM*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, DPW Deputy Director of Operations & Administration