

Town of Farmingdale

F.R.A.C. Meeting Minutes

September 22, 2016

The Farmingdale Road Advisory Committee (F.R.A.C.) met on Thursday September 22, 2016 following the Farmingdale Sewer Committee meeting at the Farmingdale Town Office.

Members Present: Ben Sanborn (Chair), Megan Hopkin, JoAnn Choate

Others Present: Brian Lippold and Michael Edgecomb (from James W. Sewell Company) Jim Grant (liaison) and Natalie Jackson (Secretary).

Ben called the meeting to order at the close of the Sewer Committee Meeting at 7:59pm

(because the discussion of a public works department is on the FRAC agenda I am including this in the FRAC minutes even though the conversation took place during the sewer committee part of the meeting.

Discussion: Ben Sanborn invited some representatives from the James W. Sewall Company to come in and discuss the possibilities of having a public works department in the Town of Farmingdale. Mr. Lippold and Mr. Edgecomb introduced themselves and said that they would like to take questions and take that back to some other experts in the field to try to help the Town out with what we may be looking for and what would be in the town's best interest.

Q- Why are we thinking about this and what is driving this thought?

Ben – We put out contracts that we could maybe avoid by having a public works department. Also Farmingdale is talking to Hallowell for the possibility of maybe combining Fire Departments. Currently Hallowell already has a public works department and maybe Farmingdale could join up with them. We do not need all the control as long as we get the work accomplished.

Jim – Explained that the Highway Budget is combined with the Winter Plowing budget and is over ½ a million dollars. The Selectboard is looking to try to find savings on Taxes for example having our own sand and salt shed would save us \$5,000.00 a year on our winter maintenance budget.

The town currently only has one (1) 1 ton truck that is not in very good shape as far as equipment. Farmingdale has 28 road miles and 56 lane miles that get plowed. At what rates have the costs be increasing? This is something that will have to be researched. Megan explained the things that needed to be done to cut costs with the Sweeping contract. Jim mentioned that if we used straight salt that there would be less to clean up in the amount of sand in the spring. JoAnn thought that we should survey how many towns are using straight salt and how many went back to using a sand salt mix. The town's sewer contract went up from \$3,000.00 a year to \$12,000.00 and this is something else that would be part of the public works department for the Town of Farmingdale. Another question would be how much training would a crew require and what it would involve.

Some of the other things that would be included for the public works department would be taking care of the cemeteries, a vacant lot at Sheldon Street School, the rail trail, road side mowing, and brush cutting. There was some discussion about the equipment that would be needed and most things would be able to be purchased second hand because brand new would be very expensive. Some of the things that would be needed are Front Loader, Excavator, Back Hoe and Plow Trucks.

Conclusion or Action to be taken: Mr. Lippold said that he would like to get some information on how other towns work and maybe how they started so that he could give the Town of Farmingdale some examples of how a public works department could get started. Mr. Lippold will be in touch when he needs to budgets and contracts for the last 3 years for the Highway and Sewer Departments. He also said that the capital cost and the

maintenance can be very expensive. Another idea was that the town could partner up with another town to help keep initial costs down if partnering up with someone that already has a public works department.

- ✚ Megan made a motion to accept the minutes of 9/22/2016 as written.
- ✚ JoAnn 2nd the motion
- ✚ Vote 3-0-0

The Highway committee reviewed the bid from E.C. Barry for Street Sweeping and recommended that the Selectboard choose the \$31,000.00 per year for sweeping that included everything with no extra costs.

Jim spoke about the salt priority system. Jim said that Maine Local Roads is adamant that using straight salt in the winter season will save the town money. This would also save on sweeping sand in the spring and there would be less clean up involved. Jim said that if we had our own public works that we could regulate the salt but working with a contractor would be harder because the contractor would have to buy into this also.

A discussion of the scope of work on catch basins on Northern Ave was discussed. Jim explained that on Northern Ave. there is a section of road that is sinking. JoAnn asked what the price is and Jim said that a price has not been given yet by Coffin Engineering. Jim is working on fixing the Northern Ave. contract for Coffin Engineering. Jim stated that we need to set a time line to put out the bids schedule a bid and then open the bids. Jim said that there is not enough time to do this year and will need to be done in the spring. Jim said the Selectboard suggests that bids go out in January, pre-bid in February and bids due back in March then award the project so that as soon as the snow is gone the project can start.

Megan asked if the Highway committee can sit down with the Selectboard and go over the plans for Hayford, Park and Oak. Megan said that there are a lot of catch basins and drains that would benefit from sitting down and setting up a plan for this. Ben would like to see a 3 or 5 year plan for this project. Ben explained that he would like to see a list of everything that needs to be done and then break it done by year.

Paving – We are out of time to do paving this year we will have to wait until next year to do any paving.

Ditching - Currently there is some ditching and shoulder work that is being done this fall to re-establish the ditches on Northern Ave. making sure the slopes are going in the right directions and everything is flowing in the right direction.

Brushing Cutting- Megan asked if we really needed any brush cutting done for the rest of the year? Jim said if we had a public works department we could keep them busy with brush cutting. JoAnn suggested that we ask the Road Commissioner his opinion on these items to make sure he is OK with the decisions that we are making.

Storm Drain- This would be the Hayford Heights project. Ben suggested that may be next month that the Committee invite the Selectboard and make it FRAC only meeting to allow some discussion on the Hayford Heights project. Jim suggested that we have sewer and FRAC on different nights.

Jim said that there was a lot of interesting things at the class that he attended and had he gone to that class before we wrote these contracts that he would have written them differently.

- ✚ Megan made a motion to adjourn
- ✚ JoAnn 2nd the motion
- ✚ Vote 3-0-0

Minutes Approved:

Date

Ben Sanborn, Chair

JoAnn Choate

Megan Hopkin

Lisa McDaniels

Submitted by: _____

Natalie Jackson