

To: Lanesborough Selectmen

June 19, 2013

From: Public Works Study Committee, Barb Davis-Hassan, Convenor

Ref: White Paper/Recommendations

Our committee is concluding its first year of work and submitting the attached report. This started as separate committees for Hwy., Water, Sewer, Garbage/recycling, and Stormwater, but these merged into this single DPW committee. We would like to make a public presentation at the June 24 Selectmen's meeting.

Recommendations:

1. Continue to morph Highway into a Public Works Department.
2. Extend the life of this "DPW" Committee for 12 months, with the purpose being to refine the implementation plan and schedule (see attachment 4 for preliminary ideas). The current members are willing to extend their service.
3. Specific priorities for the committee and the DPW:
 - a. Before 3/15/14 the committee should make a full set of recommendations for action (and budget) to the Board of Selectmen or Town Meetings.
 - b. Suggest to the BoS measurable goals for this new Dept. For example: Make residents aware of services provided; do residents agree the svcs. are needed and good value (for both the individual "customer" and for the town)?; Are service providers fully aware of procedures and responsibilities?; Do residents know how to use services and/or how to learn about them? For the longer term, given our size, can we keep our DPW costs about average for Berkshire communities?
 - c. Refine Attachment 4--timeline for transition from Hwy to Public Works Dept., especially the budget-related elements.
 - d. Create a cost-saving game-plan with the Fire/Water District for the Town to provide services (admin., field, office) needed by the District, annual and capital savings/gains split 50/50 between the Town and District.
 - e. Develop with Fire/Water District a better plan for management of sewer services.
 - f. Develop longer-term plans to broaden sewer and water coverage in town; possible priorities: lake-areas (Pontoosuc and Cheshire), commercial Rt.7, the School, and possibly the Mall.
 - g. Develop a "rolling" 10-15 year plan/schedule for maintenance of all town roads
 - h. Work w/ Lake Roads/Rights-of-Way Committee, finalize their recommendations
 - i. Develop and implement plans to improve recycling and garbage collection services.
 - j. Assure we have a plan for storm water and other dangers to public services; assure this plan is integrated with Public Safety needs/plans.

I want to thank people who volunteered time for this study: Bob Barton, Bill Decelles, Lori DiLego, Mark Froio, John Goerlach, Lee Hauge, Tim O'Brien, and Scott Stevens.

Attached:

1. Highway White Paper
2. Water District Status Quo
3. Hwy Dept. Tasks and Times
4. Hwy to DPW changes Timeline
5. Sample DPW organizations/roles in other towns