

City of Bristol
Board of Public Works
Meeting Minutes for
February 20, 2025
With Zoom Access

Members Present: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Council Member Jacqueline Olsen
Council Member Erick Rosengren
Commissioner Michael Dumas
Commissioner David Hartley
Commissioner Frank Stawski
Council Member Mark Dickau

Staff Present: Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

3. Public Participation

Kristen Woolridge, 114 Tiffany Lane, regarding her mailbox being damaged. She received a letter stating that she could receive \$75 towards the replacement of the mailbox or the city would replace it, or that it could be repealed in writing. This was denied by the director before it was sent to the board which was not what the policy was. She stated that this is disrespectful to the board and the residents to have a process and not follow it.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, responded that to an extent the resident has a point, as director I do have a responsibility to make a decision, and this has come up before and the amount has been \$75.00 for a long time. Since this, we have changed the notice that the appeal comes to me and then to public works. I apologize to the board and the resident. The notice has been changed, the first appeal is to the director of public works, then the board of public works.

Mayor Caggiano, stated that he apologizes, but the board does stand by the decision, and the process has been changed.

Kristen Woolridge, 114 Tiffany Lane, said that the letter says to send the receipt for the amount of the replacement of the mailbox. Another board member said the post may be bad but it is not, the post is fine. I stand by the statement that if anyone else destroyed anyone's mailbox, they would be asked to pay for the mailbox in full not the cheapest mailbox.

Ray Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that the mailbox is in the right of way of the city and for plowing.

Mayor Caggiano stated that it is at the cost of tax payer's money replacing these and you can make an appointment with me to discuss more after. We do admit the process did not go well.

John Smith, 103 Tuttle Road, spoke about the sidewalk on Tuttle Road, traffic in this area is heavier, the number of people on the road are from the neighborhood. The idea of expanding sidewalks does not make sense. It is only about 150 feet more and what problem it would solve. I think it is a hazard.

Marion Cockayne, 93 Tuttle Road, I have lived there 52 years and I received a letter from public works about putting a sidewalk in on my property. She stated She has always had cars turning into her driveway for 52 years. This is a traffic issue. Sidewalks in front of my house is a waste of taxpayer's money. I want to thank the commissioner for not voting on this issue until I was told what was happening.

Maryanne Sirois, 362 Shrub Road, spoke about the widening of Shrub Road and read the AI traffic study that was done.

Mayor Caggiano stated that this started and has been discussed over the past over 3 years ago. There were no less than 3 public sessions on this.

Jeff Hayden, 50 Melinda Lane, spoke regarding the sidewalk issue on Tuttle Road. He suggested the board to come and watch the chaos anytime on a morning or afternoon. Cars are doing k-turns in the road. He did speak to the police and k-turns are not illegal. The traffic is dangerous and there is a parking problem on the road. There are cars pulling in to Mrs. Cockayne's driveway all the time.

Gina Fusco, 177 West Street, stated that she attended the police meeting and it was recommended she come to the public works meeting regarding the parking ban issues. She lives in an apartment where there are not enough parking spaces. When there is a parking ban there is not enough room and if there was an emergency the emergency vehicles would have a hard time to get to them safely.

Mayor Caggiano stated that there have been lots of developments in the city and parking could become an issue.

Rob McCreesh, 40 Melinda Lane, stated he is in support of the sidewalks on Tuttle Lane. He has a daughter at the school.

Scott Heth, 501 Wolcott, Road, Barnes Nature Center, stated they are excited about the sidewalks on Shrub Road, however, they object to the painted islands and widening of the roads near the Pigeon Hill area.

Robert Clough, 45 Melinda Lane, stated he is in favor of sidewalks.

Willy Yopp, 59 Melinda Lane, in favor of the sidewalks. It is a dangerous road; people speed all the time.

MOTION: to move up item 8G- Shrub Road made by Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

8. New Business

g. BPW Shrub Road

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., stated that he prepared a memo for the board which has been provided. There are easements that will be required for the project in a few areas. The plans have been forwarded to the DOT and will review them and provide any comments. Then VCOG will provide an independent review and also provide comments.

Eric Wagner, Project Manager, AI engineers, gave a power point presentation update on the Shrub Road project. He explained each area of the roadway at each intersection and crossroad as well as at the Nature Center.

MOTION: to move item 8A up on the agenda made by Council Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

a. Tuttle Road Sidewalks

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, this came up from a resident's request for sidewalks on a portion of Tuttle Road, where they terminate now 100 feet to the driveway of 93 Tuttle Road. At the last meeting it was decided to have Public Works look at the issue and forward a letter to the property owner. I do see sidewalks as an integral part of the transportation system. The cost is included to go all the way up Tuttle Road as well and we would absorb into the operating budget.

Council Member Olsen stated she did go there when the kids were coming out of school. She is in favor of sidewalks, but feels it doesn't make sense in this case. There is not adequate parking.

Council Member Rosengren feels the same way as I went there myself. It is a parking issues not a sidewalk issue. My thought would be either you have to do the whole side or none.

Commissioner Hartley stated that he went there yesterday and the interesting thing is no students walked on the Board of Ed sidewalk from the driveway of the South Side School up to where her property starts. I stood in her driveway and not one student did that. The children walked in the middle of the road. I cannot support spot side walking. It doesn't serve the purpose.

Commissioner Stawski stated that this is a transportation problem. Accidents may happen, I don't see any history of accidents, I can't see it.

MOTION: to not move forward with the sidewalk made by Council Member Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion passed

Mayor Caggiano stated that we can talk to the Board of Ed to help maybe with the snow issue and help the traffic and parking problem in the area to fix this

Commissioner Hartley stated that the Board of Ed could remove the snow from the snow shelf between the driveway and Mrs. Cockayne's driveway. The Board of Ed is not good about removing it near the bridge. This would help and maybe they could pave this area.

Jeff Hayden, 50 Melinda Lane, I am aware that this is done as I have been on many boards. There is caution tape up and no one is using the sidewalk from the ice and they do not plow the cutoff and there is no access to the road. I just want if something happens it's on the record.

4. Employee Recognition

The employee anniversaries were reviewed.

5. Division Reports

MOTION: made by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Commissioner Hartley to accept as presented and place on file. Motion passed.

6. Project List

a. Bldg.Comm Project List

MOTION: made by Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Olsen to accept as presented and place on file. Motion passed.

b. Engineering Project List

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Stawski to accept as presented and place on file. Motion passed.

7. Director's Report

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., reviewed the directors report.

MOTION: made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Rosengren to accept as presented and place on file. Motion passed.

8. New Business

a. Runoff Policy

MOTION: to defer to next month's meeting made by Council Member Rosengren and Commissioner Stawski. Motion passed.

b. BPW Clynk 022025

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that this item came out of the board's direction at the last meeting to direct a program where we provide cynk bags to various agencies. We would be looking to provide bags to Veterans Strong, the Senior Center and also Boy Scouts. With the Board of Approval will proceed with this.

MOTION: Approve, as presented, the proposed pilot program to supply CLYNK bags to residents and authorize the Department of Public Works to proceed with implementation made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Rosengren

Mayor Caggiano stated that this is a great and Lindsey will continue to work on this as well. She has had some outreach to some of these places as well. It doesn't necessarily have to be these places, but this is kind of where we are starting. We want to make these bags available to get them to people as needed.

MOTION: to amend the above motion and add any future changes be authorized by the Director of Public Works made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Rosengren. Motion passed.

c. BPW Stream Renaming

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, discussed a drainage culvert on Andrews Street that crossed an unnamed brook. We are looking to name the brook and are looking for suggestions from the board on the name. There were a few names recommended, Lancer Brook as it is near Eastern High School, Hamzy & Demonte Brook after the Bristol Police Officers, And New Cambridge Brook. IF the officers name if chosen if does have to be five years after their death which is one of the requirements by the U.S. Board of Geographic Names.

Mayor Caggiano stated he will talk to the officer's families and see how they feel about it. We can hold onto this until we get some more information, and if we get a no from the families, we do have other options.

d. Eversource Coordination Restoration

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated that Eversource couldn't make the meeting tonight but will be here next month. They have a traumatic impact on Bristol's roads and it's very frustrating that we do give them a list of roads we are going to pave three years in advance. Then five years after, they are digging up the roads we paved. The good news is they do provide funds so we repave, but within three years we are right back to where we started. So those three years are tough, and honestly, we look foolish, the residents don't understand that its Eversource and not public works.

Mayor Caggiano stated that he thought this was to talk about the storm so we will talk about this next month with Eversource, but wanted to say that with this storm Ray and Harley did a great job coordinating with Eversource and they were very proactive. We had over 3,000 outages on Sunday night and by Monday everybody was back on.

e. BOF Transfers

MOTION: to transfer \$28,750.00 for Engineering consultant fees to for the Andrew St. Bridge Project made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

MOTION: to transfer \$39,529.50for Engineering consultant fees to replace the Mellen St. Bridge (south St to Mem Blvd) made by Council Member Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion passed.

MOTION: to transfer \$ 5,000.00 funds for additional phone line for Meadow St. parking garage fire system and City Hall (fire, elevator and security lines) made by Council Member Olsen and seconded by Commissioner Hartley. Motion passed.

MOTION: to transfer \$5,000.00 for Land Use advertising fees made by Commissioner Dumas and seconded by Erick Rosengren. Motion passed.

MOTION: to approve the transfer of \$50,000.00 to purchase 500 tons of road salt made by Commissioner Stawski and seconded by Commissioner Dumas. Motion passed.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public of Public Works, stated that we do have a supply of salt. In Norwalk they had a shortage and did not salt the roads and schools were delayed. Our reports of a shortage in Connecticut have happened in the past. One of the supervisors did reach out to Morton salt and did say that they have a barge delivery right now and were told there would not be a shortage.

H-1 Snow on sidewalks

Ray Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, reviewed the hand out regarding a main complaint the public works receives is snow up on sidewalks and drivers going too fast. The primary issue is if the driver is going to fast it does push the snow on the property more. We tell the drivers to plow to the curb during the storm. We tell the residents if the road is not plowed to the curb, chances are the snow is going to end up back on your sidewalk. We will have complaints to date and will have them in the future.

Mayor Caggiano stated this was a very unusual storm because when the final cleanup was done it was slush, so it went flying all over and then it rained. Some sidewalks had two inches of ice on them. There is a warm up coming this weekend so it should be safe and melt.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, stated we did have complaints from Ivy Drive where it's the same driver for five years. I don't know why we have had more complaints this year than ever before. We instructed the driver to do that area first. Kelly Street there is no pull water is truly a timing issue.

Commissioner Stawski, stated that as a timing issue, people like myself who hire someone to shovel who start early in the morning and cannot come back and forth. I feel bad for people who pay to have them done and then have their sidewalks backfilled.

Mayor Caggiano said unfortunately there is no good solution. We have to have common sense and in a regular storm where it doesn't get ice packed and it's a major issue, the police get called, then they pay public works to clean it up. That the process. Its not always perfect.

8 A-1-D Public Works Sidewalk Policy

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, reviewed the policy for sidewalks in the packet handed out to the board members.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, presented the revised BOPW calendar for the June date to June 12 due to the June 19th holiday.

MOTION: to approve the amended Board of Public Works 2025 calendar made by Commissioner Hartley and seconded by Commissioner Stawski.

9. Old Business

a budget narratives FY2025 2026

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works stated that a lot of work goes into the budget and it allows him to highlight things that PW has accomplished.

10. Any Matter to come before said meeting

Council Member asked about cross walks on Route 6 being made ADA compliant.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, said that Route 6 is a state road and that there is nothing going on now, but if the state paves the will bring them up to standards. Sometimes is will being complaint driven. We have had several complaints about the one intersection at Starbucks and the traffic signal is the issue there.

Council Member Dickau mentioned the lawsuit in Bridgeport with Roseanne Gannon, The Mayor's sister where she won a suit against the city because she fell on the broken sidewalk.

Raymond Rogozinski, P.E., Director of Public Works, said Our city ordinance a common ordinance is that the residents are responsible for the sidewalk maintenance. We do periodically get claims that get referred to our insurance company. I am unaware of us losing a claim where out ordinance didn't hold up. Wallingford lost one which drove one to even change their ordinance, so there is movement in case law. But, to date, I am unaware of our ordinance in effect not getting held up.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:17 made by Council Member Rosengren and seconded by Council Member Olsen. Motion passed.

Signature,

Raymond A. Rogozinski, P.E.
Director of Public Works