

## Minutes, Public Works Subcommittee

April 15, 2011

Present: Valerie Haynes, Anton Lahnston, Carol Golden, Alice K. Small. CGR: John Fry. Public: Sue Nemeth.

**Staffing:** The subcommittee reviewed the organization chart for a fully integrated Engineering/DPW/PSOC/Recreation option ("option 4") prepared by CGR and noted the clarification that the PSOC Supervisor reports to the Engineer, not the DPW super. PSOC staff, however, would be part of the overall public works staff and available for cross-training and assignment as needed. CGR estimates overall savings from Option 4 to be \$442,564.

Sue Nemeth advised that the Recreation Commission does contract out certain field lining and mowing tasks, in addition to using recreation staff for these functions.

Valerie and Carol reported on their meeting with members of the Recreation Management Committee to discuss the Option 4 staffing model. Alice and John will meet with staff from the Engineering, DPW, PSOC and Recreation departments on April 18 to gain their collective feedback on the option 4 model.

### Facilities:

The subcommittee discussed that needed upgrades to the public works facilities will of necessity be phased because the community will have to spread the cost over a number of years. Therefore, our recommendation would be to continue the current uses on the current sites at the outset of the consolidated or shared service program ("Day 1").

Longer term goals were identified as:

- Phase out most uses at the Valley Road site - i.e., elimination of the current use of this site for vehicle maintenance, storage and administrative offices - with retention of the fueling facility at this location to fuel both police and public works vehicles. The remainder of the site could be made available to provide required additional parking for the municipal and police facilities that will be located in the current township municipal building.
- Retain Harrison Street site - and limit use to light maintenance (small vehicles such as police cars) and as a base for "quick strike" response to address downtown needs.
- Phase out use of John Street - by moving the salt and sand storage and vehicle storage currently housed there to River Road. This site should be repurposed either for a municipal use compatible with the adjoining residential, school and park uses or sold for development compatible with those adjacent uses.

- Develop facilities at River Road - over the next several years for cold storage of equipment, salt & sand storage and heated maintenance of large equipment.
- Identify locations for administrative offices, parking of "in use" vehicles. Possible locations for administrative offices identified to date include Harrison Street, River Road or Borough Hall; Valley Road may provide medium term space for storage of downtown "in use" equipment.

The subcommittee discussed that final decisions on facilities will extend beyond the term of the Commission. It was suggested that the Commission recommend to the governing bodies that a task force be established in early 2012 to develop a facilities capital plan and phasing schedule and make a recommendation to the community by the end of September, 2012. This would provide a schedule for implementation by a consolidated governing body or a shared service DPW in 2013 and thereafter. It was noted that several members of the public have urged consideration of including the school district in a combined public works operation - this is outside the scope of the subcommittee, but the idea should be pursued in the future and included in the recommendations.

The subcommittee decided to ask the Township and Borough engineers to review the cost estimates in the 2009 "princeton township + borough public works facilities master plan and preliminary design" report, and advise whether any reductions in the estimated costs may be possible given recent experience with bids and possible economies in the design. The subcommittee members believe it would be beneficial to complete the cold storage facility at River Road during 2012 if it can be accommodated in the municipal capital plans, as such a facility will reduce wear and tear on equipment and repay its cost over time. Sue Nemeth noted that a solar array is planned on the closed landfill on River Road, and it should be possible to incorporate energy savings from that project and other sustainable features into any construction at the River Road site.

Committee members will meet with Engineering and DPW staff to discuss facilities and equipment issues on April 21st. In advance of that meeting, Committee members asked John Fry to obtain current fueling costs from the CFOs in order to calculate any savings from a combined fueling site at Valley Road. John will also continue research on the anticipated equipment needs over the next few years.

**Next meeting May 2 at 1:30 p.m. at 223 Mt. Lucas Road.**