

Public Works Directors Association Meeting

9:00-11:00 a.m.

Wednesday, June 13, 2007

GPCOG Conference Room

Present: Shawn Bennett (Pownal); Mike Bobinsky (Portland); Tom Eldridge (Westbrook); Doug Fortier (Windham); Bob Malley (Cape Elizabeth); Roger Mosley, Chair (Standish); Dan Nowell (Sebago); Adam Ogden (Cumberland); Mike Shaw (Scarborough); Erik Street (Yarmouth).

Staff: Carol MacKenzie (GPCOG); Sue McIntyre (GPCOG).

1. Welcome and Introductions – Roger Mosley, Chairman

Roger Mosley called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and welcomed those present.

2. Acceptance of Minutes from April 25th, 2007 Meeting

Minutes were accepted by consensus.

3. Formalization of the Chair and Vice Chair Position

It was agreed that elective positions of Chair and Vice Chair would serve a one-year term from July 1st to June 30th. At the end of each one-year term, the Vice-Chair will move up to the Chairperson position and a new Vice-Chair will be elected. The same format will be followed for each subsequent year.

Bob Malley made a motion to nominate Erik Street as Chairperson and Shawn Bennett as Vice-Chair, seconded by Roger Mosley. Vote taken. All were in favor. Motion carried. The new co-chairs will begin their term with the next scheduled Public Works Directors' Association meeting.

On behalf of the group, Mike Bobinsky thanked Roger Mosley for chairing the meetings during his term in office.

A discussion began pertaining to potential agenda topics and speakers. Past agenda items have included vendor presentations, recycling issues, NIMS training, representatives from the MaineDOT, etc. It was decided that sending out a survey/questionnaire for input for agenda topics and speakers would be beneficial. The survey will also include questions asking the membership preferred choices for meeting days, times, breakfast/lunch/snack, etc. The survey will be sent out by regular mail as well as by email.

4. Update on Mutual Aid Agreement for Public Works Department

(Roundtable discussion)

Mike Bobinsky provided an update on the Public Works Mutual Aid Program. It will tie in with the Cumberland County Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement. A Steering Committee will feed into the Joint Board. The process is still unfolding. George Flaherty will provide assistance in moving this along. The New Hampshire Mutual Aid Agreement is serving as the model for Maine's agreement and will be reviewed to see how it compares to Maine law. The N.H. document also speaks to the non-emergency issues. George Flaherty will have an attorney who is experienced in municipal law review the document. George will also contact all of the 27 municipalities apprising them of the process. Each community will need to assign a representative to the board. It was noted that some communities might not even be aware of this agreement. The group agreed that a strong Public Works presence would be needed on the board. There will also be a need to have an appropriate link with public safety officials as well. As talks continue on mutual aid, an ongoing dialogue will be needed either on the Joint Board or on the Steering Committee so that first responders can learn from each other. Public works personnel are often among the first responders along with police and fire personnel. It is important that all be included. A formal arrangement will be worked out. Mike Bobinsky and George Flaherty will be working on some of the bylaws for the agreement. Fire, police and utility representatives, among others, will need to be brought into the discussion at some point. It was agreed that meeting with these other groups every six months or so to talk about common issues and/or debrief on emergencies would be beneficial to all entities. It could serve as a form of training and sharing of information. It is hoped that a model agreement will be formulated by the end of July. It was noted that the first meeting for the Joint Board has been tentatively set for September. Meeting schedules for both the Joint Board and Steering Committee will be incorporated into the bylaws. Mike Bobinsky and Carol MacKenzie will do a conference call with George Flaherty for an update on the process and to offer assistance. A copy of the letter that will be sent out

by George Flaherty to the Town Managers of the communities and will be forwarded to the Public Works Directors and other officials. The next meeting's agenda will include "Status of Bylaws of Mutual Aid Agreement" as an agenda item.

5. Announcements

Carol opened salt bids on Monday. The low bid is \$51.91 a ton. Last year it was \$44.80 a ton. Bid results went out yesterday. The increase in price is mostly due to ocean freight charges that have skyrocketed. A discussion followed pertaining to a regional storage structure that could service all of the Portland area communities. It was agreed that this is the year to discuss regional issues. Further discussion followed on pre-mixed salt. International Salt Company had a pre-mixed salt price of \$67.91 a ton delivered and \$66.00 a ton if the town picks it up.

Culvert bids have opened but have not been tabulated. Carol noted that prices seem to be pretty stable.

Discussion ensued pertaining to salt brine and having MaineDOT pre-mix it. The topic had been discussed at an earlier meeting when Dave Sherlock from the MaineDOT had attended. Roger Mosley will call Dave Sherlock for an update on the pilot program that had been discussed in regards to this topic. Further discussion followed on storm clean-up issues and a "ride-along program". It was noted that the "ride-along program" could also be made available to the public but liability waivers would need to be signed. This program provides a good eye-opener to councilors and other public officials on the challenges involved during a storm clean up. Shawn said he had been able to acquire a copy of a ride-along waiver document from the Town of Pittsfield. Anyone interested in getting a copy can contact Shawn. .

Discussion followed pertaining to pre-treated salt and doing an outreach in regards to the salt issue. It was noted that the public wants black pavement but it has its consequences. It was also mentioned that infrared sensors could help with spot salting and spot sanding.

6. Other Business

- The next meeting is scheduled for August 8th, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in the GPCOG conference room.
- The following topics were suggested as agenda items for upcoming meetings:
Winter related topics for October meeting such as: brine; regional application; salt contamination in wells; eco-friendly products; parking bans.
- Biodiesel particulars/biodiesel update/Manufacturer Warranty regarding B20 blends.

7. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.