

Town of Watertown
Town Council
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
Special Meeting Minutes

Date: June 15, 2026

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location: Watertown Town Hall

Town Council Chambers

61 Echo Lake Road

Watertown, CT 06795

1. Call Meeting to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:00 P.M. by Subcommittee Chairperson, Robert Retallick.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call

Present: Robert Retallick, Robert Desena, Rachael Ryan (on zoom), Dan Cocchiola

Also Present: Jerry Lukowski, Bob Grandpre, Mike Zoller

Absent: Ken Demirs

4. Public Participation

None

5. Minutes

Robert Retallick asked for approval of May 14, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Desena makes a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Dan Cocchiola. All in favor.

6. Correspondence

None

7. Old Business

A. Paving Program

Engineering staff Mike Zoller reported that the 2026 paving program remains on schedule.

- Pre-construction meeting completed with the contractor.
- Cold-in-place recycling and paving are scheduled to begin during the second week of July, starting in the northern portion of town.
- Micro surfacing is anticipated during the third week of July.
- Rubber chip sealing is tentatively planned for late July.

B. Steele Brook Greenway #2 – Construction – Subbase South/Micro Piles/Bridge

- Southern subbase work is progressing.
- Sixteen micropiles have been installed (eight per bridge abutment).
- Test piles exceeded required load testing without failure.
- Bridge fabrication is underway in Alabama with Connecticut DOT inspection.
- Micropiles extend approximately 25 feet into bedrock, providing long-term structural stability and resistance to scour.
- Construction remains on schedule for completion in the fall.
- Weston & Sampson continues construction inspection services.

C. Main St Watertown – T & B at 65 + % Design /// Heminway Design

- 90% of design plans have been submitted for review.
- Review period will last approximately 45 days.
- Current estimated construction cost is approximately \$5.8 million.
- Scope reductions will be necessary to meet available funding.
- Project improvements include:
 - Sidewalk reconstruction
 - ADA ramps
 - Decorative lighting
 - Bump-outs
 - Streetscape improvements
- Construction is anticipated to be bid in late fall/early winter with work beginning next spring.

8. New Business

A. Spring Work – Highway Superintendent

The Highway Superintendent Bob Grandpre summarized current operations.

Following the June 12 microburst storm:

- Seven major tree incidents were addressed.
- Six flooding events were responded to.
- Roads were reopened Friday evening.
- Storm debris cleanup continued into the following week.

Current Highway activities include:

- Street sweeping approximately 90% complete.
- Quarterly storm route sweeping continues.
- Meadow Crest drainage improvements are over halfway complete, including:
- Seven catch basins were installed.
- Approximately 550 feet of drainage pipe was installed.
- Roadside mowing continues.
- Catch basin cleaning continues as staffing permits.
- Pavement marking and line striping are scheduled to begin Wednesday.
- Catch basin repairs, driveway apron work, curb repairs, and pothole patching continue.

Committee members thanked Public Works, Police, and Fire personnel for their response during the severe storm event and discussed recurring flooding near Main Street and Jonathan Trumbull School.

B. PFAS/PFOS ongoing testing for perimeter and household wells at the Transfer Station

- Ongoing state-required testing continues for transfer station monitoring wells and affected residential wells.
- Additional testing requirements have increased the Public Works budget.
- Budget adjustments have already been made to accommodate the new mandate.

C. Household Hazardous Waste Event – 18 JULY 2026 – Southbury

The committee was reminded that:

- The regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event is scheduled for July 18, 2026 in Southbury.
- Information is available on the Town and Public Works websites.
- Residents may dispose of household hazardous materials at the event.

D. CCGP – Community Connectivity Grant Program – Pin Shop

Engineering staff discussed preparing the next Community Connectivity Grant application.

Proposed improvements include:

- Sidewalk construction near the Pin Shop area.
- Raised crosswalk.
- Flashing pedestrian beacons.
- Decorative street lighting.
- Project limits extending from Buckingham Road toward the town line.

Staff emphasized completing design work in advance so future grant funding can be utilized quickly once awarded.

Committee members expressed support for the project and encouraged continued public outreach regarding grant opportunities and community events.

E. MEMO: St John Wall Bid – “CCGP” – Dayton Construction

Staff reviewed the Community Connectivity Grant-funded St. John Wall project.

- Recommendation to award the project to Dayton Construction, pending Connecticut DOT approval.
- Staff indicated the apparent low bidder was not considered a qualified bidder based on documented project performance.
- Because the project is state funded, the committee determined a formal vote was unnecessary pending DOT concurrence.

The committee expressed consensus supporting staff's recommendation and requested staff proceed through the appropriate state approval process.

F. MEMO: Milling & Paving Bid – Cocchiola Paving

Staff presented bids for the Wilson Drive and Bunker Hill Avenue paving project.

The committee discussed application of the Town's hometown contractor preference.

Motion: Award the milling and paving contract for Wilson Drive and Bunker Hill Avenue to Cocchiola Paving, with Stony Brook Construction serving as subcontractor.

Second: Rachel Ryan.

Vote: Approved unanimously.

G. MEMO: Request for funds – Steele Brook Greenway Phase #3

- Project extends from the Unico Bridge to the existing pedestrian bridge.
- Includes culvert replacements, trail preparation, paving, and shoulders.
- Project is anticipated to be fully reimbursed through the Urban Act Grant Program.
- Funding request will be presented at the July 20, 2026 Town Council meeting following the required public meeting process.

Committee members commended staff for successfully advancing grant-funded projects benefiting the Town.

H. Next Public Works Subcommittee Meeting – 10 AUG 2026

9. Transfers and Appropriations

None

10. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Retallick, seconded, and approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:33 p.m.