

24-084
PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE
MEETING REPORT
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.

Attendees: Councillor Anna Callahan, Committee Chair; Councillor Emily Lazzaro, Committee Vice-Chair; Council President Isaac “Zac” Bears; Councillor Matt Leming; Councillor George Scarpelli; City Clerk Adam Hurtubise; City Engineer Owen Wartella; DPW Commissioner Tim McGivern; other participants as noted in the body of this report.

Chair Callahan called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. on April 24, 2024 in the Medford City Council Chambers on the second floor of Medford City Hall and via Zoom. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Pavement Management Plan Update (Paper **24-084**).

Chair Callahan thanked participants for attending. Chair Callahan recapped work from the last meeting.

Mr. Wartella highlighted the work being done and planned on pavement management. He said we’ve been spending in the mid-seven figures, which is a little bit more than Chapter 90 money. Commissioner McGivern said the goal is to both more in-house work and more contracted work. He said we bought a new paver and a new roller. He said he would like to have a highway crew that can use the new machine a few times per week instead of a few times per month.

President Bears said it is a good sign that there has been some improvement. He said it seems like routine maintenance miles is in the same place. He thanked Mr. Wartella for putting the pavement update on the website.

Commissioner McGivern said we want to shift some work to in-house and use contractors for some of the major projects.

President Bears said he appreciates the mid-seven figures range. He said he wanted to get a sense of the value of the Eversource repaving. He asked how we are tracking this. Mr. Wartella said he would have a figure at the end of this construction season.

Chair Callahan said she appreciates the update. President Bears said he would like to know how much is coming from the utility side. Mr. Wartella said that the cost of taking one bad road and making it new is more than the Chapter 90 funds. He said he has two projects right now totaling \$1.5 million and only has \$1.4 million in Chapter 90 funds.

President Bears said that there are two tracks, repair and prevention. Commissioner McGivern elaborated. President Bears asked about sidewalks. He asked if the aggregate figure there is \$8.5 million and Mr. Wartella agreed.

Councillor Leming asked if roads are deteriorating faster now than they were ten to twenty years ago. Mr. Wartella said that this is more because of climate change and less because of electric vehicles. He said that this is all freeze-thaw related. He said freeze-thaw damages roads. Commissioner McGivern said that freeze-thaw slowly pulverizes roads from beneath. He also said that there are more trucks and there is more secondary material in the road. He said that there are more cars on the road.

President Bears said that bituminous concrete is at the same price. Commissioner McGivern said that he is a fan of replacing things with what was there before. He said if we were going to complete that we would need to see more of a gain. It is cheaper to use asphalt and repair asphalt. He said cement concrete looks better and has benefits but asphalt is easier to use and repair.

President Bears said that this Council has been working toward an in-house crew and that City leaders are considering this, and that it is a valuable investment to make.

President Bears moved to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. (Councillor Leming second)—approved on a roll call vote of five in favor and zero opposed.

Chair Callahan adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.