

Town of Watertown
Town Council
PUBLIC WORKS SUBCOMMITTEE
SPECIAL Meeting Minutes

Date: May 14, 2026

Time: 5:00 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, Ken Demirs

Also Present: Jerry Lukowski, Bob Grandpre, Mike Zoller

Absent: Dan Cocchiola, Rachael Ryan

4. Public Participation

None

5. Minutes

Robert Retallick asked for approval of October 14, 2025, Meeting Minutes and March 9, 2026, Meeting Minutes. Desena makes a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ken Demirs. All in favor.

6. Correspondence

Jerry Lukowski states although no formal correspondence was listed, staff reported receiving approximately 774 work orders, with 633 completed to date. Staff indicated that most correspondence and service requests are handled directly by Public Works personnel before reaching the committee level.

7. Old Business

A. RRFB – 3/3 Installed one on Davis and two on Main St – COMPLETED

All three planned flashing beacon installations were completed:

- Two on Main Street
- One on Davis Street

This item will be removed from future agendas.

B. Highway Garage Renovation – COMPLETED

The renovation project is complete.

Key updates:

Project cost approximately \$620,000

Nearly \$500,000 in reimbursement funding has been received

A 2% retainage remains pending final contractor closeout and CHRO requirements

C. Paving Program

Staff provided an extensive update on road conditions and paving plans.

Highlights:

- 186 miles of road treatment completed in 2025
- Average treatment rate of approximately 18 miles per year
- Current Road Surface Rating (RSR): 67.7
- Estimated unfunded roadway need: \$37.2 million
- The recently approved \$10 million road bond has begun funding projects

New paving methods being piloted include:

- Cold-in-place recycling
- PA-in-place stabilization

These methods are expected to:

- Reduce costs
- Improve road bases
- Recycle existing roadway materials
- Reduce hauling and milling operations

Discussion also included future treatment of Linkfield Road and Basset Road using mastic/rubber-chip style surface treatments.

D. Steele Brook Greenway #2 – Construction Started – Tree Removal/Submittals/Eversource

Construction has officially started.

Current progress:

- Drainage installation underway
- Utility poles relocated by Eversource
- Trail subbase and base installation progressing
- Bridge foundation micropiles being installed
- Future parking area and flashing-beacon crosswalk planned at French Street

Additional notes:

- Original construction estimate: \$2.4 million
- Winning bid: \$1.9 million
- Approximate savings: \$500,000
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E. St. John Wall –Approved – OUT TO BID

The project has been approved and bid documents are released.

Scope includes:

- Removal of existing retaining wall
- Tree removal and replacement
- New sidewalk extending toward Starbucks
- Pedestrian safety improvements

Funding:

- \$800,000 Community Connectivity Grant
- Grant is provided upfront rather than through reimbursement

Goal:

- Begin construction immediately after school ends
- Complete major work before students return in late August

F. Main St Watertown – T & B at 65% Design /// Coordinating with Property Owners

Design is now beyond the 65% stage.

Current focus:

- Sidewalk improvements
- Pedestrian safety enhancements
- Crosswalk bump-outs
- Relocation of flashing beacon infrastructure
- Coordination with adjacent property owners

Funding:

- \$3 million federal appropriation secured through Congresswoman Johanna Hayes.

Tentative schedule:

- Design completion in Fall 2026
- Bid process during Winter 2026-2027
- Construction beginning Spring 2027

Additional discussion focused on:

- Traffic management during construction
- Business access
- Use of alternate routes including Buckingham Street
- Minor property acquisitions required by DOT

8. New Business

A. Spring Work – Highway Superintendent

The Highway Department reported significant seasonal activity.

Street Sweeping:

- 100% of Oakville completed
- Approximately 50% of town completed overall
- Significant reduction in debris due to salt-only winter operations

Drainage Improvements:

- Major drainage project underway on Meadow Crest Lane
- Approximately 260 feet of drainage pipe installed
- Nearly 1,400 feet planned
- Numerous yard drains and catch basins being upgraded

Additional Activities:

- Pothole repairs
- Lawn and curbing restoration
- Catch basin cleaning
- Roadside mowing beginning with new tractor
- Flag installation using rented bucket truck
- Tree trimming
- Sign installation
- Building maintenance

Fleet Maintenance:

- Rebuilding an older international dump truck for approximately \$40,000–\$50,000 instead of purchasing a new \$300,000 replacement.

B. Steele Brook Greenway #3 – Going out to bid / Public Hearing May 18th

The Town received additional grant funding to extend the trail from the UNICO Bridge to the existing pedestrian bridge.

Key points:

- Public hearing scheduled for May 18
- Project funding approximately **\$270,000–\$280,000**
- Grant is 100% reimbursable
- Project must still be publicly bid despite efforts to use existing contractor pricing

Goal:

- Construct concurrently with Phase 2 work when possible

C. 28 MAY – Road Safety Audit (RSA) Training w/ UCONN T2 and NVCOG – Watertown FH

The Town will host a Road Safety Audit training session with:

- UConn T2 Center
- NVCOG

Focus Area:

- French Street corridor

Participants invited:

- Police Department
- Fire Department
- School administrators

The audit is intended to identify future safety improvement opportunities.

D. 8 June 2026 – Next Public Works Subcommittee Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2026.

9. Transfers and Appropriations

A. Budget Transfer – PFOS/PFAS Testing at the Transfer Station

The committee approved a budget transfer of \$35,000.

Purpose:

- Testing residential wells near the Transfer Station for PFAS/PFOS contamination
- Maintaining and installing water filtration systems where required
- Meeting Connecticut DEEP permit requirements

Funding Transfer:

- From Waste & Recycling account
- To Residential Wells and DEEP Fees account

Motion passed unanimously.

10. Adjournment

The committee thanked Public Works staff for their efforts during the winter season and throughout ongoing infrastructure projects.

A motion to adjourn was made by Robert Retallick, seconded, and approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.