

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
645 PINE STREET
BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05401
COMMISSION MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES

For video of the meeting, please visit Town Meeting TV's YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fLAyRGweCwE&list=PLljLFn4BZd2PwCge7INoKug676jlf_iUA&index=4

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Barr, Vice Chair Fox, Commissioner Davis,
Commissioner Munteanu, Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco, Chair Damiani

Commissioner Absent: Commissioner Sears

ITEM 1 – CALL TO ORDER

Chair Damiani called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ITEM 2 – AGENDA

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve the agenda
Commissioner Munteanu seconded.
Unanimous Approval.

ITEM 3 – PUBLIC FORUM

There was no one present for public forum

ITEM 4 – CONSENT AGENDDA

- 4.1 Approval of Draft Minutes 1-15-25
- 4.2 North Street Corridor Stop Signs

Commissioner Munteanu made a motion to accept the consent agenda
Commissioner Barr seconded
Unanimous Approval

ITEM 5 – FINAL BOND Q & A BEFORE THE 2025 TOWN MEETING DAY ELECTION

Director Chapin Spencer reviewed the Capital needs in the aging City.
Water/Wastewater Division Director Megan Moir reviewed the background on the proposed Water Resources Bond Request. Very happy to receive City Council Approval. City should be highly eligible for Pollution Control Grant funding. Continuing conversations about affordability programs. **Ashley Parker, Capital Program Director** reviewed the need for the 20 Million General Obligation Bond. Bond is really important to make our infrastructure sustainable and resilient. Tax impact is about 12.00 a month on a 500,000.00 home or about 140.00 a year.
Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco asked what if this doesn't pass. What impacts will the City Face?
AP -Worst case we have to divvy it up and will limit what we can do.

Commissioner Munteanu asked how the money is allocated to Specific projects especially Street/Sidewalks. What is DPW requesting funding for and how will sidewalk and street needs be prioritized?

AP – Nothing is guaranteed funding – see chart in presentation.

Director Spencer stated that it would be very limiting trying to operate on the 2 million dollars authorized.

Chair Damiani thinks the items on the Capital Plan that Commission looks at would love to see the input and provide comments.

Commissioner Davis asking why this amount? Is there a reason we don't aim for a percentage rather than a fixed dollar amount? Impact Fees – does the Commission determine them? Prioritization of sidewalk repair?

AP – we share debt with School. Annual Authorizations are 2 million a year, looking to change the limit to 10 million to fit the needs of the City. 2013 borrowing limit changed from 1 million to 2 million. Impact fees will require changes to existing ordinance. Division Director Moir we have had conversations about having and authorized annual limit.

Commissioner Barr – What is the actual impact on constituents tax bills? Great job showing what it would be.

Vice Chair Fox – Future charter changes for Water Resources to be able to borrow consistently -Size of bonds is because maintenance has been deferred so long, super important and is one of the parts of the affordability problem.

Chair Damiani – Affordability program – Income sensitized, is there an easy way to show how that may change what they will be paying. Voting 10 days away, any last outreach?

Division Director Moir -Mayor's office running tax fairness committee

Public Information Manager Rob Goulding - Late last week postcards were sent to let everyone know what was going to be on the ballot. Waiting for ads from BCA that will be going out on social media.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to support all three Bonds. Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco seconded. All in favor – Supported by Commission

ITEM 6 – FY'26 UPWP CITY APPLICATION

Senior Transportation Planner, Phillip Peterson presented proposed projects for inclusion in the FY'26 Unified Planning Work Program. This is Federal funding that covers planning only. 10 ongoing projects. Requesting support on two ongoing projects. Technical assistance on the Battery Street project and the City wide transportation plan which hasn't been updated since 2011. See packet for more detail.

Commissioner Munteanu asked how do you anticipate this program might change in the future and how is the City aiming to insure that the projects that have already started are coming to completion regardless of the different bodies of government?

Chair Fox positive comment when Public Works took over parking lots, great colorization.

Commissioner Barr – Great plan. Great stuff.

Chair Damiani - Planning documents are great.

Commissioner Barr made a motion to approve/support staffs proposed projects under the FY'26 Unified Planning Work Program

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco seconded

Vice Chair Fox – abstained

Commissioners Munteanu, Barr, O'Neill-Vivanco & Davis and Chair Damiani - Aye

ITEM 7 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Commissioner Sears is stepping down.
- Shout out to teams who battled storm. Did a remarkably good job!
- Wastewater plants upgrades are underway.
- Battery Street next meeting.
- Bikeshare - Bird not returning.
- Next steps for bond outreach – videos coming out on social media
- Resolution of 201 Flynn Ave – City purchased the property.

ITEM 8 - COMMISSIONER ITEMS

Commissioner Davis appreciates snow ban alert efforts. Email link to parking information is broken. Post on Front Porch that Garages Full – what should one do if that happens? GPS on trucks to show when plowed. Snow Maintenance on Bike Path? Traffic Light on Lakeside issues with right turn only. Possibly cancel trash pickup during snow.

RG – Park early and other garages offer different prices.

Commissioner O'Neill-Vivanco – Email about stop signs on Foster taken care of? Great job on snow clean up. Noticing potholes. Looking forward to Battery Street discussion.

Commissioner Munteanu - Status of the quality of streets data portal - is it available to the public?

Commissioner Barr - Echo's on great clean up with everybody working together.

Vice Chair Fox – Echo on snow clean up. Communication was excellent. Relates to the General Obligation Bond – helps us buy equipment. Flynn Ave & Champlain Parkway – red light seems to lead to confusion when train is going by. Bike Lane across from BPD – Sherman St striped poorly. Flag for restriping.

Chair Damiani – Kudos to Phillip & Julia for coming to Rose St project. Kudos to storm clean up and notification. Felt bad that sidewalk plow operator had to keep stopping to move trash containers. Communication needed. BPD Academy public safety – encourage folks to learn about it.

ITEM 9 – ADJOURNMENT AND NEXT MEETING MARCH 19, 2025

Commissioner Barr made a motion to adjourn

Commissioner Munteanu seconded.

Unanimous approval

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.