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City of Amesbury
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62 Friend St.
Amesbury, MA 01913

City Council Budget & Finance Subcommittee Minutes

July 15, 2025, at 6:30 PM

City Hall 62 Friend St.

Councilor Stanganelli called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Roll was called and present were: Councilor Frederique, Councilor Redfern, and Councilor Stanganelli

Also Present: Chief of Staff Ann Marie Casey, Chief Financial Officer Marisa Batista, Director of DPW Joe Buckley, and Mayor Kassandra Gove

Minutes for Approval:

Councilor Redfern made a motion to accept the June 17, 2025 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 3-0.

Communication and Updates: None

Public Comment:

- Sarah Chapman (11 Mechanics Row) asked for further clarification of 2025-081 and shared her experience living there noting the potholes.
- Dennis Moccia (11 Mechanics Row) stated his concerns with 2025-081.
- Anne Ferguson (1 River Ct.) shared her concerns with 2025-81. She stated she previously lived on Mechanics Row for a long period of time.

2025-081 An Order to appropriate \$5,000 from the Streets and Sidewalks Stabilization Fund to the Temporary Repairs on Private Ways account – **Mayor Sponsor**

- Mayor Kassandra Gove explained the background of 2025-081 in relation to 1998-181. She explained that 2025-081 is a short-term solution to address the needs of the residents while also following mass general laws. She stated that the administration has been consulting with their attorneys on this issue since they started the process.
- DPW Director Joe Buckley gave an overview explanation of unaccepted vs. accepted roads and private vs. public roads. He emphasized that they are complying with the state laws surrounding “substantial improvements” to unaccepted streets which is not allowed.
- Councilor Frederique stated he was concerned that this puts residents in a tough position and asked what they can do. Mayor Gove answered that to get their potholes fixed the residents would need to follow this process as outlined by 1998-181. She stated in the future administration may want to amend 1998-181, although she is unsure what that would look like.
- Councilor Stanganelli asked if 2025-081 requires abutters notices to be sent out. The Mayor answered no, she went on to explain the memo that did go out to residents outlining the process they would need to follow which includes signing a memo and having it notarized. The residents of Mechanics Row would need to unanimously sign this document.

- Councilor Stanganelli asked how issues like this have been handled in the past. Mayor Gove answered that she cannot speak to previous administrations, but she did find an older form from DPW which she used to model her current form on.
- Dennis Moccia questioned if the City has been illegally fixing unaccepted roads up until this point. The Mayor answered no.
- Anne Ferguson stated that around 2012 Mechanics Row was completely paved.
- Anne Ferguson stated the memo that went out to residents is concerning and many feel by signing the document they would be giving away certain rights.

Councilor Redfern made a motion to return 2025-081 to the City Council with a positive recommendation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Frederique and passed 2-1 with Councilor Stanganelli in opposition.

Adjourn: Councilor Redfern made a motion to adjourn at 7:14. Councilor Frederique seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Allie Connolly