

**CITY OF NORWALK  
LAND USE COMMITTEE  
CAPITAL BUDGET WORKSHOP  
JANUARY 27, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Fran DiMeglio, Chair; Torgny Astrom; Walter McLaughlin; Don Nelson; Joel Zaremby; Steve Ferguson; Victor Cavallo

**STAFF:** Mike Wrinn; Frank Strauch

**OTHERS:** Frank Favano; Tom Kulhawik; Peter Lapak; Karen DelVecchio; Frank Sarno; Mike Mocciae; Mike Sgobbo; Dick Linnartz; Hal Alvord; Lisa Burns; Denis McCarthy

**I. POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Mr. Favano discussed the need for improvements to the boat and showed a photograph of the boat that would be refurbished. Sgt. Kulhawik discussed a trade-in offer on the boat and pointed out that the department was currently operating with only one open boat and that the main boat was no longer serviceable.

Sgt. Lapak stated that the department would try to stay within the \$250,000 range, adding that the state-of-the-art vessels usually started at that price. He said that the Boston Whaler style vessel being considered was less expensive. Sgt. Lapak explained that the department's boat had been in service for 20 years, on a year-round basis. He added that the vessels were built to military standards and that Norwalk's commercial oyster industry would be well-served by the vessels. He added that the life expectancy of the new boat would also be about 20 years.

Ms. DiMeglio asked how Norwalk's Police Department compared with other towns' police departments, with regard to the vessels. Sgt. Lapak said that Norwalk had the premier boat, when compared to the departments from Bridgeport to Greenwich. He also described the fire pump, explaining that the equipment was very important, since the Coast Guard had limited fire-fighting ability. He also discussed the importance of the department's ability to stay "on-station" and described a recent rescue using the vessel.

**II. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY**

Ms. DelVecchio stated that the department's requests were significantly smaller than last year's and explained how the requests were divided.

She said that no more funds were being requested this year for enhancements to the city website. She said that the department was in the design phase with the

vendor currently and that the goal was to re-launch the site in the summer of 2010.

Mr. Astrom asked about standards. Ms. DelVecchio said that IT would be using industry-best standards. Mr. Sarno added that they were working with a solid firm.

Mr. Astrom pointed out the importance of including a small area on the website for the City to market its events. Ms. DelVecchio discussed the idea of building in a calendar as a means of promoting tourism. Mr. Sarno added that the department had a number of quality photographs for the site.

Ms. DiMeglio asked about contract negotiation.

Ms. DelVecchio discussed the refresh cycle for personal computers, particularly those in the police station and the library. She also described the advantages of the mobile units for inspectors and other personnel who worked outside of the office. She also said that 25 servers needed to be refreshed.

Ms. DelVecchio discussed the library phone system update, which had been postponed in 2008. She said that a new system would generate significant savings, as far as operational costs. She also stated that the public access computers needed to be refreshed, pointing out that the library had experienced a 25% increase in internet usage. She also said that the library access computer needed refreshing. Ms. DiMeglio pointed out that the library itself had put in the same budget request. Ms. DelVecchio noted that the Finance Director was also aware of this miscommunication.

Ms. DelVecchio discussed the transition to an email system for managing overdue items at the library. She also stated that the fire department and the police department needed updates for their mobile data terminals. She also described the importance of adding a combined dispatch system for EMS.

Ms. DelVecchio stated that a wireless security camera was needed for the Public Works campus and the WPCA areas. She also discussed hand-held GIS units for field staff, as well as smart boards as a means of sharing information. She added that a microfilm reader-filter was needed for the library.

There was a discussion of the recording system in the Council Chambers. Mr. Astrom pointed out that Planning and Zoning had asked for an upgrade to the system.

Ms. DiMeglio addressed the need for an electronic time-sheet for the Board of Education. Ms. DelVecchio explained that she had met with the Finance Director in May 2009 and agreed to expand the system as a stop-gap measure to help the Board of Education until the full project could proceed.

### **III. RECREATION & PARKS**

Mr. Mike Mocciae said that the department's rack body truck was 27 years old and needed to be replaced. He also discussed the need for a roof at the garage, due to asbestos problems and leaks. He described the Norwalk High School track, as well as the need for artificial turf at Nathan Hale. He discussed problems with growing grass on playing fields that were in constant use.

Mr. Mocciae gave background about projects at Calf Pasture Beach, including pedestrian lighting and a redesigned bath-house. She showed a plan for a visitor center at Calf Pasture. He also explained that the Hungarian monument should be moved to Heritage Park. Mr. Mocciae discussed the historic significance of Cranbury Park, adding that it should be placed on the registry of historic places. He described the potential for grants for repairs and also the need for control of invasive species. He also discussed Fodor Farm, stating that it was out-to-bid for the main structure.

Mr. Mocciae discussed the city's playgrounds, particularly Cranbury Playground and Devon's Place in Matthews Park. He also discussed improvements to basketball and tennis courts and also to fencing.

Mr. Mocciae said that the department had not received funding last year for tree-planting and now needed it again. He added that funding was requested for Matthews Park, open space needs, Veterans Park. He discussed the master plan regarding parks and described work needed at Washington Street Plaza.

### **IV. DPW, WPCA, PARKING AUTHORITY**

Mr. Hal Alvord gave an overview of the department's budget requests, pointing out that it worked with five-year plans. He stated that the department employed 20 fewer people than it had previously and therefore needed to make improvements with machinery. He added that the standardization program was paying off and that the junior engineers had proved to be versatile.

Mr. Mike Sgobbo discussed several items, including the a/c chillers, demolition and site improvement at the old police headquarters, and capital repairs to city buildings. He gave details about roof repairs and furnaces on the dispatch building, adding that stimulus funding was available for a steam system and that a similar project at Ben Franklin had been successful and resulted in significant savings on utility bills. Mr. Sgobbo described the program for conservation. He discussed work at Nathaniel Ely and also a surveillance system at police headquarters. Ms. Lisa Burns addressed monitoring for the facilities.

Mr. Dick Linnartz discussed plans for bridge projects. Mr. Alvord emphasized the need to address the poor condition of the Tokeneke Road Bridge, stating that it would eventually fall into the river and could no longer be economically repaired.

Mr. Alvord also discussed fleet replacement. Ms. Burns gave details about snowplowing capability. She also discussed the need to replace a mower and the bodies of two trucks in the fleet. She added that the department was requesting a leaf-vacuum shredder to streamline cleanup work.

Mr. Halvord discussed the GIS system, noting that the department had made great progress in developing a strategic plan. He also addressed the pavement management program.

Mr. Linnartz described the citywide sidewalks and curbs plan, as well as the bikeway study. He also described drainage improvements. Mr. Alvord addressed specific challenges concerning storm water management.

Mr. Linnartz discussed traffic signals and sign inventory, as well as traffic system enhancements.

Mr. Alvord described the tree planting program.

Ms. DiMeglio suggested that DPW include matching grants in the Commissioners' packets.

Mr. Linnartz, speaking on behalf of the Parking Authority, described the five-year plan involving the SoNo train station and the need for an improved emergency generator. He also discussed a special project involving way-finding.

Ms. Burns, speaking on behalf of the WPCA, discussed revenues as payment for debt service. She described pump station upgrades and replacements, emphasizing that it was far more economical to proactively rehab the systems than make repairs later.

## **V. FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Denis McCarthy described the fire station project, explaining that the cost was consistent with that for fire stations elsewhere. He addressed LEED certification and also noted that the department continued to maintain its own buildings. He discussed apparatus replacement and various station repairs and replacement items, as well as station paving needs.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Charlene Smith.

