

CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
July 26, 2018

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Chairman; Doug Stern; Chris Yerinides; George Tsiranides; Ernie Dumas; Doug Hempstead (arrived at 7:08PM)

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Chief Gatto, Fire Chief, Chris King, Asst. Fire Chief; Tom Closter, Health Department

I. WELCOME - ROLL CALL

Mr. Sacchinelli called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and stated that the above members were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 28, 2018

**** MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JUNE 28, 2018 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH (3) THREE IN FAVOR AND (2) TWO ABSTENTIONS. (MR. TSIRANIDES AND MR. DUMAS).**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Lauricella

Ms. Lauricella stated that she thinks that the two items for discussion is a great beginning dialogue. She said there had been 22 people who had attended a community

public information session and several great questions had come out of it such as how many samples were done, what contaminants were left in the ground, where they are located and what the concentration is; and the consultant should have had those answers but there are still some questions on the property according to the consultants with the help of someone from the DEEP's remediation program and she feels they are important enough questions. She said that she had requested hard copy maps from the Redevelopment Agency which they had not gotten. She said she has looked at some of the test results and she is still not sure how much has been left in the and the public should have some say prior to someone in government deciding how much gets removed, and the site does flood from the harbor and the representative from the DEEP did not know what the affect of the rising sea level and stormwater would have on infiltrating the contaminated material that is still left in the ground. She said that the property has already been graded and she is in favor of Ryan Park being renovated but she is not in favor of is the false sense of security and there needs to be a dialogue sooner rather than later.

Ms. Lauricella stated that Zoning and Code Enforcement has a lot to do with public health and there are a multitude of examples one being noise and noise is a health issue but happens to be a zoning regulation but it is also a police matter. She requested that the committee have an ongoing discussion regarding examples of where lack of zoning compliance has effectuated health issues which were serious at times. She distributed a list of issues to the committee. She said there had been a situation where a building had started to collapse at 15 Chestnut Street and it took far too long to have the building taken down which she believes was both a blight and zoning violation, and this would be a great way for this committee to connect the dots and she looks forward to the discussion and providing the committee with more documentation.

John Mosby

Mr. Mosby stated that he lives on Adamson Avenue and the people who live in South Norwalk are afraid to speak due to retaliation. He said that nothing has been inspected and the trailers come in the middle of the night making noise making it impossible to sleep. He asked the committee who is protecting the citizens; and that they are responsible for protecting the citizens and that is why they were elected. He said according to the newspaper people are leaving Norwalk including the rich because they don't like what they are seeing.

Darlene Young

Ms. Young stated as a 27 year resident in the South Norwalk area seeing all of the changes that are happening some of which can be good, but she also sees that there are concerns and issues that need to be addressed and thanked Mr. Dumas for putting those issues up front and bringing them to the appropriate committees to address them. She said the South Norwalk area is one of the oldest parts of the city and the zoning and codes need to change with the community and she does not think they have and that is an issue that needs to be addressed, and she hopes that this committee as it moves forward through this process will address some of the issues one being a portable toilet company moving into a densely populated area which is not right, and that is a concern and the other issue she always hear is that there is nothing that can be done because its grandfathered in, but she thinks there is something that can be done and should be done because it's not fair and doesn't make sense. She said she hopes that there will continue to be dialogue and conversations on how those changes can be made so that everyone in every part of the City of Norwalk has a quality of life that is meaningful, healthy, good and safe and currently the scales are not balanced on what is occurring in South Norwalk.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Action Items:

1. APPROVE A CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,915 FROM THE CAPITAL FUND BALANCE TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SCBA AIR PACKS.

Chief Gatto said that \$360,000 was put into the capital budget to replace 56 of the self contained breathing apparatus several years ago, but when they had gone out to bid this year it was determined that in 2014 the National Fire Protection Association changed the standard on the self contained breathing apparatus. He said they now need to purchase new high temperature masks and regulators which increased the price.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO SHIPMAN'S FIRE EQUIPMENT CO. INC., 172 CROSS ROAD, WATERFORD, CT. 06835 FOR THE PURCHASE OF SCBA (SELF CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS) FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$493,915.00 #3809 SCBA EQUIPMENT. ACCOUNT NO. 09183110 5777 C0310

Chief Gatto said that Shipman's Fire Equipment is one of two vendors who put a bid and their bid included a five year maintenance program and would also provide extra equipment that is needed to run the self contained breathing apparatus which is a savings of approximately \$41,000 as opposed to the other vendor. He said they will also match the amount of bottles that they purchase which is a savings of \$26,000. Mr. Stern asked when the last time these items were replaced. Chief Gatto said in 2004 they had purchased 42 packs. Mr. Stern asked Chief Gatto if he anticipated that the new self contained breathing apparatus will be good for approximately the same amount of time. Asst. Chief King said "yes" and they have a 12 to 15 year life span before they are no longer supported.

**** MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Ryan Park Cleanup

Mr. Dumas said that he has some concerns about what containments are left in the ground. He also discussed Washington Village project and said there are a lot of people that still live there, and he had asked at a meeting that was held at Calvary Baptist Church if the windows that are boarded up are vacant or if they are boarded up to protect the people that live there. He said that he was told that he would need to ask Mr. Ireland and that Mayor Rilling had made a statement that no one is living in the buildings but as they had walked around it was discovered that there were approximately 80 families there and it is heartfelt what the people are going through. He said that they are tried speaking with some of the residents but most did not want to talk to them because they were afraid of being evicted. He said while walking the site with the Fire Department and the Health Department it was discovered in some of

the buildings the water in the basement was 2 ½ feet high and these are some of the issues that the people of Washington Village have to deal with. He said that some of the issues are due to neglect from the Housing Authority and there are some people that we don't know about that have some sort of ailment due to their living conditions but won't say anything out of fear. He said while on the committee he will voice his opinion and will not stop for anyone while trying to help the people in our community.

Mr. Dumas discussed the issues they had had for numerous years with Premiere Fire Wood and said that they have moved out but now there is a company that is moving in with portable toilets, and that he had approached the gentlemen who was delivering them and he had stated that he had had an in-completed permit and that he can store them inside of the building but not on the outside and he contacted Mr. Kleppin. He said that Mr. Kleppin had responded by e-mail stating that there were no portable toilets on site and he didn't like his response and that it makes him look like a liar and there should be no permit issued for this.

Mr. Closter said that he has gone to the Washington Village project and met the Director of Maintenance and they are trying to satisfy the issues that Mr. Dumas had discussed, and they are in contact with the DEEP to determine the next course of action on the removal of the wastewater. Mr. Stern asked Mr. Closter if the Health Department is looking into the fact that there are still families living in Washington Village. Mr. Closter said the Housing Authority has two phases on the plan which includes moving the families into the newer buildings. Mr. Dumas invited the committee to do a site visit so they can see the conditions. Mr. Hempstead asked if the families that are currently there were promised to move into the new units first. Mr. Dumas said "yes". Mr. Hempstead asked if anyone has called the Health Department to inspect the existing units that are still occupied. Mr. Sacchinelli said "no" and that the Health Department has not received any complaints. Mr. Hempstead said if the complaint would need to come from a resident. Ms. D'Amore said "no". Mr. Hempstead said that he is making a formal complaint and requested that the Health Department do an inspection. It was the direction of the entire committee that an inspection be done. Mr. Stern requested that the item remain on the agenda for further discussion and updates. Mr. Yerinides asked what the process is to get the proper authorities to inspect a building and what the process is for reporting issues. Mr. Sacchinelli said through the Customer Service department and they would create a service request. Mr. Yerinides asked if identification is the issue or if the issue is enforcement. Mr. Closter

said both and agreed that people are likely afraid to call. Mr. Hempstead suggested reaching out to the Redevelopment Agency and requested the environmental reports for Washington Village.

2. Zoning and Code Enforcement

This was discussed under item 1.

V. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd
Telesco Secretarial Services