

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
JUNE 7, 2011**

ATTENDANCE: Andrew Conroy, Chair; Fred Bondi; Douglas Hempstead;
Nora King; Laurel Lindstrom; John Tobin

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director; Alison McCrady, Waste Program Manager;
Brian Sweeney, Structural Engineer

OTHERS: Tammy Langalis, Chair, Sixth Taxing District

Mr. Conroy called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

Ms. King said that she would be recording the meeting. She said that this was not a typical situation and she was here representing Rowayton. Mr. Conroy added that he was also representing Rowayton as well as District B.

PUBLIC INPUT

Public input (Visitors to the Committee meeting may speak to any item on the agenda. Comments shall be limited to no more than five (5) minutes per speaker.)

Ms. Langalis said that she was here this evening to discuss the proposed resolution. She reviewed concerns that pertained to specific yards with regard to the work that would be done to Rowayton Avenue. She said that currently buses and fire equipment can go under the bridge and sees no reason it needs to be lowered. Mr. Conroy said that the Norwalk hook and ladder does not fit well under the bridge. Ms. King said that according to the Fire Chief, there are alternate routes that can be used by fire equipment.

Ms. Langalis said that another concern is about drainage. She said that she would love to be able to tell the residents that drainage would not be a problem if they lower the road. When you look at the rendering that the City gave to the residents, it might look good on paper, but it does not show the actual impact on the neighbors. Ms. Langalis asked the Committee to postpone the approval of the resolution.

There were no other members of the public present who wished to talk.

BUSINESS PORTION

Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to sign the Resolution for the Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue at Metro-North Railroad Bridge

RESOLUTION

Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue at Metro North Railroad Bridge

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk has conducted public information meetings regarding the proposed project for the "Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue at Metro North Railroad Bridge" (ConnDOT Project No. 102-340); and
WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has published a legal notice display ad, mailed a news release to multiple officials and agencies, and mailed a formal letter to abutting property owners, announcing the latest public informational meeting on the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the most recent public informational meeting was held on April 13, 2011 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in City Hall, at which residents and elected officials had the opportunity to voice their concerns; and

WHEREAS, the South Western Regional Planning Agency has endorsed this project; and

WHEREAS, the Norwalk, CT Common Council has considered the concerns of residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed project, Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue at Metro North Railroad Bridge No. 4132R (ConnDOT Project No. 102-340) is in the best interest of the City of Norwalk, CT and will promote the health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide for the convenience and safety of the motoring public and pedestrian traffic.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Norwalk, CT based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby fully supports the proposed project.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the City of Norwalk, Connecticut, this ____ day of _____, 2011.

Richard A. Moccia
Mayor of the City of Norwalk, CT

Mr. Alvord distributed photos of the site. Mr. Conroy said that several people attended the information sessions. Mr. Tobin asked for notes from the sessions. Ms. King said that she asked for minutes from the past informational meetings and never got them. She said that the Committee should have all of the documents pertaining to this issue.

Mr. Conroy showed a photo taken at the stop sign and said that it has to come forward due to poor site lines. He also said that the area to the right has to be cleared. Ms. Lindstrom asked Mr. Alvord how much more clearance there would be after the reconstruction. Mr. Alvord said that the State wanted a vertical clearance of 15', initially. Ms. King asked what was approved. Mr. Conroy noted that a very specific number was set. Ms. King said that in the written document given to her by the State they were going from 10'7" to 12'. Mr. Hempstead said that he recalled the discussion going to 12'. Mr. Sweeney said that it was always 12'. Ms. King said that there was nothing in the written document. Mr. Sweeney distributed a copy from the bridge drawing showing the existing clearance at 11'10".

Ms. King said that information conflicts with the other information. Mr. Sweeney said that 10'7" was the posted height which is dramatically less than the actual height of the bridge. This was posted because trucks were getting stuck under the bridge.

Mr. Sweeney distributed a handout that was given to the public at the information meeting. Ms. King said that she asked Mr. Alvord and Mr. Linnartz three times for information and none were provided.

Mr. Sweeney said that drawing reflects modifications to lessen the impact. Mr. Hempstead said that he heard that concerns were presented and adjusted. Ms. King said that at the last meeting none of the follow up was done and she could not get the City to provide information.

Ms. Hempstead asked Mr. Sweeney what the department claims they presented at the information session. Mr. Conroy said that the consultant reported that they had the initial 1/3 design available at the last meeting. He noted that they are not anywhere near construction. Mr. Conroy said that Ms. Langalis was at that meeting and what was presented was only conceptual. He said that as well meaning as the City is, he does not think people understand until it gets close.

Mr. Conroy said that if a pedestrian walk way is going to get set up, they have to know the height of the road; somewhere, someone had to decide the height of the road.

Mr. Conroy said that he is looking for a solution to minimize the impact on the neighbors. Ms. Lindstrom asked if the plan is to lower under the bridge, then what is being done to the rest of the road. Mr. Alvord said that there is a hump on Rowayton Avenue that is going to be removed to improve site lines and the road will be widened. Mr. Conroy said that the target height of the bridge and every other bridge is 12'.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if legal notices were sent to the residents. Mr. Sweeney said that names and addresses were taken from tax records and mailed. He noted that they always get mail back because some people do not accept the mail. Ms. King said that the names were not taken from tax records. Mr. Sweeney said that they were and will provide that information.

Mr. Bondi said that the revision will improve safety and that is the most important thing about this whole project. He said that there should be proper walkways for the pedestrians. He said that in defense of Mr. Sweeney, if you send certified letters, people do not always accept them and it takes up to six weeks before they are returned from the Post Office. Ms. King said that it was very clear that there were no certified letters sent. Mr. Sweeney said that he believed the letters were sent certified. Ms. King said that as of April 13th the letters sent were from the land survey and not tax records.

Ms. King said that what is not being addressed is that lowering the bridge and widening the road is going to increase traffic to Rowayton. It is not going to provide good traffic management. She also expressed concerns about drainage. Mr. Conroy noted that in the early part of this project the key to this project was to widen the underpass of the bridge. He described how this project evolved.

Ms. King said that someone from Hartford who is working on this project called her anonymously about this project.

Ms. King said that there are going to be handrails and sidewalks on both sides. Mr. Conroy said that the State says they have to be level with the street; however, he wants them elevated similar to Darien. Mr. Conroy asked Mr. Sweeney to ask the State what they are going to do. Mr. Hempstead asked for a finished elevation and plan from the State for this project. He also asked that this Committee be notified if there is going to be a walk through with the Sixth District Commissioners. Mr. Alvord will send an e-mail with proposed dates.

Ms. King said that Mr. Linnartz said that there is a drainage study. Mr. Alvord said that it was not expressed as a drainage study; it was a drainage analysis. Ms. King said that there is intense flooding further down the street that is due to a combination of new homes and alterations and the bridge. She said that she has photographs to prove that. Mr. Conroy said that at the information meeting they were told that there was sufficient drainage. He said that when he went there today he saw a lot of drainage. He asked if it was working.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Mr. Conroy said that he was not comfortable voting on this until he goes out there with the staff to look at the issues. Ms. Lindstrom asked that meeting minutes be sent to the Committee. Mr. Sweeney said that there are only notes, since they were not public hearings.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. KING)**

GENERAL INFORMATION

Norwalk Transfer Station (April; May report to be provided at meeting).

Mr. Alvord distributed the May report. Mr. Hempstead asked why there was a reduction in municipal solid waste. Mr. Alvord introduced Ms. McCrady, the new Waste Program Manager. Ms. McCrady said that the reduction was due to the economy. She said that people with beach stickers bring their solid waste to the transfer station themselves, because they don't have to pay the tipping fee.

Mr. Bondi said that he noticed another waste management company wants to put a transfer station on Meadow Street. Mr. Alvord said that Can Man wants to do recycling at 2 Meadow Street. They are holding a public meeting on June 17th at the Police Station.

Project Updates - See attached project status sheet.

Westmere Bridge: Mr. Sweeney reported that there are no changes to the design. They are going to do phase construction. He said that the project is funded by the federal government and they will require a certain railing. The bridge rail will closely mimic what is out there now.

Rampart Road Bridge: Mr. Bondi asked why they are paving Stevens Street now while they are re-building the parking garage at the hospital. Mr. Alvord said that everything has been coordinated. The hospital has no plans to bring in equipment that will destroy the new pavement.

West Avenue opening of Reed Street: Mr. Alvord reported that they do not have the legal documents from the DOT for the permanent access easement.

Smith Street: Mr. Alvord reported that the Public Works issue is that it is an unsafe street and there is an issue with the retaining wall on the other side of the street. The Building Department determined that the wall was insufficient.

Ms. King asked about the overgrown traffic islands all over town and the trash on the sidewalks. Mr. Alvord said that it is a staffing issue. He has authorized working overtime on Saturday.

BUSINESS PORTION

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY MAY 3, 2011**

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Page 2: Five Mile River should read – Mr. Conroy asked Mr. Alvord if we asked Darien for their portion for the footbridge.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. KING)**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ALMSTEAD TREE AND SHRUB CARE, LLC FOR THE SUPPLY AND PLANTING OF TREES AND SHRUBS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000 PER YEAR.**

Account No. 09 08 4021 5777 C0233
09 12 4021 5777 C0233
09 09 6030 5777 C0370
09 12 6030 5777 C0370

Mr. Alvord said that eight companies submitted proposals. Almstead Tree and Shrub Care is the current provider and their service is fantastic.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. CONROY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO GABRIELLI TRUCK SALES, LTD FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) 2011 MACK GU712 PLOW TRUCKS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$557,223.00.**

Account No. 09 11/12 4031 5777 C0313

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH A & J CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT NO. PM 2011-1 PROPOSED PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00.**

**Account Nos. 09 11 4021 5777 C0021
09 12 4021 5777 C0021
030000-2602
09 11 4021 5777 C0318
09 12 4027 5777 C0302**

Mr. Alvord explained that paving is done on a calendar basis.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH DW TRANSPORT AND LEASING, INC., FOR PROJECT NO., 3045, TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE MATERIALS FOR A FY 2011-12 PRICE OF \$21.75/TON FOR BRUSH, LOGS, STUMPS AND WOODCHIPS AND \$19.60/TON FOR LEAVES; FY 2012-13 PRICE OF \$22.40/TON FOR BRUSH, LOGS, STUMPS AND WOODCHIPS AND \$20.19/TON FOR LEAVES; AND FY 2013-14 PRICE OF \$23.07/TON FOR BRUSH, LOGS, STUMPS AND WOODCHIPS AND \$20.79/TON FOR LEAVES.
Account No. 0140 42 5299**

Mr. Alvord explained that they haul the yard debris. Ms. McCrady said that they make compost and mulch. Ms. King said that a lot of towns offer it free to residents. Ms. McCrady said that that the City does not have room to do it on site. Mr. Alvord said that they do not have a large enough yard waste site. Ms. King said that there are a lot of vacant lots on Martin Luther King Drive.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if the cost has gone up. Mr. Alvord said that this is below current pricing.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH DW TRANSPORT AND LEASING, INC., FOR PROJECT NO., 3046, TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF STREET SWEEPINGS/CATCH BASIN GRIT, EXCAVATED MATERIAL AND BROKEN STRUCTURAL CONCRETE FOR A FY 2011-12 PRICE OF \$31.94/TON; FY 2012-13 PRICE OF \$32.90/TON; AND FY 2013-14 PRICE OF \$33.89/TON.
Account No. 0140 42 5299**

Mr. Alvord explained that it is mostly asphalt, old catch basins and broken curbs. Ms. King asked if they make a note of what has to be replaced when they make a pick up. Mr. Alvord said that they do.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR RICHARD A MOCCIA TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR RIGHTS OF WAY ACTIVITIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH URBAN SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS RELATED TO THE RECONSTRUCTION OF EAST AVENUE, STATE PROJECT NO. 102-297, FEDERAL PROJECT NO. 1102(102).**

Mr. Conroy asked what they were acquiring. Mr. Alvord said that was presented at the public hearing. Ms. Lindstrom asked that the information be provided in the back up for the next Common Council meeting. Mr. Sweeney said that was part of the public hearing. Mr. Hempstead asked for a list of easements for the Common Council meeting.

Mr. Sweeney said that there were two total takes near the bridge. Mr. Alvord said that informal discussions were held and the State will start negotiations with the people. Mr. Sweeney said that the State will do the negotiations and have the properties appraised and offer the appraised value of the property to the property owners.

Ms. King suggested tabling this item to the next meeting for further information. Mr. Conroy said that there was a public hearing. He asked for the information to be added to the Common Council packet.

**** MOTION FAILED WITH TWO (2) VOTES IN FAVOR (MR. BONDI AND MR. HEMPSTEAD) AND THREE (3) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MS. LINDSTROM, MR. TOBIN AND MS. KING)**

Mr. Tobin said that this is not a good project. Ms. King said that she needs more back up material. Mr. Hempstead said that there was a lot of information provided. Ms. Lindstrom said that she thought the final outcome would be provided at this meeting.

Mr. Sweeney said that the utility phase is next. The only other addition to the project is the grass strips. Ms. Lindstrom said that this project is more extensive than Rowayton and the Committee should spend time on this as well. Mr. Alvord will provide a list. He said that in every case it is not all takings; in some cases it is easements.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services