

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 7, 2010**

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

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director DPW

Mr. Conroy called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

**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.)**

There were no members of the public present this evening.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Project updates**

Norwalk Transfer Station (October; November report to be provided at meeting).

Mr. Alvord distributed the November 2010 report. Mr. Hempstead asked about the original projection. Mr. Alvord replied that they are relatively on track. Ms. Lindstrom asked about the Police surveillance at the Transfer Station. Mr. Alvord explained that there had to be three people involved.

Mr. Alvord reported that he had a labor grievance filed against him because he did not permit those employees involved at the Transfer station to resign and then get their pensions.

Mr. Conroy noted an increase in recycling revenues. Mr. Alvord explained that there is some seasonality with recycling and garbage. He said that he will provide further information at the next meeting. He said that there is still some opportunity for recycling at the schools.

Additional information items.

### **FY 2011-2012 Operating Budget Overview**

Mr. Alvord said that he provided an overview of the budget in the packet. He said that he was able to come in below the pro forma. From a service level standpoint, the levels should be the same as this year, if he is allowed to fund staffing. He said that the biggest challenge in Public Works is that he is not able to fund vacant positions.

Ms. King recommended hiring consultants. Mr. Alvord explained that you need to have money in the budget to hire consultants and in addition you would give up responsiveness. Mr. Conroy added that the issue is that there is no money to fund a consultant.

### **FY 2011-2012 Capital Budget Overview**

Mr. Alvord distributed the five year capital budget. He said that he is going to try and put forth an effort to complete projects that have already been funded.

Ms. King said that she was amazed that the sidewalk and curbing project is being pushed back again. Mr. Alvord said that there is no intention to include the footpaths because there is no money to fund that project. Mr. Conroy said that no one has better have taken that out of the budget. Ms. King said that Rowayton only has footpaths and that she would love to see where the \$290,000 went. Mr. Hempstead said that he would love to see money requested for footpath replacement.

Mr. Alvord said that there are 45 miles of footpaths in the City and they are all deteriorating. Mr. Alvord explained that he had concerns about starting if he didn't have the staffing to complete the project. Mr. King asked why they need staff; the current model is not working. She suggested hiring outside consultants.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if other project would take priority over the Safe Routes to School project. Mr. Alvord said that a number of the bridge project will soon be coming into fruition which will free up some staff time.

Mr. Tobin noted that if something isn't requested, it can't be added to the budget by the Common Council. Mr. Alvord said that he was comfortable with adding \$150,000 to the budget for footpaths.

Ms. King asked if the Customer Service center is part of the operation or capital budget. Mr. Alvord said that it can be a part of both; software acquisition would likely be a capital expenditure.

Mr. Alvord said that the phase I traffic signal was recently sent. The traffic sign inventory is at the end of 2012. As new signs are ordered, they will comply with the new signage requirements. Mr. Conroy recommended moving this item up on the list of priorities.

### **Pavement Management Program Update**

Mr. Alvord said that they are requesting \$6 for paving. Ms. King said that she would like to see which roads are going to get paved next year.

### **BUSINESS PORTION**

#### **\*\* MS. KING MOVED APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2010 AS PRESENTED**

Ms. King asked about the resolution for Linden Street. Mr. Alvord explained that it went before the Traffic Authority. They do not have the authority to replace the island. Mr. Hempstead said that he will talk to the Corporation Counsel. He said that he wants to talk to the Traffic Authority to find out why they voted against replacing the island.

Ms. King said that she wants to know why the DPW removed the island without authorization. Mr. Alvord explained that what existed on the street on the last inspection was dirt and rock. When they went to repave the road, they found that someone had added Belgium blocks without permits. Mr. Hempstead said that he is committed to trying to get the island back. He said that he does not like the way it happened, but wants to talk to the Commissioners. Mr. King asked what kind of safeguards are in place.

Mr. Alvord said that there were a lot of factors involved in this. Mr. Bondi said that the people on the street had no right to put in Belgium blocks.

#### **\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. BONDI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE SUPPLEMENTAL NO. 2 TO THE AGREEMENT WITH GM2 ASSOCIATES, INC., FOR THE DESIGN OF THE PROJECT "RECONSTRUCTION OF ROWAYTON AVENUE AT METRO NORTH RAILROAD" FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$62,855.19.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 0902040402100 5777 C0234**

Ms. King said that she was not in favor of this item. They added 1 ½ inches without a public hearing. Most people determined that it could go up 12 feet, but they should have been notified about the additional height. Mr. Alvord explained that the standard bridge height is 14 feet. He said that he will find out why the additional 1 ½ inches were added. Ms. King said that she was concerned that the additional height will permit trucks to go under the bridge.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MS. KING AND MR. TOBIN)**

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT NO. ARRA 2010-2 PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT SEAVIEW AND PONUS AVENUE STATE PROJECT 102-341, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$696,794.08 AND TO**

**AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE AN ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT NO. ARRA 2010-2 PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROJECT SEAVIEW AND PONUS AVENUE STATE PROJECT 102-341, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$69,679.40.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 0911-0400402100-5777-C0021**

Mr. Alvord provided the funding breakdown.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE THE MASTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND THE CITY OF NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR READJUSTMENT,**

**RELOCATION, AND/OR REMOVAL OF UTILITY FACILITIES ON HIGHWAY PROJECTS**

Mr. Alvord explained that this authorization will allow the Mayor to sign a standard agreement.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. BONDI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT NO. PM 2009-1, PROPOSED PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$65,500.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 0909 4021 5777 C0021**

Mr. Alvord explained the item.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO APPROVE THE IP CAMERA PROJECT DETAILED IN THE WRIGHT-PIERCE PROPOSAL OF NOVEMBER 5, 2010, W-P PROJECT NO. 10917F, AND AUTHORIZE REIMBURSEMENT TO THE WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY FOR THAT PORTION OF WORK THE RELATED TO THE PUBLIC WORKS CENTER AND TRANSFER STATION IN A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$40,200.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09110600-5777-C0375 (IT CAPITAL ACCOUNT)**

Mr. Alvord explained the item. He said that the information will be stored on CDs indefinitely.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO SIGN THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF EAST AVENUE**

**RESOLUTION**

**Reconstruction of East Avenue**

**WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed project for the “Reconstruction of East Avenue” (ConnDOT Project No. 102-297; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has made changes in the conceptual approach to the reconstruction of East Avenue in response to resident concerns raised at the first two public information meetings; and**

**WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has published legal notices and display ads, mailed letters with notification of the hearing along with a brief description of the project to municipal officials, agencies, and abutting property owners; and**

**WHEREAS, the most recent public hearing was held on November 18, 2010, from 7:00PM to 9:00 PM in City Hall, at which residents and elected officials had the opportunity to provide additional comments and voice concerns; and**

**WHEREAS, the South Western Regional Planning Agency and the Norwalk Traffic Authority have endorsed this project; and**

**WHEREAS, the Norwalk City Staff will continue to consider the comments and concerns of the residents and will work to incorporate into the roadway grass snow shelves, plantings, pedestrian amenities, underground utilities and other considerations to retain and/or improve the overall character of the neighborhood, the Common Council finds that the proposed project, Reconstruction of East Avenue (ConnDOT Project No. 102-297) are in the best interest of the City of Norwalk, and will promote the health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide for convenience and safety of the motoring public and pedestrian traffic.**

**NOW THEREFORE, the City of Norwalk, Connecticut, 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2010.**

Mr. Alvord explained that this is a reconstruction of the East Avenue Bridge in conjunction with the railroad underpass.

Mr. Alvord said that the current procedure is that the Department of Transportation holds a information meeting when any changes are proposed. The most significant change that was the focus of the November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting was the taking of two properties. The general reaction from the property owners was to be sure they were being treated fairly and that they get the most out of selling their property.

Mr. Alvord said that this is the third resolution on this project.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. TOBIN)**

### **Project updates**

Mr. Alvord gave a brief overview of the project updates. He explained that the Tokeneke Bridge is down and work has started on the footbridge. The Route 123 bridge has been opened. The bid package for Buckingham/Lockwood will go out by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Alvord said that once the Tokeneke Bridge is completed there will be 3-4 parallel parking spaces available. Ms. King asked why those parking spaces are being created; they will impede walking. Mr. Alvord said that the plan is to connect the footbridge with the sidewalk.

Mr. Alvord updated the Committee on the demolition of the old Police Station. He said that they had hoped to have it down by Christmas, but it will be closer to mid January.

Mr. Conroy announced that going forward the Committee meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. Mr. Alvord distributed the new meeting schedule.

**\*\* MR. BONDI MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services