

**CITY OF NORWALK**  
**HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**August 22, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Chairman; Chris Yerinides; Colin Hosten

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Deputy Chief Zecca, Norwalk Police Dept.; Laoise King, Chief of Staff; Connie Blair, Customer Service Manager; Paul Sotnik, DPW Senior Engineer

OTHERS: Sam Collins

**I. WELCOME - ROLL CALL**

Mr. Sacchinelli opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and stated that there is no quorum present and the meeting will be for informational purposes only and he will forward the items to the Common Council.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 25, 2019

**\*\* THE MINUTES WERE TABLED DUE TO A LACK OF A QUORUM.**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Sam Collins- 68 Center Avenue Ext.

Mr. Collins come forward and spoke in support of installing street lights on Center Avenue. He also said that he has received signatures from the neighbors to request lighting on the cul-de-sac and that it is very dark at night and there is a lot of inappropriate and illegal activity that occurs on the street.

#### **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business discussed this evening.

#### **Action Items:**

#### **Police Department**

**1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNDER THE 2019 PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$42,973.75**

Deputy Chief Zecca said that they have applied for funding relating to the GPS for the two boats. She said the current system is old and obsolete and the new system will be in line with the Coast Guard and it will be funded through the asset forfeiture account and there is also a 25% match on the grant.

**1B. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROGRAMS THROUGH THE 2019 PORT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM PURSUANT TO SAID FUNDING. ACCOUNTS TBD AND 030000 2660.**

#### **Public Works (Public Safety Items)**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO HAVE EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC TO INSTALL NINE (9) NEW STREET LIGHTS ON BETMARLEA DRIVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED PLAN AT AN APPROXIMATE CST OF \$180 PER MONTH TO BE PAID FROM ACCOUNT NO. 014021-5241.**

Mr. Sotnik said that DPW has received several requests for street lights and gave an overview of the process for requesting street lights. He said that he has received a request to install nine new street lights on Betmarlea Drive and that the increase in electric costs will be \$20 per light per month for a total monthly cost of \$180, and the lights will be installed on the existing poles.

Mr. Yerinides asked when choosing a location for the lights if resident's windows were taken into consideration. Mr. Sotnik said they tried to as much as possible without having to install new poles but if they receive complaints that a shield could be placed on the light at no additional cost as it is part of the contract with Eversource. Mr. Sacchinelli asked once the items are approved what the timeline is for the installation. Mr. Sotnik said approximately two months. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if DPW has ever looked at relieving the city from Eversource for electric costs for street lighting. Mr. Sotnik said not as of yet but that there was contract put in place to have all the street lights audited in the Eversource territory and was put into the GIS system, and are now in the process of starting negotiations with Eversource for a refund based on the audit. Mr. Sacchinelli asked as part of the audits if at risk neighborhoods are looked at for street lighting. Mr. Sotnik said "no" that the requests are usually brought to DPW from the residents. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if the request would be made through the customer service department. Ms. Sotnik said "yes".

**3. AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO HAVE EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC TO INSTALL TWO (2) NEW STREET LIGHTS ON EARL STREET IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED PLAN AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$40 PER MONTH TO BE PAID FOR FROM ACCOUNT NO. 014021-5241.**

Mr. Sotnik sad that two street lights will be installed with an increase to the electric cost of \$40 per month and the lights will be installed on existing poles.

**4. AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO HAVE EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC TO INSTALL A NEW POLE AND THE ASSOCIATED WIRE FOR ONE (1) OF THE NEW STREET LIGHTS AT THE NORTH END OF CENTER AVENUE EXTENSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED PLAN AT AN APROXIMATE ONE-TIME COST OF \$2,200.00 TO BE PAID FOR FROM ACCOUNT NO. 014021-5241.**

Mr. Sotnik said that a petition was received to install street lighting and the cost is approximately a onetime cost of \$2,200 to install a new pole and the wiring for the street lights, and there will an increase in electric costs of \$30 per month. In order to install the wire and get the clearance that Eversource requires a tree will need to be removed and are currently in conversations with the property owner to replace the tree out of the city's tree planting budget and if not there is an alternate plan to install the pole in the city's right of way but the lighting wouldn't be quite as good. Mr. Hosten suggesting installing the pole on the other side of the street. Mr. Sotnik said that can be done but will increase the price by \$2,200.

Mr. Yerinides asked when choosing the location for the lights if resident's windows were taken into consideration. Mr. Sotnik said they tried to as much as possible without having to install new poles. Mr. Yerinides asked what the procedure is for when a residents sees a burnt out light and wants to report it. Ms. Blair said that Eversource has an online street lighting reporting system which is very effective or residents can call their customer service number, it is also very helpful if they have the pole number when calling in the outage. She said then a notification will be sent with the details of the repair and the city's customer service center cannot follow up with the maintenance department at

Eversource so they encourage residents to go through their customer service center. Ms. King said if a resident does not get a speedy response from Eversource they should contact the city's customer service center. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if a mechanism can be put into place when a street light has been reported that the repair has been completed. Mr. Sotnik said not that he is aware of. Ms. King said that may be something that will require further discussion.

**5. AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO HAVE EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC TO INSTALL TWO (2) NEW STREET LIGHTS AT THE NORTH END OF CENTER AVENUE EXTENSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED PLAN AT APPROXIMATE COST OF \$50.00 PER MONTH TO BE PAID FOR FROM ACCOUNT NO. 014021-5241.**

### Health Department

**6. A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM OPTIMUS HEATH CARE, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$263,323 PER YEAR FOR CONTRACT PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021 FOR THE WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) PROGRAM.**

Ms. D'Amore said that Optimus Health Care, Inc. has taken over the WIC program in this region, with the Norwalk Health Department as a subcontractor, and it has been going very well. She said she would like to offer the program for another two years, and they will also be receiving additional funding to hire additional staff so that more people can be reached and more nutritional work can be done.

**6.B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE WIC PROGRAM FROM THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2019 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2021.**

**7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS WITH CABLEVISION LIGHTPATH, INC. ("LIGHTPATH" OR "ALTICE BUSINESS") TO PROVIDE CABLE/INTERNET SERVICE FOR THE WIC PROGRAM**

Ms. D'Amore said for the WIC program it is necessary for them to be on a separate network and in the past the state paid for the internet service directly but as part of the grant funding they are now giving the funding to pay for it themselves.

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **1. Enforcement/Customer Service**

Mr. Sacchinelli asked for an overview of the current and future state of Enforcement and Customer Service. Ms. King said as part of the city's reorganization one of the things Mayor Rilling wanted to do was to move Customer Service out from reporting to DPW and report directly to the Mayor's office so that he could have a better sense of what types of things residents were calling about and which areas needed more concentration etc. She said there are now tracking every call for each Customer Service call that is received so that it captures each of the calls they receive for each department. Mr. Hosten asked what system is used for tracking. Ms. King said they currently use Cityworks which is fantastic for service related requests but the issue is that DPW and Parks and Recreations are the only two departments that use Cityworks because it is a very work order specific program. They have recently gotten a system called Muncity and it has some modules that can be used for the other departments. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if more resources are need in customer service. Ms. King said that would be a good possibility so that that customer service can be expanded. Mr. Hosten asked what percentage of the calls received are for DPW. Ms. Blair said because DPW provides so many services it is approximately 90%.

Ms. King said that as part of the reorganization the Ordinance Enforcement Officer has been moved into Code Enforcement and Ms. Blair has been working closely with Mr. Ireland and Ms. Casey on how to provide feedback and respond back to the complaint. Mr. Yerinides suggested that additional recourses also be allocated to Ordinance Enforcement because those are the majority of calls that he receives from residents. Ms. King said with the number of issues that are coming in a full time Ordinance Enforcement Officer is most likely needed but she doesn't want to make that recommendation until all of the data is received. Mr. Sacchinelli said the committee would be in full support of adding a full time Ordinance Enforcement Officer. Ms. King said that there also may need to be a change in some of the ordinances to make it easier to enforce some of the issues.

Mr. Sacchinelli suggested combining Health, Welfare and Safety and DPW Committee meeting once a quarter.

### **V. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting ended at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services