

**CITY OF NORWALK  
HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE  
September 26, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: Nick Sacchinelli, Chairman; Chris Yerinides; Eloisa Melendez; Doug Hempstead; Colin Hosten

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Deputy Walsh, Norwalk Police Dept.; Lieutenant Blake, Norwalk Police Dept.; Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Jessica Casey, Chief of Economic Development; Jessica Paladino; DPW Waste Programs Manager

OTHERS: Diane Lauricella

**I. WELCOME - ROLL CALL**

Mr. Sacchinelli called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and stated that the above members were in attendance and there was a quorum present.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 25, 2018

**\*\* MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF JUNE 27, 2019.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH (4) FOUR IN FAVOR AND (1) ABSTENTION- MR. HEMPSTEAD .**

**III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Diane Lauricella

Ms. Lauricella suggested a policy for whenever the Police Department or the Fire Department has a vehicle purchase that there are alternatives using fossil fuels. She asked if there had been some review of an electric vehicle with a backup generator or solar panels.

Ms. Lauricella stated that she is a Waste Management professional and there was discussion regarding installing other types of garbage containers on Wall Street. She there needs to be an inventory and look at the source prior to sizing any trash containers and if it should be city or private. She said she is opposed to taxpayers paying for trash that is accumulating on the sidewalks and the building owners should be finding a way to store trash properly in containers and have recycling containers to comply with the ordinance. She said the containers should be well marked and she will be submitting some photos of containers to Mr. Carr and suggested that there is clear signage for recycling and trash. She also suggested that an educational component is added because people are currently not recycling correctly and the new trend is called "Recycle Right".

Ms. Lauricella stated that it is important to no longer have anonymous cyber comments and she hopes one day this committee and the Human Relations Committee looks into bullying of marginalization and social isolation. She said before someone like herself is judged that they person should be talked to instead of what she feels that she has been subjected to.

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

##### **Action Items:**

##### **Police Department**

**1. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FIRST PRIORITY GROUP (FPG) FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMAND VEHICLE, AS PER SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT REQUEST, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$129,500.00. ACCOUNT #0917301 5777 AND 030000 2660.**

Deputy Chief Walsh said this is for the purchase of an emergency command vehicle and it will give the police department the ability to respond quickly and have asset equipment at the scene of incidents. Mr. Yerinides asked how much the equipment to outfit the vehicle will cost. Deputy Chief Walsh said they already have all of the equipment. Mr. Yerinides asked if they have looked into any green vehicles. Deputy Chief Walsh said that they are exploring hybrid vehicles for their next fleet of patrol vehicles but a vehicles of this size could not be hybrid because it is so large. Mr. Sacchinelli asked what brought the need for the vehicle to light. Deputy Chief Walsh said that it is something that has been needed for several years and for over a year he and Lieutenant Blake have been researching different platforms for this vehicle and this is the best one to fit their needs. Mr. Sacchinelli asked what the useful lifespan of the vehicles will be. Deputy Chief Walsh said they expect a very long

lifespan and it will be maintained at the fleet garage. Mr. Yerinides asked if they anticipate having more than one in the future. Deputy Chief Walsh said “no”.

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

**1B. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER (S) T THE ABOVE CONTRACT \$6,500.00. ACCOUNT# 0917301 5777 AND 030000 26660.**

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

**2A. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE AGENT, SHARON CONNORS, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO SUPERIOR K-9 SERVICES FOR THE PURCHASE AND TRAINING OF TWO POLICE DOGS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$31,500.00. ACCOUNT# 030000 2664.**

Deputy Chief Walsh said that two of the K-9 dogs are now over nine years old and are aging out of their useful service in regards to health and capability. He said that they currently have over \$31,000 in the police donation account and that is where the funds will be coming from to purchase the dogs, and the cost also includes the training and certification for the dogs for narcotic detection and patrol work. Mr. Yerinides asked what will happen to the two current dogs. Deputy Chief Walsh said they retire and go home with the officers.

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

**2.B. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULWAWIK TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER (S) ON THE ABOVE PURCHASE NOT TO EXCEED, \$1,750.00. ACCOUNT# 030000 2664.**

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

**3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) BETWEEN FEDERAL CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTE-DANBURY CT., FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT, NORWALK, CT. FOR THE PURPOSE OF PERMITTING THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO USE FIRING RANGES, TRAINING BUILDINGS AND PARKING AREA FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE MOU.**

Deputy Chief Walsh said in Danbury at the Federal Correction Institute there is an outdoor range and part of the process is the submit a MOU for their guidelines and regulations regarding usage of the range. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if the MOU is for indefinite amount of time. Deputy Chief Walsh said “yes”.

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

**4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, UPON RECOMMENDATION AND ADVICE BY THE CITY OF NORWALK CORPORATION COUNCEL AND OR/ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNCEL, TO ENTER INTO NO CHARGE AGREEMENTS FOR USE AND ACCESS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR POLICE TRAINING PURPOSES THROUGH THE THIRD TUESDAY, OF NOVEMBER 2021. SEE ENCLOSED MEMORANDUM OF THOMAS KULHAWIK DATED SEPTEMBER 4, 2019.**

Lieutenant Blake said there is currently a lot of development going on in the city and as a result there are buildings both commercial and residential that are being demolished or changed and they are always looking for places to train. He said this agreement will allow them to use the buildings without coming before the committee and the Common Council each time and allow them to get into the building more expeditiously to train. Mr. Sacchinelli said that the Corporation Counsels office had reached out to him and strongly suggested that the item be approved and that it is worthwhile for the police department. Mr. Yerinides asked if this is something other municipalities do. Lieutenant Blake a lot of other municipalities do not require an MOU and they have missed a lot of opportunities due to the time it takes to get the MOU. Mr. Hosten asked what is in it for the developer. Lieutenant Blake said nothing and that they usually reach out to the developer.

- \*\* MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## Health Department

**5A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRAND FUNDS FROM LEDGE LIGHT HEATH DISTRICT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$63,288 FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020. FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PEREPAREDNESS**

Ms. D'Amore said that this is something that is done each year and in the past most of the focus has been on preparing for bioterrorism, but recently that are changing it to mass vaccination model. She said they are further regionalizing the approach so for the next two years they will be running a large drill in Bridgeport and will be working together on how to respond. She said that Ledge Light Heath District will be handling all of the funding for the region and the funding will help to fund two part time staff people in the Health Department for one year.

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

**5B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLNG, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY PREPAREDENESS GRANT FRO THE PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2019 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2020.**

### **Discussion Items:**

#### **1. Bike/Walk Advisory Commission Annual Report**

Ms. Rosett provided an overview of the ordinance that created the Bike/Walk commission and one of the purposes is to promote complete streets programs for bicyclists and pedestrians; review and update the bicycle master plan and pedestrian plan; review and provide advice to the POCD and review and provide advice on transportation and projects having impact on walking and biking in the city.

Ms. Rosett reported on the what the committee has done over the last year with the strategic plan and said they have completed east side and north side bike route connections and have been working with DPW and TMP on the feasibility of this; encourage any DPW engineers who are involved with street design or traffic attend a complete streets training and have increased the number of bike lanes and sharrows in the city and have updated the map on the website to reflect them. She said that they have reviewed, promoted and updated the Pedestrian Plan and the committee had developed a scorecard and tested it and worked through the existing Common Council districts and contacted the Council representatives in particular districts and received their input and support. She said once the priorities are identified they will work with DPW to get them

into the capital budget requests that they can be implemented. She said that they were involved in the process of the implementation of the POCD and are happy that the Common Council has approved it. She said that there was some concern on how the Bike/Walk Commission would interface with various parts of city government so the objects were to create liaisons to city departments and were successful. She said that they have participated in three outreach events and since Mr. Morgan has been onboard the outreach has been much better. She said that they had a website that was managed by a health associate who had decided to move on and they are hoping to have a new one on board later this fall and will go back to having regular updates done to the website and social media. She said that she has met with Mr. Morgan to discuss funding opportunities and that DPW, TMP and Redevelopment staff have written grants and will continue to look for outside funding.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the bike share program is on schedule to launch next month. Ms. Rosett said “no” and that they are in the process of regrouping with the vendor because one of the problem was that the city was unable to find enough locations in the time frame for the 100 bicycles. The city is currently looking for locations and the vendor will come back and provide a timeline and based on that will have a new launch date for next summer.

Mr. Hempstead said that safer places are needed for children and senior citizens to walk within the city and he hopes in the future plan that the committee is looking at a combination of things for a safer walking environment. He suggested an educational program on the advantages and benefits of riding a bike as a long term goal. Ms. Rosett said that they currently have an ongoing survey in the school community regarding the walkability around the schools and the committee also did an outreach on bicycle safety with the summer camps.

Mr. Sacchinelli said the committee has been working on high need areas where additional sidewalks and crosswalks will potentially be needed, and they have worked with every department and they all referred them to the Bike/Walk Commission and asked Ms. Rosett how the information was collected for the problem areas. Ms. Rosett said that outreach was to the Common Council members that represented each district. Mr. Sacchinelli said the committee was hoping for additional information on where sidewalks are needed and it that it is not the Common Council who has that information. Ms. D’Amore said the analysis that was done by the Pedestrian Committee was based on crash data and suggested they attend a future meeting to provide report. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if problem areas are being tracked by DPW. Mr. Carr said that under the reorganization that sidewalks and crosswalks have a joint venture between DPW and TMP and DPW is more focused on the replacement of existing sidewalks which are tied into the pavement management program, and he will be requesting additional funding in the capital budget paving account so that they can replace more roads which translates to more sidewalks. He said that he currently has the operations staff make the sidewalks safe but there is currently not a master plan for sidewalks and the plan is governed by pavement reconstruction. Mr. Sacchinelli asked who would be in charge of tracking instances for sidewalks. Mr. Carr said that they are normally funneled through the Customer Service Center and entered into a service request. Mr. Sacchinelli asked if the Pedestrian Committee had the information from Customer Service. Ms. Rosett said she does not think they had requested that but that would be a good source for information. Ms. Casey said for new sidewalks that TMP designs the concept based on feedback that they receive and then gets forwarded to DPW to engineer the plan and implement it. She said the TMP has a budget especially for safe routes to school and some other specific initiatives but work hand in hand with

DPW. Mr. Carr said that TMP only has \$50,000 in the budget for sidewalks and the repairs that will be done on Woodward Avenue is approximately a \$40,000 repair. Mr. Sacchinelli asked when new information is being collected on sidewalks who would the information go to. Mr. Carr suggested that they be sent to him and Ms. Casey and they will funnel through them internally.

Mr. Hosten asked if bike ridership is up or down. Ms. Rosett said that there is no good way to measure that but there are some smart phone apps that will show the riders who prescribe to the apps which tend to be more the elite cyclists so she is not sure the statistics would be applicable to the general population. She said once the bike share program is implemented that they will be able to get information from that.

Ms. Rosett reported on what the committee is planning for next year and said that they will be working on the goals that are in the strategic plan which include promoting compete streets programs and facility's for bicycles and pedestrians; review, promote and update the Master Bicycle Plan; review, promote, update and implement the Pedestrian Plan; Review and provide advise on transportation and other projects having an impact on walking and biking; coordinate and promote public awareness campaigns, education and events related to bicycle and pedestrian issues and research funding opportunities to support the mission of the commission.

## **2. Garbage**

Mr. Carr said that it would be helpful to understand the issues related to sanitation and asked if they are within the commercial areas. Ms. Melendez said not entirely and that it is a general problem all over town and that some of the problem is littering. Mr. Carr said a lot of the complaints that he has received are coming from the business district. Ms. Melendez said that's a part of it and that she will have the complaints that she receives go straight to the Customer Service Center. Mr. Carr said that is what he was going to suggest and that is the best thing to do for any complaints that are received so that it can be centrally tracked. Ms. Melendez asked how often the garbage cans in the business district in SONO are picked up. Ms. Paladino said Monday through Friday at 7:00AM. Ms. Paladino said that they are looking into changing the containers so that they garbage won't blow down street and also to put recycling cans next to the street garbage cans so they are more inclined to recycle. Mr. Carr said with the next couple of weeks that DPW staff will be monitoring the downtown business district for one week and that it is a complicated situation in the downtown business district because there is very little frontage in a lot of the locations, and the ordinance allows the garbage be put out to the curb but that over 90% or more of the downtown business's get private sanitation collection and there is very little city collection and almost impossible to enforce. He said that one of the approaches they have been discussing is having groups of merchants share garbage collection areas which is currently being done at 50 Washington Street.

Mr. Hempstead said that he has been to the Transfer Station numerous times and staff is not checking permits.

Mr. Hempstead left the meeting at 8:25PM.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked how the problem can be addressed. Mr. Carr said to work with the Economic Development to foster relationships with the business owners and establish private areas to combine collection. Mr. Sacchinelli suggested a training component as an alternative for businesses that prefer to opt out of a combined collection. Mr. Sacchinelli thanked Mr. Carr and his staff for all of the work they are doing and said he would like to schedule an update in the near future.

### **3. Bullying**

Mr. Sacchinelli said that there are numerous key people that need to be involved in the conversation regarding bullying and the task for this evening is to define the need to move forward and is the focus should be narrowed. He said the increase in developmental illness in younger children has brought this issue to light with cyberbullying and the inability to act on it for a legal standpoint. He said that he would like to develop a scope to have more awareness and that he had reached out to Ms. Meyer Mitchell and she had send some resources and would like to be involved in the discussion, and the Board of Education is currently in the process of developing a policy on how to handle it. The committee agreed to move forward and narrow the scope to cyberbullying. Ms. Melendez suggested starting a resolution. The committee agreed and that the language for the resolution will be worked on at the next committee meeting.

## **V. ADJOURNMENT**

- \*\* MR. YERINIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd  
Telesco Secretarial Services