

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
January 7, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: George Tsiranides, Chairman; Darlene Young; Tom Livingston, Barbara Smyth; Tom Keegan, George Theodoridis

STAFF: Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Vanessa Valadares, Senior Civil Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

Ms. Diane Lauricella wished everyone Happy Holidays. She thanked the Committee for putting her on the agenda. She is part of a new ad hoc coalition that was formed named Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition. She said that is just a goal, they know that zero waste is never going to occur but it is the latest watch word. There are several members from the Norwalk Land Trust and the Girl Scouts and others that would love to help the City and the Staff, optimize and improve various waste streams in the City. She said many of the members have become ill and could not make tonight's meeting so she asked the Chairman if they could go on the next meeting's agenda on February 4th. They have been doing a lot of research and they have statistics and reports that are positive and productive for the Committee to review. Ms. Lauricella stated they are focusing on the five (5) R's, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Rot (composting) and Recycling and of course the rest is trash. They have been studying the rates of recycling and trash hauling and they think there are some areas they can save and make money while that fabulous contract is in place. The main goals are to optimize with exacting, which the staff would do but some of them could help, is assessing different waste streams. She said there are about 24 different waste streams the State makes the City recycle or find a way for leaves to get the compost in and that is State Law and they think they could help optimize that effort. They want to stay consistent in public buildings. Some public buildings have blue bins some do not. The Coalition wants to offer suggestions to engaging and educating creatively in a user friendly way for the public, including the schools. Lastly, they are proposing, which they have given, in writing, to the Mayor and Mr. Carr, that the City form a Blue Ribbon Panel made up of some of the residents who have the time and the knowledge to help the Committee make it become a productive time at your consideration of course. Ms. Lauricella was recently appointed to

the Statewide Recycle CT Board, it is a foundation that gives money away to innovative programs as well as school programs. They have the ability to help with education and advise the State of Connecticut DEEP with policy. She thanked the Committee for allowing her to speak. Ms. Lauricella offered to give them anything she has on resources like the economic impact on Connecticut from recycling activity. There are a lot of reports from their board she could get for them.

Mr. Tsiranides thanked Ms. Lauricella. He stated he would pass along any information he receives from Ms. Lauricella to the Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2019.

There was no discussion on this item.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT(S) WITH H.W. LOCHNER FOR DESIGN AND COORDINATION SERVICES DATED SEPTEMBER 29, 2016 IN CONNECTION WITH WALK BRIDGE PROGRAM (STATE PROJECT NOS. 301-0176, 301-0188, 301-0181, 301-0187, 102-297, 301-0180) FOR A TOTAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$201,318.77.

**ACCOUNT NO. 100% STATE REIMBURSABLE
09 18 4062 5799 C0613**

Mr. Livingston asked for more information. He said they already engaged in some work then asked if they now needed to do more.

Mr. Carr stated during the design process, ConnDOT discovered that they would have to relocate more utilities than originally planned. The preliminary conceptual design stages there wasn't as much of the utility relocation plan and as they went through the design process, it verified field conditions. Lochner, who is the consultant to WPCA for sanitary sewer work, only related to the Walk Bridge, stated that there is a lot more things that needs to be done and will require more time and work into the effort to understand the existing system and any proposed improvement, things the City requested on behalf of this project. The Master Utility Agreement is solely between the City and the State of Connecticut DOT. Any costs laid out by the City will be 100% reimbursed by DOT so the City does not have to put any money out.

Mr. Livingston asked then why are they approving this item.

Ms. Valadares answered the City will be reimbursed. The City creates a revenue account, they pay in advance, and then the money is reimbursed by the State.

Mr. Carr reiterated to be certain that the City does pay out first.

Ms. Valadares responded the City always pay first with the DOT projects. She began to explain that the sanitary sewers are considered a municipality utility and that gets reimbursed if they need to relocate the utilities and that is the reason they were able to engage Lochner to help with the design as a consultant, they couldn't do that with the drainage. They are dealing with all of the issues with drainage effective by the Walk Bridge in house, the staff is overseeing that.

Mr. Livingston asked if that is the only project that they are doing some of the work in house.

Ms. Valadares said they are trying to do more in house.

Mr. Livingston added that was more than twice of what they have done before.

Ms. Valadares said yes. The amount of work is much bigger. They have to change the utilities on North Water Street & South Smith Street.

Mr. Livingston asked if it was due to the high tension lines.

Ms. Valadares said no it is the whole Walk Bridge. There will be five (5) bridges replaced. Some of the abutments changes and some roads will get lowered so it affects all the utilities. Electric Companies, phone or cable companies will not get reimbursed but the water will be reimbursed. The costs are covered but not the design.

Mr. Livingston asked if it goes all the way to East Avenue.

Ms. Valadares answered correct including East Avenue.

Mr. Livingston asked if that helps with the work that is being done there.

Ms. Valadares responded yes. They also assisted with the bypass during the reconstruction. From Winfield Street all the way to Fort Point Street because that is the area that is being affected by the Walk and that is where they need to relocate it.

Mr. Carr said that they will not reimburse them for the drainage. They have to make modifications in house so the design services the City provides.

Ms. Valadares said they are designing the drainage based on the City's input.

Mr. Livingston asked if they pay for the work.

Ms. Valadares answered yes but sometimes the City would like a third party to review. The contractor agreed on this so the City is taking full advantage. This is 100% reimbursable.

****MS. SMYTH MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **APPROVE THE FOURTH TAXING DISTRICT PROPERTY EXTENSIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2019 AS PER THE LIST DATED DECEMBER 27, 2019.**

Mr. Carr asked the Committee to review the map. He began to explain the map to the members. He said there is six (6) taxing districts. On the map only five (5) taxing districts are shown. The Fifth Taxing District is considered a non-sewered portion of the City of Norwalk. If you are not sewered and you are on septic and there is no public sewer extended to your neighborhood with no ability to get off the septic system and connect to the public sanitary sewer. All of the parcels that are non-sewered are in the Fifth Taxing District and being so they do not receive garbage collection or any services provided by DPW that include bulky waste, yard debris and Christmas tree pick up. The Fourth Taxing District is basically the portion of the Fifth Taxing District that is sewered so either parcels have a pipe that goes from their house to the sanitary sewer lines or they are on septic with the ability to connect to the sanitary sewer. If a resident has sanitary sewer or the ability to have it, then the resident becomes eligible until Public Works Committee recommends to the Common Council and they approve it, the resident is eligible to be placed in the Fourth Taxing District.

Mr. Sotnik concurred with Mr. Carr. He said the resident's eligibility would be taken in. It is something they do each year.

Mr. Livingston asked if they had a list of what is marked off in the Fifth and what is in the Fourth.

Mr. Sotnik replied no because it changes constantly year after year.

Mr. Livingston said he has a question about percentages.

Mr. Sotnik said there is a good 70 percent in the areas of Silvermine and West Norwalk that do not have sanitary sewers available.

Mr. Carr said more than half of the parcels could be connected to sanitary sewer.

Mr. Livingston asked and they will get waste removal.

Mr. Carr responded yes.

Mr. Livingston wanted to know the percentages of his area.

Mr. Sotnik said that area is probably 50% to 60% that are eligible or connected to sanitary sewer. He said on the 4th page of the backup there is a list of properties that are actually being taken in, Charcoal Road, Highland Avenue, James St. and King St. All but two (2) properties have connected to the sewer. The time period is from October 1st to September 30th and once the taken is done and they bring them into the district it is passed onto the assessor's office and they will create the tax bills.

Mr. Livingston asked what if you are in the Sixth Taxing District that has access to sewer but it is not connected and they have Sixth Taxing District waste removal.

Mr. Sotnik said because they pay for garbage removal in the Sixth Taxing District, it's through the district. There used to be nine (9) until the WPCA user fee went in, because it was sewer and non-sewer, which is page 3 of the backup, so now there is only six (6) districts.

Mr. Livingston said in the Sixth Taxing District this would not apply.

Mr. Sotnik agreed and said the Fifth Taxing District tax as a base then add the Sixth Taxing District and the waste removal that is through the district, so that is why there is a special line item for that.

Mr. Livingston asked about septic in the Sixth Taxing District. He asked if the residents have to pay a full amount if they don't connect to the City's sewerage.

Mr. Sotnik said they would pay the Fifth Taxing District amount instead of the Fourth Taxing District. He said there are septic systems that are not being charge additional tax but only when they connect do they have the WPCA user fee for the processing of the sewerage at the treatment plant. The garbage will go through the district instead of a separate garbage line item.

Mr. Carr said the reason there is no garbage, mill rate or tax is because the Sixth Taxing District has their own.

Mr. Livingston interjected that it says if you have access to it you will be charged.

Mr. Sotnik stated correct. He said they could be brought into the district so that people can get access to the garbage collection.

Mr. Carr said if the sewer runs up a resident street and they choose to postpone connecting their house, they would still be eligible just because the sewer runs up their street.

Mr. Livingston asked if they have to pay as if they are connected.

Mr. Carr responded yes.

Mr. Sotnik said but they would not be paying the WPCA user fee and connection fee. He said you only pay for the garbage. When you actually physically connect to the sewer

do you begin to pay the WPCA user and connection fee, and that separates the garbage and the sewerage process into two (2) different buckets. He said once a year they bring people in to get connected.

Mr. Carr asked how they would know who gets brought in.

Mr. Sotnik said that he cross-references two (2) lists. Permits and WPCA lists.

Ms. Smyth said what is the connection and why was it determined that people who are not connected to the sewer system will not have waste pickup.

Mr. Sotnik said that goes back to the City Charter section 1-17 article 2 Taxing Districts of the City Charter are special acts. That is how it has been set up.

Ms. Young said that it can be changed.

Ms. Smyth said that it needs to be addressed.

Mr. Livingston said that there are different points of view. Some people prefer the private garbage pickup and the City has a lot of garbage contractors which creates another issue. It is not unanimous that people want City wide garbage. He asked Mr. Carr if it was him or his predecessor about considering City wide garbage.

Mr. Carr said they are working now with the Mayor's Office about City wide garbage collection.

A discussion ensued about private costs being roughly \$45 to \$65 a month and fees being based on land assessed values. Garbage mill rate is setup based on a resident's home assessed value. The Committee spoke about other districts garbage collection. Mr. Carr explained how the values are assessed. He said instead of the resident's mill rate based on land assess values it would be a fee across the board and if a resident still wanted private pickup, they could have that but may still have to pay a fee. They spoke about the City Charter and how the garbage and sanitary sewers were attached to each other. City Carting will not go down private roads so if a resident lives on a private road and wanted garbage pickup, they will have to bring their cans down the driveway. It was stated that any new development built in the Fifth Taxing District that has a septic system and has access to sanitary sewers, are required to attach/connect to the sanitary sewer and not build a new septic system. However, if the sewer main has to be extended half a mile to pick up a new house, then they don't have to connect to the sanitary sewer and could build a new septic system. A question ensued about Rowayton's cost and it was stated that City Carting and Rowayton have their own contract. The City Charter was discussed in regards to being updated if this action goes through which the Corporation Counsel would review. The language regarding the process is currently part of the City Charter.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. Discussion

1. SEDIMENT REMOVAL CONTRACT

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that the Army Corp has confirmed receipt of Friendly Pond area applications for the five (5) different locations, Friendly Pond, Hunter Lane, Kellee, June and Lloyd. The first application was for Friendly Pond and was submitted on November 25, 2019. The second application was submitted for the Lloyd area on December 12, 2019. They are currently working on the third of five applications which is for Kellee and will be submitted within the next couple of weeks. The Army Corp has 15 days from the initial date of receipt to notify them and another 45 days, making it a total of 60 days to get back to the applicant with a letter of opposition or approval. By the 61st day, and the applicant hasn't heard back from the Army Corp, then the applicant may begin the work. So if the applicant does not receive a letter of objection between the 16th day and the 60th day, they would be well within their rights to begin work. They do not foresee any issues with the application.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if there has been any letters of objection.

Mr. Carr responded no, they haven't received any but they will follow up. Corporation Counsel is finalizing the right of entry agreements that are associated with the project, unfortunately in order to get to the proper channels they have to cross private property and the property owners have been approached and are agreeable. The agreements will be temporary, once they have completed the project, the agreements dissolve. In regards to Conservation site visits, they have completed Lloyd Road. The contractor, Public Works and Conservation want to visit each site before construction begins.

2. HEAVY PIPE CLEANING CONTRACT

Mr. Tsiranides stated that they haven't received any complaints regarding all of the pipes that have been cleaned thus far, even with the recent rainfall.

Mr. Carr said he has driven around a lot of the hot spot locations and there hasn't been any complaints about localized flooding. The award letter for this contract has been sent to National Water Main Company on January 2, 2020. Contract, insurance and bonding is pending and the execution of the contract is anticipated within the next few weeks. They will be cleaning Andrews Field, County Street, Bouton Street and the railroad tracks, North Taylor Avenue near Oak Hills Golf

Course, Hunters Lane, Surrey Drive and West Cedar Street from Scribner to the Condos.

Mr. Livingston asked about a company working on Belle Island that has the City of Norwalk on the side. He wanted to know who they are and what they are doing.

Ms. Valadares responded Jacobs. They are the Contractor for WPCA so they do a lot their in house work, such as the pump station.

Mr. Carr added that there is some sanitary sewer lining work being done as well. A.J. Penna is doing some spot repairs. If they can't get the liner, A.J Penna will assist them in this effort.

3. WASTE MANAGEMENT / DIANE LAURICELLA

There was no discussion on this item.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Mr. Carr reported that they are beginning the Capital Budget approval process. There are a few new project but the priority is paving, flood mitigation and bridge evaluation and repair.

Ms. Valadares said they just began the design of the West Cedar Bridge which should be finalized by the end of the year. The Walk Bridge may start some of the advanced utilities project in the first or second quarter.

Mr. Livingston asked meaning what.

Ms. Valadares said they may try to complete North Water. She said where the abutment is they have to remove some of those utilities between Washington and passed the existing bridge so there is a chance that they may issue a change order to the existing contractor and then begin that work.

Mr. Livingston asked where things stand with high tension utility lines going underneath the river by Veterans Park.

Ms. Valadares said that Eversource is still finalizing their design and then they have to file with Siting Council around Spring. Everything is 100% design and they just have to get all their paperwork.

Mr. Livingston asked about their approvals. He asked if the Harbor Commission was fighting this effort.

Ms. Valadares answered that they cannot fight it until it is on file. They will file with the Siting Council supposedly during the Spring. The Siting Council has to approve that.

Mr. Sotnik said they have the Wall Street LOTCIP Project Grant and they are waiting to hear back from the State. There were a couple of minor comments but nothing that should hold up the process. They should receive a letter within the next few weeks and then they can go to the design phase. Mr. Sotnik said they are waiting to get the contract executed for the historic street light design on Wall Street. Should be ready to go later in the year.

Mr. Livingston asked about the sidewalk/crosswalks in front of Lockwood Mansion.

Ms. Valadares answered it is under TMP and will be installed in the Spring.

Mr. Carr mentioned the Pavement Management Program. He stated that they are considering making a request to extend the current paving contract to complete new work. He informed the Committee he would keep them updated.

ADJOURNMENT ****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADJOURN**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, March 3, 2020**
Public Works Committee
7:00 P.M. Room 231, Norwalk City Hall