

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
October 6, 2020**

- ATTENDANCE:** George Tsiranides, Chairman; Barbara Smyth; Tom Keegan; Manny Langella; Tom Livingston; Darlene Young (7:08); George Theodoridis
- STAFF:** Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Mike Yeosock, Assistant Director of Transportation; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Jessica Paladino, Waste Programs Manager; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations
- OTHERS:** Diane Lauricella via teleconference; Josephine Anderson via teleconference

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

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Monique Cipriano at to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mr. Tsiranides called to order the Public Works Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2020. He stated that the meeting is being done by video conference. He announced all of the

Committee Members by name and each member responded for attendance. A quorum was present. Mr.

Tsiranides gave instructions on how the public comment will be addressed. Public comments via email or zoom video conferencing. Mr. Tsiranides began the meeting with the Public Hearing.

## **PUBLIC INPUT**

Public input (Guests at Committee meetings may speak to any item on the agenda. Comments shall be limited to no more than three (3) minutes per speaker.)

Mr. Tsiranides opened public input and went over the public input item on the agenda. He informed all of those signed up to speak to keep their comments to three (3) minutes or under. He asked if there was anyone that wanted to speak.

Mr. Manzi replied yes Diane Lauricella.

Ms. Valadares replied that Josephine Anderson also wanted to speak on behalf of her late husband Former Fire Chief Anderson.

Chairman Tsiranides welcomed Ms. Anderson.

Josephine Fulcher Anderson. She began with good evening, my name is Josephine Fulcher Anderson, the widow of the late Fire Chief Sanford Anderson. She is asking that a street be named in honor of him. She would like the street intersections of Concord Street and Water Street and Raymond Street and Water Street be named in his honor. She said the reason for the request is that it would be a great honor, not only for the family but for his children and grandchildren as well as the community to see that a man can come from the Washington Village Project and can be elevated to become the Fire Chief. Ms. Anderson said that she hopes the Committee would give great consideration that his name be placed on those two (2) intersections. She thanked the Committee and stated keep up the good work.

Chairman Tsiranides thanked her for her comments.

Diane Lauricella. She began by saying good evening and said that she agrees with Ms. Anderson, before she moved on to other things. She said that she knew Sandy and she used to help with some hazardous waste work and worked with him and got to know him a little bit. She thinks it would be a great honor and she wholeheartedly supports the Council considering the honorary name for Water Street. Ms. Lauricella said she is speaking briefly tonight under discussion items for the solid waste report, she had some missed signals and last week she broke her arm and she and Ms. Paladino had been in contact to speak about setting up some discussions about unit pricing or Pay As You Throw (PAYT). She said it is not a new construct in the world of waste management. She said some feel it is the way of the future. She looks forward to hearing Ms. Paladino's report because she asked the DEEP people to directly get in touch with either Ms. Paladino or Mr. Carr but it doesn't look like they will be on the agenda tonight. She encourages this Council to have a DEEP discussion about PAYT or unit pricing, also known as the SMART Program. She said they are getting ready to develop their budget for the 2021/2022 season and the State DEEP has declared that they are in a waste management crisis, especially due to the

fact that the Hartford garbage energy plant is beyond its useful life and Bridgeport will soon follow. The DEEP has finally revealed and reviewed that they need to have an overall holistic look at what they do to reduce the

waste streams and not just recycle but to educate the public as well as municipalities. She said they have formed the Connecticut Coalition for Sustainable Material Management. She is very pleased and hope this will be the case that someone from the City, which she has offered to the Mayor, Mr. Carr and her understanding is that Ms. Paladino will be in contact with this new group that is based upon municipalities. She said DEEP is actually gathering together municipalities from all over the State to take a look and quickly decide which legislative bills will be put together to support the towns. She said Western Connecticut COG or the Council of Government has received funding to also assist municipalities in the Western Area about waste management plans and looking at it more holistically and progressively. She thinks they need to have this discussion sooner rather later because it is the budget making time for Norwalk. She said her adhoc group called the Norwalk Zero Waste Coalition is very pleased to find that zero waste is not a mythological construct, it is what is being discussed in the professional waste management circles now. Zero waste is a goal but what they must do is to begin to plan for reducing the high cost of waste management in the City and that includes a robust discussion and training of all including businesses and citizens on how to reduce, reuse, repair and there are a lot of other r's that come before recycling. She thanked the Committee for their time and looks forward to hearing Ms. Paladino's report.

Mr. Tsiranides thanked Ms. Lauricella. Since there were no other participants to speak, public input was closed at 7:09p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2020.**

There was no report on this item.

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

### **2. ACKNOWLEDGE THE RECEIPT OF THE MODIFIED REQUEST FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF A PORTION OF WATER STREET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF RAYMOND STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF CONCORD STREET TO FIRE CHIEF ANDERSON DRIVE.**

Chairman Tsiranides stated everyone is familiar with this as it was voted on at the last meeting. He said they have expanded the distance of the honorary naming.

Mr. Livingston said he does not have a problem with this item but asked what the impetus to the extension of the street was.

Chairman Tsiranides replied they decided to cover more of the Washington Village Area. Like Ms. Anderson said, he grew up there and was a longtime resident in that area and felt it more adequate to incorporate more of that portion of Washington Village.

Mr. Carr said the original request was only for the Raymond and Water Street intersection. He said the reason the scope was expanded was because after the last meeting Ms. Anderson requested to have it from Washington to Burritt which is a very long segment of roadway. He said after having a conversation with Ms. Anderson along with speaking with the Mayor's Office and Committee prior to this, it was decided to have the honorary naming in the area where the former Fire Chief resided which is the Washington Village Area.

Ms. Valadares stated that Ms. Anderson contacted them after the last meeting and requested to withdraw the initial request and reapply with the longer section. She said Ms. Anderson initiated that and there is an email in the packet stating such.

Chairman Tsiranides congratulated Ms. Anderson and said he is happy this is going to go through.

**\*\*MR. KEEGAN MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 3. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF A PORTION OF WATER STREET FROM THE INTERSECTION OF RAYMOND STREET TO THE INTERSECTION OF CONCORD STREET TO FIRE CHIEF ANDERSON DRIVE. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.**

Ms. Young asked if Ms. Anderson is okay with the stretch of street that is proposed to be named after her husband.

Ms. Anderson responded yes.

Ms. Valadares stated that she and Mr. Sotnik had a long conversation with Ms. Anderson by phone and emails and they have agreed to name the two (2) intersections after him. She said there is an email in the packet to that effect as well.

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

4. **AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO CARGILL SALT, ROAD SAFETY FOR TREATED ROAD SALT FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL, PRICING NOT TO EXCEED \$82.00 PER TON FOR NORMAL AND AFTER- HOUR DELIVERIES EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2020-2021 WINTER SEASON.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 25 5322**

Chairman Tsiranides stated that this is what they do and is standard every year. He said they have been using this product for the past couple of years and it is not your standard salt. The salt stays on the road and doesn't spill off or wash away and this is the same price they have been paying in the past year.

Mr. Carr said the product is a special blend that meets City of Norwalk specifications for many years. It has been used for at least the past five (5) seasons. He said what makes this

rock salt unique is that it has a liquid application of magnesium chloride and xanthan gum. Magnesium chloride allows the melting at lower temperatures. Xanthan gum is a gummy substance that binds the rock salt together. The rock salt is sprayed with the liquid magnesium chloride along with the xanthan gum so when you plow the salt, it is dropped in the middle of the road or the crown, so when the salt comes out of the spreader, it allows the rock salt to not balance and scatter, working its way to the top of the road, to the middle and to the edges of the road. Otherwise there could be a 30% to 60% waste of salt. The xanthan gum which is a binding agent as opposed to molasses which is used by some companies can get sticky and prohibits their trucks from preloading and increases response time because when you use molasses the trucks have to stay empty, the loader would have to take the salt out of the shed then put it in the truck then it goes. He said when you use molasses and it is left indoors it gets hot, sticky and clumpy. Xanthan gum takes the place of molasses and keeps the salt together. It reduces the balance of the scatter and you could leave the trucks in the warm garage, ready to go to be deployed and not waste time. He said this type of salt is very effective.

**\*\*MR. LANGELLA MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO GABRIELLI TRUCK SALES, MILFORD, CT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2020 FORD SUPER DUTY F250 XL REGULAR CAB FOR A PRICE NOT TO EXCEED \$39,799.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4120 5777 C0650**

Mr. Livingston said there are a few trucks on the agenda and wanted to know what this truck would be used for.

Mr. Carr stated this specific Ford 250 is a replacement truck for TMP's Traffic Signal Supervisor, Amy Taber. He said she is currently using a very old Public Works Operations pick-up truck. He said the existing truck will be put in the yard to be used for

surplus parts and once they have stripped the parts and or the life of the truck has expired, they will auction it off. It will not immediately be leaving Norwalk.

Mr. Yeosock added that the truck Ms. Taber has been using has been in the garage more than it has been on the road and it is not cost effective to keep it running which is the reason for the replacement.

Chairman Tsiranides added that they moved some items around in the budget and took some funding from TMP because that truck was specifically requested due to the age of the vehicle.

Mr. Keegan asked if there was any thought to purchasing a hybrid. He said he believes they make a hybrid at the F250 range.

Mr. Yeosock responded that he believes it was the decision of the fleet maintenance that this was a better option.

Mr. Carr said they had looked into that and now they have 11 pool cars that they switched over from, nine (9) traditional hybrids and two (2) plug-in hybrids but for now they would like to stick with the vehicles aka non SUV's or passenger cars. He said they do come in hybrid but as far as their operation is concerned, those types tend not to be as powerful. They will look into the hybrid trucks in the future, however, in his experience the hybrid trucks tend to have more problems when introducing hybrids to the fleet.

Mr. Torre said that their supervisors have plows on their trucks in the wintertime. He said they do not make something powerful enough to plow snow that is in a hybrid or hybrid electric vehicle. He said all of their F250's have snow plows so they can respond quicker to winter operations including TMP.

**\*\*MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM**

**\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (LOTICIP) GRANT STATE PROJECT L102-0004 - EAST WALL STREET – LANDMARK SQUARE SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY AND STREETScape IMPROVEMENT PROJECT.**

Chairman Tsiranides stated that everyone should have received an email from Mr. Carr about this. He said this is a grant that was awarded to the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Carr said it is a LOTICIP Grant and they worked through CONNDOT and it was administered through WestCOG in the amount of 1.516 million dollars. This is for Wall Street at Landmark Square but it is located between Brook and Main. The project is about 500 feet in length and it will include various site improvements, railway improvements, curbs and sidewalks, lighting, decorative concrete pavers, traffic bump potentially,

pavement markings, new striping, new drainage and other traffic controls. This is to allow the Mayor, to accept the commitment to fund. He said once CONNDOT receives an executed letter from the Mayor to commit then they will know that the municipality will be locked in to meet the requirements of CONNDOT. He said they will have to issue contract documents, the projects will have to be notified and notice to advertise. This project would most likely, assuming the State doesn't lag on the schedule, could have construction bid documents out next spring and hopefully begin construction in the summertime. By the summer of 2021, they expect the work to progress.

Ms. Valadares added that all the design work is being done in-house. She said Mr. Sotnik is leading this project. She said there was a delay when they received the letter so the schedule has been modified. The beginning of the construction may start more towards a late summer because there are approvals that would be needed in the meantime.

Mr. Sotnik said that their goal is to basically have this up to WestCOG for approval to review the final plans by the beginning of February. He said that usually takes about a month or so. Once approved they could send it back up to DOT for their final approval and get any comments, address them and hopefully by May have it ready to go out to bid and then get the construction documents executed which may be late summer. He sent the schedule up to Kevin Mahoney from WestCOG this morning. He said it is an aggressive schedule but it's doable. He said their goal is to have the construction completed by the end of June of 2022. He said it is a six (6) month or so project and with the winter shutdown of three (3) months, it would put them at about that timeline.

Mr. Carr asked Mr. Sotnik to give the difference between LOTCIP, CONNDOT and WestCOG so the Committee could understand how they received the money and whose requirements they need to adhere to.

Mr. Sotnik said the Western Connecticut Council of Governments put that grant out for municipalities to apply for. The City of Norwalk applied and received the funding commitment from WestCOG and once that is agreed to then the next step is to put a package together for an application for what is called a LOTCIP application from DOT. Once that is put together, the plans are submitted and if comments come back they will need to be addressed. If everything is addressed and they are happy with the responses, a letter of commitment. He said that is the letter in the package that they are asking for authorization to have the Mayor execute. He said that is usually done at 30% design but they are further along than that now. They gave them a couple of months to review it and the timeline depends on when DOT gets it back to them and approves it.

Mr. Livingston said that he thinks it great that they are getting this grant and he thinks that's terrific. He asked if he had any schematics that he can share with the Committee now of a description of exactly what it will look like.

Mr. Sotnik replied that he does have full plans. They presented those plans at the public information meeting at the end of October of last year. He has the layouts of it, lane widths all configured, sidewalk bump outs, historic street lights and where they will be placed. He said he has drawings that he can share.

Mr. Livingston asked if he could share those now.

Mr. Sotnik replied he would email a copy to the Committee tomorrow.

Chairman Tsiranides requested Mr. Sotnik pass it out to the full Council. He thanked the Department for applying for the grant and having it come through. He said Wall Street will benefit greatly from this.

**\*\*MR. KEEGAN MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**7. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, ITEM VII.A.5A AND 5B. TO ADD ACCOUNT DESIGNATED FOR PROJECT DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, ACCOUNT NUMBER: 09 21 4021 5777 C0021.**

**7A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$954,320.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO.      09 10 4027 5777 C0302  
                         09 20 4027 5777 C0302  
                         09 21 4027 5777 C0302  
                         09 18 4021 5777 C0021  
                         09 19 4021 5777 C0021  
                         09 20 4021 5777 C0021  
                         09 19 4021 5777 C0318  
                         09 21 4021 5777 C0318  
                         09 21 4021 5777 C0021**

**7B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$95,500.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO.      09 10 4027 5777 C0302  
                         09 20 4027 5777 C0302  
                         09 21 4027 5777 C0302  
                         09 18 4021 5777 C0021  
                         09 19 4021 5777 C0021  
                         09 20 4021 5777 C0021  
                         09 19 4021 5777 C0318  
                         09 21 4021 5777 C0318  
                         09 21 4021 5777 C0021**

Ms. Valadares stated that she forgot to add an account and that is the reason for the technical correction.

There were no further questions.

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

- 8. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO GABRIELLI TRUCK SALES OF MILFORD, FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 2020 MACK GR42FR PLOW TRUCK FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$231,864.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 20 4031 5777 C0313  
09 21 4031 5777 C0313**

Mr. Livingston asked if anyone had really gone through with Mack every detail that is in the technical specification.

Mr. Carr responded yes. Mr. Torre and Joel Grant, the Fleet Supervisor absolutely do.

Ms. Smyth added well done.

Chairman Tsiranides said that they hold onto those trucks and use them as long as possible and they take whatever spare parts they can get from them. He said whatever is left after that, they auction off. They get every dollar they possibly can out of it.

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

- 9. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO GABRIELLI TRUCK SALES OF MILFORD, FOR THE PURCHASE OF THREE (3) 2021 F-550 CHASSIS AND REGULAR CAB FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$180,381.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4031 5777 C0313**

Mr. Carr stated that those trucks will be replacing three (3) older F550's so they're not new purchases. He said they are part of a very thought out rolling stock program that Mr. Torre and the Fleet Services Manager worked on and was approved under the capital budget. During the capital budget phase, Mr. Carr and Mr. Torre submitted fleet replacement (rolling stock program) as part of the capital budget backup. The rolling stock program shows in detail what trucks and equipment are projected to be replaced over the few years. Those trucks are 10+ years old and were previously approved. He said the parts would be used as surplus and eventually auctioned. The type of work that the foreman supervisor always sees is masonry work, pothole repair, curbing just to give an idea of the type of work this vehicle will employ.

Mr. Torre added that they keep the older trucks as long as they could. The hydraulics on a 10 year old truck are still the same and the tires are still the same. A lot of the parts they recycle and they do not auction them off but they scrap the living life out of them before they get rid of them.

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

- 10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH WSP USA INC. FOR STATE PROJECT 102-360 TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE AND INSTALLATION OF DYNAMIC MESSAGE SYSTEMS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,800.00**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 16 4021 5777 C0232  
09 20 4120 5777 C0232**

Mr. Livingston asked for a better description.

Mr. Yeosock responded that this is Phase IV of the Traffic Signal Project. There are a couple of changes that came up during the design that weren't covered in original design. There are some additional mast arms that have to be analyzed to put signage on. Each mast arm has signs that have to be designed for each to make sure that the existing mast arm could support the weight.

Mr. Livingston asked what type of signs.

Mr. Yeosock responded LED blank out signs. 2x4 feet and they can be programmed messages in them for diversionary routes. He gave an example of a message like, no left turn or I95 straight ahead. There could be different messages pre-programmed. He said if there is an incident on the highway and they need to detour traffic, they could get the traffic through the town and out of the town as quickly as possible.

Mr. Livingston said he was looking at Task 1 of the supplemental work order and the change proposed on-street parking require a shift in the centerline pavement marking from 11 feet to 19 feet. He asked what the centerline is now.

Mr. Yeosock said what they are looking at is the intersection of East Avenue and St. John Street. He said they would like to get two (2) lanes in there. They are looking to rearrange the centerline striping to accommodate that.

Mr. Livingston asked if they were widening the road.

Mr. Yeosock responded no. He said they would be keeping it within the existing footprint of the road.

Mr. Livingston asked if they would be taking a lane from the other side.

Mr. Yeosock responded that's correct.

Ms. Valadares added that the widening of East Avenue stops at the corner of Fitch Street under the East Avenue Roadway Project. The traffic signal phase IV will take care of another signal that is at the corner of John's place. She said they have the opportunity now to realign the centerline so it will work better with the whole design. WSP is also designing

some of the traffic under the Walk Bridge Program for the traffic on that stretch of the road as well. WSP have a full picture of what will happen on East Avenue.

Mr. Smyth asked what do the two (2) additional on street parking spaces do. She asked how does that affect the project and why are they needed.

Mr. Yeosock answered as you're coming out of there, Mike's Deli is on the corner, and cars are always parked there so they would like to identify parking spaces there so it doesn't block the traffic as they are coming out. The parking spaces will be right along the side of the deli.

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

## **INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

### **A. DISCUSSION**

#### **1. PROJECT STATUS**

##### **a. DREAMY HOLLOW DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT UPDATE**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that Woodard and Curran are performing field survey work. They are working with engineering to obtain record mapping and utilities plans to help them put together a comprehensive survey which is known as existing conditions. Those existing condition plans or surveys are used for the design work. Woodard and Curran are halfway done with the field work. They are requesting a little bit more of the record mapping so engineering is going to have to assist in a greater capacity to get them the information. They anticipate having the survey work completed by the Winter and the design should also be completed by the Winter. Construction bid documents should be released by late Spring early Summer of 2021 for the Friendly Pond drainage improvements. Right now they are estimated at 3.1 million dollars capital cost, however, the Consultant believes that number will be refined and may even drop a little bit. The project consist of new storm piping configurations on Saddle Road, Assisi Way and a couple other streets. The pond will be partially dredged out and there will be a new outfall pipe from Friendly Pond to Dry Hill Road. There are multiple improvements going on at the same time and they anticipate most of the work being done by the end of calendar year 2021 and whatever is not done will spill

over and be completed in Spring of 2022. He said it is not a multi-phased project, it just has a lot of components that are within that one (1) project. They anticipate six (6) months construction time so if they begin late Summer early Fall, that will push them into the Spring of 2022. That project is to alleviate flooding conditions in approximately 40 homes. He said that Woodard and Curran and the Engineering Department have been doing an excellent job on this project. He mentioned that the Operations Department has also been involved with some of the storm reconnaissance for the team. He said they are tracking on schedule and most importantly tracking on budget.

Chairman Tsiranides stated that the residents have been happy with the work that is going on even with the last couple of storms. He said there haven't been any more flooding issues over there even though they are not 100% complete.

#### **b. PAVING, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said the last time they met, they reported that they had approximately nine (9) centerline miles of road paved. They are now to approximately 15 and they are on pace to finish around 18 or 20 centerline miles. He described what a centerline is to the Committee. He said they have far surpassed the progress from last year and they are doing significantly more than their neighboring communities. He thanked the Common Council for investing so much into the roads which has allowed them to complete so many centerline miles of paving. He said they are wrapping up in the First and Fifth Street Area. There are a lot of other roads and various sections that are now being milled. They have completed sidewalks and curbs in the First Street, Fifth Street and Cove Avenue Area. Second Street had sanitary sewer issues so they had to put that on hold until the issues are resolved. In the Woodward Avenue Area, sidewalks are being worked on at Neptune and Lawrence 70% of the concrete curb on the west side has been poured and formed and 40% of the concrete sidewalk complete and 50% of the drainage improvements done. He said that it wasn't just sidewalks and curbs on Woodward Avenue there was also drainage work that needed to be addressed. He said overall the project is about 20% complete and The Grasso Companies, LLC are making excellent progress and have been a pleasure to work with. He said depending on weather, this project may be complete by early to mid-December.

Ms. Valadares said that they are starting Woodward Avenue on the west side, completing one (1) side then begin the other and after that they will begin south from the other end. She said the reason for that is to get a whole stretch on both sides. She said they are unsure if they could get all the way to the end but definitely 2/3 will be finished by the end of the construction season.

#### **c. FOOD SCRAP COLLECTION (COMPOST) PROGRAM UPDATE**

Chairman Tsiranides stated that the program has been very successful in both locations, Rowayton and the Transfer Station.

Mr. Carr stated that since the City took the program over on July 1<sup>st</sup>, the program has been very successful at both locations. He informed the Committee that Ms. Paladino was interviewed by the Hour regarding the program. He said it is a great program for a pilot program and has been very successful and he hopes it continues. Since they started the program in July 2020 Citywide, which is Transfer Station and Rowayton, they have collected approximately 10 tons, almost 20,000 pounds. He said there is a big demand in Rowayton and pretty positive reaction at the Transfer Station and for the City. He said they will request additional funds if needed during the budget season. He said they would like to increase the number of pickups or expand the stations at some point and they have been very pleased with the progress.

Mr. Livingston said that Ms. Paladino, Mr. Carr and the team have done an amazing job with this. He said there are six (6) or eight (8) bins at Rowayton and when he goes after an hour of opening, the bins are almost full. He said it is very popular in Rowayton and there is a good buzz going on about it as well.

Ms. Paladino said that there are eight (8) bins at the Rowayton Community Center and four (4) at the Transfer Station. She said they sold approximately 75 of the compost starter kits. They ordered approximately 250 for the whole program. She said if residents are looking to purchase a starter kit, they can email [composting@norwalkct.org](mailto:composting@norwalkct.org) to request them.

## **B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – AUGUST 2020**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that the curbside tonnage has increased from the same time last year, a 7.5% increase. The MSW or garbage, total out, from the City has increased 10.6% from the same time last year. He said what is interesting at the start of COVID, those numbers were in the 20% to 30% range so they are starting to reduce by factors. The change in total monthly tonnage for recycling has gone up 3.9% and the curbside tonnage has increased 6.2%. He said it is nice to see the additional recycling.

## **C. PERSONNEL**

Chairman Tsiranides said that with the recent package that just went out from the Mayor's Office, they have lost a couple of key people from several departments.

Mr. Carr said that out of a department of 105, not including WPCA, just looking at Operations, Recreation and Parks and Engineering, they will be losing about 14% to 15% of the workforce through retirements and/or resignations. Operations has five (5) retirements, five (5) retirements in Recreation and Parks and Engineering has two (2) retirements and three (3) resignations. He said that is 15 staff out of 105 which gives you roughly the 14% to 15% reduction or at least 10% reduction. He said in Operations, there are drivers, laborers, and equipment operators. In Recreation and Parks there are tradesman, drivers, laborers, and equipment operators, those are the maintainer I, II and III positions. He said the two (2) retirees in Engineering are valued employees and one (1) of them is their in-house land surveyor which they asked the Committee for additional funding to outsource on-call surveying services. He said fortunately there was a succession plan and their licensed surveyor has been working with one (1) of the junior engineers to basically train them over

the last two (2) years so that is definitely kudos to Ms. Valadares and her staff. He said both engineers have many years with the City. He said there were three (3) resignations, two (2) junior engineers and one (1) permit engineer. One (1) of the junior engineer was actually an assistant permit engineer so they really don't have anyone in the permitting group right now. He said that is five (5) out of 14 technical staff, 35% of their engineering staff.

Mr. Livingston asked if the resignations were coincidental with the retirement plan. Is there something unique they should know about?

Mr. Carr responded no, the resignations were other job opportunities.

Mr. Livingston asked if that was something of a concern in terms of what they pay people.

Ms. Valadares responded yes. She said the market is very hot for engineering so the three (3) people that resigned are going after better opportunities. She said she has heard from their consultants that engineering companies are stealing other company staff. She said the market is really hot for civil engineers. She said unfortunately they cannot offer anything else and two (2) out of those three (3) do not have a pension plan with the City. Usually when you have all those benefits and a pension plan, the position was a way to hold an employee but they don't have that anymore.

Mr. Livingston said that he knows in the past they were having trouble finding a junior engineer and asked if they are speaking with personnel about salary ranges.

Ms. Valadares said they haven't begun any further discussions yet because right now departments are having meetings about the retirees. She said they have a plan that they will present to them. The reason they wanted to share this with the Committee because they do not know how quick they would be able to fill those positions due to the market and let them know that they are doing their best to accomplish the load of work they have. They may need to outsource a couple of bodies for the beginning of next construction season if they are not in a position to fill those positions. She said they wanted to keep them aware. She said last Friday they lost one (1) and this Friday they will lose three (3) and the last person will leave by the end of the month.

Ms. Smyth said that they need to do whatever they need to do to get good engineers and keep them. She asked if Mr. Carr sees any position that may not necessarily need to be filled where the funds could be allocated to other positions. She asked if he really feels that everything is bare bones and you need to fill all of those positions.

Mr. Carr responded that he had a meeting, the Chief level, with Laoise King, Ray Burney and Henry Dachowitz and they will meet tomorrow with the Department Heads. Ms. Valadares, Nick Roberts, and Mr. Torre will also be present. He explained how they thought they could provide cost savings to the City by promotions and lateral transfers, meaning the people that are resigning and/or retiring, you could promote those junior engineers up to those positions and they started out at a much lower step in that grade than the people who were previously in those positions. He explained how it could work. He said when the employees move out, the current employee move up but at a lower step then when you hire at those lower position

from that easy chain effect, you're bringing those people into a lower step. There may be a position or two (2) that may be eliminated, they are in discussions now but it is not for sure. He said most of their savings will be at hiring at lower positions for lower grades and lower salaries. They are working on those numbers. He said there is not any more fat they can trim off.

Ms. Valadares said they need all the bodies that they are losing and that goes for Operations and Recreation and Parks. She said they have a lot of construction projects that they are working on in different phases from design, construction, closeout and they listed that they are at 102 projects.

Mr. Carr said if they have to eliminate any positions, they have some solutions they will work with administration about.

Chairman Tsiranides added that Public Works covers a wide gambit from the engineering design part all the way down to the labor construction part. He referenced the last storm and how you can see the importance of the labor because as bad as it was and people were out for a longer period of time than they would have liked, it helped to have that manpower around to get most of that work done. He said it is probably more efficient and faster to have someone in-house doing the work as opposed to outsourcing the work. He said they will keep that in mind and discuss with the Mayor's Office and the Personnel Office.

## **UPCOMING PROJECTS**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Livingston move to adjourn

Motion passed unanimously

Meeting was adjourned at 8:06p.m.

**NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 3, 2020  
Public Works Committee  
7:00 P.M. Location TBD**