

**CITY OF NORWALK**  
Norwalk City Hall  
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**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

**ATTENDANCE:** George Tsiranides, Chairman; Tom Keegan; Darlene Young; George Theodoridis; Tom Livingston; Manny Langella (7:25pm)

**STAFF:** Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Michael Yeosock, Principal Engineer; Laoise King, Assistant to the Mayor; Darin Callahan, Assistant Corporation Counsel

**OTHER:** Ann Catino, Attorney

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 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 [monique.cipriano@norwalkct.org](mailto:monique.cipriano@norwalkct.org) to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairman Tsiranides called to order the public works committee meeting on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. He stated that the meeting is being done by video conference. He announced all the committee members by name and each member responded for attendance. A quorum was present.

## **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.)**

There was no public participation for public input.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2021.**

There were no corrections, only two (2) abstentions.

**\*\*MR. KEEGAN MOVED THE ITEM  
\*\*MR. LIVINGSTON AND MR. THEODORIDIS ABSTAINED  
\*\*MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH TWO (2)  
ABSTENTIONS**

### **2. DISCUSS AND VOTE TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO INCREASE THE FEE FOR PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS RATES AND FEES TO BE SET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS FEE SCHEDULE AS PER ATTACHED. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M. BY VIDEO CONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE.**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said the proposed increase for fees only pertains to two (2) divisions of Public Works, engineering, and operations. In the engineering division, the proposal is to increase the fees for the reproduction of GIS mapping which covers the copying, printing, and electronic copies. The proposed fee increase for the operations division is for the special event fees which pertain to the traffic control devices such as traffic drums, barrels, cones. He said often the barrels and cones are lent out for a special event, but they don't always come back in the same condition or come back at all. He mentioned that fees should be looked at every few years to ensure the adjustment is on par with industry standard current pricing.

Mr. Livingston asked how much the current fees are.

Ms. Valadares answered that the increase is very small. She stated that the prices are on the website. She went over a few of the changes. She gave an example about the barrels and the cost. She stated that the cost of the barrels is refundable if they are returned and undamaged. She reiterated that it is not a big increase but because they must set staff apart to delivery and pick up those items and it can be time consuming. She said if they do not charge a lot, they found that people ask for things they don't even need or use. She said the last change was made in 2009.

Mr. Livingston asked if they charge for the barricades/barrels or if it is just a deposit.

Ms. Valadares said they receive a deposit for them and once they are returned, they will get their money back. She said if for any reason they come back damaged or missing, the person will be charged.

Mr. Livingston asked why not charge for the time spent putting those barrels out for the events.

Mr. Carr answered in the spirit of collaboration and stewardship. He said a lot of these entities are not necessarily a City entity but are doing work in the City and attracting tourism and infusing businesses.

Mr. Keegan asked about weekend events and if they would be charged then if they needed the supplies/materials delivered.

Ms. Valadares answered it would be dropped off on Friday. She said there is no overtime issued for these types of events.

Chairman Tsiranides stated that the primary reason they don't charge is because most of them are used for non-profits. He said it is one (1) way to help since the non-profits pay for the additional security services.

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

**3. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF JULY 13, 2021, ITEM VII.B.3 TO ADD ACCOUNT NUMBER 09 20 6030 5777 C0657 DESIGNATED FOR ATANE PROJECT DPW2021-2, MATERIAL TESTING:**

**3A.AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ATANE, FOR PROJECT DPW2021-2, MATERIAL TESTING, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, BILLABLE ON A UNIT PRICE BASIS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000.00, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR EACH. ACCOUNT NO.**

|                       |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 09 21 4021 5777 C0021 | 09 22 4021 5777 C0318        |
| 09 22 4021 5777 C0021 | 09 21 4021 5777 C0503        |
| 09 21 4021 5777 C0234 | 09 22 4021 5777 C0503        |
| 09 22 4021 5777 C0234 | 09 21 4021 5777 C0440        |
| 09 21 4021 5777 C0302 | 09 22 4021 5777 C0440        |
| 09 22 4021 5777 C0302 | 09 21 4021 5777 C0471        |
| 09 21 4021 5777 C0315 | 09 22 4021 5777 C0471        |
| 09 22 4021 5777 C0315 | 09 21 6030 5777 C0365        |
| 09 21 4021 5777 C0318 | 09 22 6030 5777 C0365        |
|                       | <u>09 20 6030 5777 C0657</u> |

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this contract was previously approved and this correction is just an underlying account associated with Recreation & Parks. The material testing could be asphalt, concrete, environmental testing of subsurface and soil. Most of the accounts are

for Public Works except for the last three (3). The added account number is to be able to provide material testing to Recreation and Parks capital projects.

Ms. Valadares said that the specific project that was added on is Freese Park. She said they are going to change the ratings, and this is the cheapest way to know in advance if there are any surprises once the testing is complete.

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

- 4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE 1<sup>ST</sup> AMENDMENT TO THE APRIL 13, 2021, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC, FOR PROJECT PM2021-1, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO.      09 20 4021 5777 C0021  
                          09 21 4021 5777 C0021  
                          09 21 4027 5777 C0302  
                          09 20 4021 5777 C0503  
                          09 21 4021 5777 C0503  
                          09 20 4021 5777 C0649  
                          09 21 4021 5777 C0318  
                          03 00 00 2602**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this paving contract was previously approved. This amendment is not an extension of the contract. He explained base bid to the Committee. He said they have a group a list of roads that they bid out for the paving contract, and they have a group b which is called the amendment streets. He said the goal is to complete all group a street, base streets with the caveat that the City reserves the right to add several amendment streets at any time if either all the base streets are completed or for some reason some of the base streets cannot be done. In those cases, they supplement and swap out or provide additional streets to keep the contractor mobilized and here in Norwalk. Sometimes they don't get to some of the base streets because either Eversource has a project that may take longer than expected or may learn a storm sewer needs to be replaced.

Mr. Livingston asked if the contractor doesn't see the names of the streets, would it be easier for Public Works to just tell contractor what street to pave.

Mr. Carr responded that the contractor would see the streets, both the base scope and the amendment streets. All bidders see group a and group b. He said if the bidders/contractor

does not see the streets, it creates a big problem and they may end up paving a lot less streets because they don't know the roadway width, etc.

Ms. Valadares added that it is also the capital funding. She said they issue the base bid around January and bid the base bid on the amount of money they have for that year till June. She said they usually come for an amendment in July when the new money is in place and then they can move those other streets over. She said that it is like doing the work twice but that way they can be more economical and if they disclose the list, they can get a better price. She said that the contract has the option to extend so after the construction season ends, they will decide whether to extend for another year or put it out to bid totally.

Mr. Livingston asked if they were happy with The Grasso Companies.

Ms. Valadares responded yes; they are. She said they have been very flexible about last minute changes, and they do not give them a hard time about changing anything. The quality of the work is good. She said due to COVID some of the materials were not available for drainage work or other small things they would do.

Mr. Livingston asked if The Grasso Companies were still in Norwalk.

Ms. Valadares replied no they are in Monroe.

Chairman Tsiranides stated that he has spoken with Mr. Kleppin, and they do not have any permit issues or problems or pass-through taxes or anything like that.

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

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND ALMSTEAD TREE & SHRUB CARE COMPANY LLC FOR THE SUPPLY AND PLANTING OF TREES AND SHRUBS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$130,000 PER YEAR. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR EACH.**

**ACCOUNT NO.      09 22 4021 5777 C0233  
                          09 22 6030 5777 C0370  
                          09 22 4120 5777 C0649**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this is the annually tree contract. He explained the accounts to the Committee. Engineering \$65,000, TMP \$15,000 and Recreation and Parks is \$50,000. He said they have used Almstead in the past and they are very pleased with their work experience. This is to complete their annual tree planting under their various capital improvement programs for various departments.

Mr. Livingston asked if the contract was exclusive meaning if they wanted to plant more trees would they have to use them or could they use someone else if they were to get a grant.

Mr. Carr responded that they could use someone else and have two (2) contracts if the procurement guidelines was such. He said they are not locked in to solely using Almstead for all the tree purchases. He gave an example of receiving more grant money or increasing the capital budget next year then maybe they could have two (2) contractors at the same time.

Mr. Keegan said this contract is for planting and purchasing only and not for tree trimming and pruning and things as well.

Mr. Carr responded correct. The contract is for only planting, watering, furnish and installing new tree plantings.

Mr. Keegan asked how many trees could be planted with this funding.

Mr. Carr responded the rule of thumb is to furnish, install and water a 3 ½ inch caliber/circumference of a tree is generally about \$1,000 to \$1,250 per trade so it would be about 130 street trees and no shrubs.

Ms. Young asked if they have identified an area where the trees would be planted.

Mr. Carr answered yes, engineering has been working with Jessica Casey's group and TMP and some will be on the MLK corridor, several parks they have identified, and they are starting that process now. Engineering, TMP, Recreation & Parks and Economic Development all have a list, and they are trying to divvy up exactly where the trees go. He said since there are only about 130 trees, they need to be selective where they are planted.

Ms. Young said there have been a lot of conversations about planting trees and this is a good start. 130 trees are a significant number of trees and she added that they are losing trees as well and she wanted to know how they replace the trees they lose especially the ones they lose to development. She stated they need to be creative in how they replace trees or the green infrastructure and perhaps they should look at that.

Mr. Carr agreed and said that is why the need to work with the other departments to figure out the best strategic place to plant the trees. He said there were prior studies done that the Tree Advisory Committee and Paul Sotnik has as well. He mentioned that there is funding for trees in the Recreation and Parks operating budget. He said so they are merging their efforts with the other departments to make the best plan for the trees.

Chairman Tsiranides said the contract is for purchasing, planting, maintaining the trees and they are warranted and responsible as well and he asked if someone would share what that means with the Committee.

Mr. Sotnik responded that this contract is the procurement of the materials, installation of the trees as well as the watering and the guarantee of two (2) years. He said if a tree that they planted under this contract dies for any reason within the two (2) year period, Almstead

would be responsible for replacing it at their cost with no additional cost to the City. They are also responsible for the watering and that is one (1) of the reasons they put that in the RFP because

it does all the watering and some of the other contractors don't necessarily do the watering and that would have been an additional cost.

Mr. Livingston invited everyone to attend the Ordinance Committee later this month as they are working on the Tree Ordinance.

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

**6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS RELATED TO STATE PROJECT 102-364 WEST AVENUE TRAFFIC ADAPTIVE SIGNAL PROJECT:**

**WHEREAS, THE CITY OF NORWALK HAS INITIATED A PROJECT TO UPGRADE TRAFFIC SIGNALS ON A PORTION OF WEST AVENUE AND BELDEN AVENUE TO TRAFFIC ADAPTIVE SIGNALS; AND  
WHEREAS, THE CITY OF NORWALK HAS PUBLISHED A NEWS RELEASE, MAILED A COPY OF THE NEWS RELEASE TO REQUIRED OFFICIALS AND AGENCIES, AND MAILED A NOTIFICATION LETTER TO ABUTTING PROPERTY OWNERS, ANNOUNCING THE PROPOSED TRANSPORTATION SAFETY PROJECT KNOWN AS STATE PROJECT 102-364 WEST AVENUE TRAFFIC ADAPTIVE SIGNAL PROJECT; AND  
WHEREAS, THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE WILL BE FUNDED UTILIZING 90% FEDERAL FUNDS AND 10% MUNICIPAL FUNDS; AND  
WHEREAS, A 30 DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD WAS PROVIDED TO ALLOW INTERESTED PARTIES TO VOICE THEIR CONCERNS; AND  
WHEREAS, NO CONCERNS HAVE BEEN RAISED BY THE RESIDENTS OR FROM THE PUBLIC DURING THE COMMENT PERIOD;  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, FIND THAT STATE PROJECT 102-364 WEST AVENUE TRAFFIC ADAPTIVE SIGNAL PROJECT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, AND WILL PROVIDE FOR THE CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY OF THE TRAVELING PUBLIC.**

Mr. Yeosock reported on this. He said two (2) years ago they received a safety grant to improve the signals on West Avenue and turn them into adaptive from Butler Street to North including Belden Avenue. As part of the process, they had to reach out to the public, so they had a public mailing, it didn't require a public informational meeting because it was minor in scope. They mailed it to all the budding residents and anyone else in that area to ask if they had any comments on project and they didn't receive any. The next step was to have the Council authorize the project so they can move forward and that is the reason for the resolution. He said once the State receives this, they already

have the semifinal design plans which they are reviewing now and then once this is authorized, they will put it out to bid.

Chairman Tsiranides asked Mr. Yeosock to explain the adaptive system. He said he knows they have used it throughout the City before and it is supposed to alleviate traffic with recognizing and picking up on traffic patterns, is that correct.

Mr. Yeosock answered correct. He said right now they have some in front of the mall. He said they will also be changing the rest of the signals in South Norwalk on Martin Luther King and South and North Main Street as well to adapt as part of the Walk Bridge Project which would probably be later this year or early next year. This will complete that whole corridor and the whole west side of the river will run adaptive and East Avenue will follow on a future project related to the Walk Bridge.

Mr. Keegan asked about the cost. He said it reads 10% but not of what.

Mr. Yeosock said the cost for this work is around \$370,000 and their share is about \$37,000.

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

- 7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AHNEMAN KIRBY, LLC. FOR PROJECT NO. 4048 ON-CALL SURVEYING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00 WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM FOR ONE (1) YEAR.**

|                    |                              |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>ACCOUNT NO.</b> | <b>09 22 4021 5777 C0302</b> |
|                    | <b>09 22 4021 5777 C0315</b> |
|                    | <b>09 22 6030 5777 C0365</b> |
|                    | <b>09 22 6030 5777 C0367</b> |
|                    | <b>09 18 4021 5777 C0599</b> |
|                    | <b>09 21 4021 5777 C0659</b> |
|                    | <b>09 21 4021 5777 C0234</b> |
|                    | <b>01 40 30 5258</b>         |

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this on-call contract was previously approved by the Public Works Committee and the Council. This is only an amendment to extend this agreement for one (1) year for \$150,000.00 and then they have the option to extend for an additional year. He said they have been using Ahneman Kirby for a bit and they are a very good company, solid work, timely, very good quality, responsive to their needs. He said since their prior surveyor retired, he was able to do some of the surveying work and

without the inhouse surveyor and with the additional workload, they respectfully requested the contract continue for an additional year.

Ms. Young asked how many surveys were completed this year.

Ms. Valadares answered about seven (7). She said they have been using them a lot and the good thing about having them is that they are free to focus on other things. They are trying to maximize their paving program and using them to go out to streets they plan to pave two (2) years from now, the streets get surveyed, identify any conflicts with utilities, test pits and mark on the drawings exactly where everything is. She said they are very responsive, and they are happy to have the contract with the City. She highly recommends this amendment. She said they also help other departments like TMP.

Chairman Tsiranides asked if they are looking to replace the in-house surveyor.

Ms. Valadares replied no, their staff is completed. She said he was an associate engineer, and they have those positions filled by civil engineers and not surveyors.

Ms. Young asked how many hours that totals up to be on average.

Ms. Valadares responded that it depends on the project. She mentioned that they are not changing their hourly rate so it will remain the same as last year. She said the contractor has new equipment that scans the roads and that is how they do the surveys. The time they are onsite is much less because they can scan a road in two (2) hours. Believes it is a cost saving from what they had before. She rather has her staff focus on other things and get the surveying done by a third party. It has been working extremely well. Each project the number of hours change.

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

Mr. Livingston made a motion to go into Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Tsiranides called the Executive Session to order at 7:49p.m.

### **INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

#### **A. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EVERSOURCE LAND USE / EASEMENTS AGREEMENTS PURSUANT TO CONN. GEN. STAT. SEC. 1-200(9) AND 1-210(B)(10).**

Mr. Callahan mad a correction for the record, the Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 1-200(9) and -210(B)(10) should read Conn. Gen. Stat. Sec. 1-200(6)(E) and 1-210(B)(10).

The Committee returned from the Executive Session at 9:08p.m. Chairman Tsiranides stated there were no votes cast or taken and that it was strictly informational. Chairman Tsiranides

announced the members that returned from Executive Session as Mr. Livingston, Mr. Keegan, Mr. Langella, Ms. Young, Mr. Theodoridis, and himself.

## **B. DISCUSSION**

### **1. PROJECT STATUS**

#### **a. SEDIMENT REMOVAL CONTRACT UPDATE**

Ms. Valadares reported on this. They finalized the cleaning; they just have the change order to complete that was approved a few months ago. They have an issue with getting the materials, so they are unable to get the pipe and that is the only portion that has not been completed. They are continuing with the restorations of the properties that have been affected and they are close to finishing.

#### **b. DREAMY HOLLOW DRAINAGE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS UPDATE**

Mr. Carr reported on this. They have commissioned two (2) drainage studies. The first is called the Dreamy Hollow Estates which encompasses the Friendly Pond Area, but the broader watershed area is Bettsbrook. That watershed is approximately 400 acres and that accounts about three (3) percent of the City's landmass. The City's landmass is about 14,592 acres. He said the areas are Saddle Road, Friendly Pond Area, Assissi, Surrey, Daphne, Honeysuckle, that project is

going to be out to bid in October and lasts approximately nine (9) to 12 months and include drainage improvements, sanitary sewer improvements and water main improvements. He said that area is severely impacted by sanitary sewer overflows. He said unfortunately when it rains a lot of the inflow and infiltration from the road and from the storm sewers gets into the sanitary sewer and causes SSO, sanitary sewer overflow through the manhole and sometimes through residents' laterals. The second drainage study is the New Canaan Avenue/Ponus Avenue Drainage Study and that is for 468 acres which is also about 3% of the City's landmass. This project is about 80% complete. Next week, they are meeting with Woodard & Curran to discuss the conceptual alternatives for the design improvements, and they will review whatever alternatives Woodard & Curran provides and work together to determine which alternative is most feasible for the City and the residents. The drainage study should be completed December 2021 to January 2022. Once they select the alternative, the consultant will provide them with the conceptual cost which they will put into the capital request. Once that is approved, they expect construction could begin by late Summer 2022. He said as they have multiple drainage improvements progressing, one (1) would be in design and one (1) would be in construction. Both drainage studies cover 868 acres which is 6% of the City's landmass. Through all the storms that they had and their existing database with all the flooding hot spots in the areas, their goal is to continually build and with help of consultants and their in-house engineers and determine and prioritize which areas should be improved. The document is an evolving document as there are known flood areas and new ones as well.

**c. CURBS, SIDEWALKS AND PAVING**

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said on-call drainage is part of this and they just finished drainage on Rowayton Avenue to prep for the work they may start in the Fall. They are also doing work on Meeker Court tomorrow and the upcoming scope will be Thames Street, Hudson, and Ohio to name a few. There were some conflicts in those areas and will address the drainage issues before they finish the sidewalk and paving. They do not have the paving crew in town this week, but they just finished Bartlett Manor with only one (1) section that is

still not completed due to some utility work. They completed Fort Point Street, South Smith Street, Lake Street and Gordon Street. Late September to Early October they plan to get to West Rocks Road, not the whole road, there is some planned work in that whole area so they will be addressing the bottom of it first. They will avoid any imminent utility work that is about to happen. Soundview Avenue from Michael to Cliff, and Rowayton Avenue, they have some select concrete sidewalks that they need to do there before they can get the paving scheduled. Woodward Avenue, between Neptune and Lawrence, Baxter and Sebrings is also on the schedule to get done before the year ends.

They are still at Center Avenue with curbs. They have already put a 105 linear foot of concrete sidewalk on Center Avenue. They are pretty much a little less

than halfway on that and then they will move to O'brien and Harriet Street. Due to COVID quarantines, they do not have the second crew from Grasso but they are hoping to put them on Rowayton Avenue to put in the ADA sidewalk so they can get paving going. Elmwood Avenue is on the radar. The trees have been removed and pruned and the goal is to finish that project this year and if not very early next spring.

Mr. Livingston asked what they are doing on Rowayton Avenue.

Ms. Valadares answered that they are paving a small area the city owns. They must do a little bit of the sidewalks there and the ADA ramps. The Drainage is completed. They are hoping as soon as they get the second crew, they will begin there. The Goal is to try to get the sidewalk completed by the end of this year.

**C. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING**

There was no report on this item.

**D. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT –JULY 2021**

Mr. Carr went over the MSW report. The amounts have decreased since the same time last year. He said they noticed that the numbers are leveling out to almost exactly to pre-COVID conditions.

Mr. Livingston asked about the comment at the bottom of the report.

Mr. Carr explained it. He said if there are missed collections/complaints, they will not receive the incentive.

## **E. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT**

Mr. Carr stated they do not have the numbers for August yet. He said the program is very successful. There has been talk about a possible third location which could likely be in the Cranberry Park Area because its staffed and they applied for the Recycled CT Grant through the Mayor's Office which they should hear back soon. It is a \$15,000 grant. The grant would fund in addition or modification to an existing program. The Senior Center on

Allen Road was also a possible third location. He said they are trying to assess the feasibility of each location, but it looks like Cranberry Park is right now in the forefront.

## **F. ROWAYTON AVENUE BRIDGE**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said they are making good progress. At the September 14, 2021, Conservation meeting, they are likely going to receive approval. They have 60% design drawings complete, and they are submitting a BET special appropriation in the amount of \$650,000.00. The amount will cover the cost to replace the culvert, the pavement, guiderail, and everything needed to restore the bridge back to pre-existing conditions. Ms. Valadares is meeting with a contractor to review the 60% design drawings and get the contractors input about maybe some minor modifications that they can make to increase fabrication time or improve the design in any way. The Freeman Companies is performing the box culvert design. They inspected the bridge on July 14<sup>th</sup> and have been performing all their short span bridges which is 20 feet or less. He said they are a very good company, exceptionally responsive. This work does not require a municipal bid because it's emergency work and would be covered under emergency po and gives the City the ability and the flexibility perform a design build where you could have the drawings not 100% designed. He explained the process.

Ms. Valadares added they still need to get the green light from DEEP. They are in contact with them. They hope to have the permit waived or get a simple permit. Their consultant is in direct contact with DEEP. Once Conservation approves, they will go back to DEEP and inform them that they got local approval and ask for the status. She said hopefully by the next meeting she will have a start date.

Mr. Carr said that they will need a permit from the Army Corps as well.

Ms. Valadares said that they may be able to get a waiver from the Army Corps based on what they have already spoken to them about. They will have a better idea of a start date by next month.

Mr. Livingston asked if they have an of how long it will take.

Mr. Carr answered it all depends on the fabrication time, like concrete, plastic pipe.

Ms. Valadares said they are having a very hard time getting materials. The work itself should not take too long because they are proposing a box culvert and that comes already

pre-manufactured. There are no major changes to the structure. The only problem is how fast can they get the materials.

Mr. Carr said they could work through winter as well. He said likely the work could take less than two (2) months but if you include the fabrication time, the road could be closed for four (4) to six (6) months.

#### **G. DPW INFORMATION ON DASHBOARD**

Ms. Valadares explained that they do not have the ability to have a dashboard published for engineering. She said they could begin to create an internal dashboard and that

information could be fed to the Mayor's dashboard and be available to the public. She needs a few months and one (1) staff member to create it so the information can be on the website on the Mayor's dashboard. She said the information is everywhere just not on a dashboard. She is willing to build a dashboard and have it done by the beginning of next year.

Chairman Tsiranides thanked Ms. Valadares. He said that he has noticed that there has been more of a police presence and flag men helping traffic on Water Street.

Ms. Young stated that she has seen a tad of an increase. She thanked the Department of Public Works, Mr. Carr, and Ms. Valadares for taking that step forward to try and get this going. She understands that it is a lot of work. She thinks in the long run it would help overall. She said she appreciates them moving this forward. This would be for all the City not just South Norwalk and the more information that can be provided to people could lessen residents to going directly to the department heads which was the purpose of the dashboard.

#### **H. TROPICAL STORM IDA**

Mr. Carr reported on this. Mr. Carr said he circulated a map to the Committee that Ms. Valadares and Staff prepared, and he thanked his staff for getting it out so quickly. The map includes all the calls received, observations made from DPW, calls received from Customer Service and Emergency Management. That map includes the resources of information that they use to generate the geospatial or the point coordinates of exactly where the issues were reported during the storm. He went over the map with the Committee. Norwalk received 7.5 inches of rain in approximately 19 hours. 7.5 inches of rain is 14.5% of Norwalk's yearly rainfall. The source of this information came from a NOAA Climate Census between 2006 and 2020, a 15-year look back of Norwalk's rainfall amount. They received 6.74 inches in six (6) hours, which equates to a 200-to-500-year storm event. A 200-year storm event is an event that has an 0.5% chance of occurring in any given year. A 500-year event has a 0.2% chance of occurring in any given year. He went over the statistics of the rainfall with the Committee. He said the rainfall was intense and a lot worse than Elsa. Mr. Carr said they are fielding a lot of calls and feel terribly for the residents as some of them also are going through flooding issues in their homes. They are following the map to see exactly where the flooding occurred, and it is important to know that this was an unprecedented act of nature. He assured the Committee that the Department of Public Works is doing everything they can long-term and has done everything that they could prior to the storm. He said as they progress in the

future and adapt more climate resilient controls and analyze things, they know they have a lot of data right now and they must scrub and go through and then eventually hand that off either to a consultant or handle small issues in-house. He said that it is important to look at the areas one (1) at a time and not have eight (8) study areas going at the same time because it would be cost prohibited and if you start adjusting different areas at the same time you could have other effects too so typically you would do one area, study it, design it, improve it and then you start moving on and then over time the cumulative effect benefits the whole watershed. Mr. Carr said these things take time. He has been doing drainage work for about 20 years and has never seen it this bad. Typical municipal storm sewers are designed for the 10-to-25-year storm event. A 10-year storm has a 10% chance of occurring in one (1) year and a

25-year storm event has a 4% chance of occurring in one (1) year. He explained that even if you put in bigger pipes but there is so much rain in such a short period of time that all the water goes to the watercourse and eventually the water goes in the grate and it wouldn't matter what size pipe and what type of pipe it comes out, goes through, it all drains to a wetland, stream, brook or river and those rivers are ultimately connected to the coastline. Sometimes the rivers are tidally influenced up to a certain length back from the coast and so there is unfortunately nowhere for the water to go. He said their infrastructure comparatively held up very well to some surrounding areas. He said to tackle this over time they must carefully plan out where they are going to study next, assess and then obviously it would come through as a capital request. He said these projects are very expensive. The Dreamy Hollow Estate Project/Friendly Pond Area alone cost about three (3) to 3 ½ million dollars just for the drainage work based on conceptual estimates. They are getting a lot of data and that would help decide what area to go to next.

Ms. Valadares added that there are other things that Engineering does to improve drainage. She said since they released the new drainage manual, anyone that comes for any type of renovation or if there is a new development, you must hold water into your property, so the runoff doesn't go anymore to the City streets or systems. If anyone builds a new house or puts an addition on their house, they must have a drainage study and then show the before and after of the impervious area and then they would have to hold water. She said it is pretty much building a galley or a small pool underground in their lot. Not all properties have that because the new drainage manual began about two (2) to three (3) years ago. She said they are trying to get it all implemented so moving forward all the water will be held on site instead of going to the streets and this is a long-term way of improving drainage and flooding. Another way they improve drainage is from the Operations side of Public Works is the cleaning of pipes and even through engineering with their sedimentation control project they went through those channels, and it took over a year to get the permit and then they cleaned some of the main channels to get the water flow better. She knows a lot of people in that area still got flooded but it is important to understand that if they hadn't done the clean up the flooding would have been much worse. They are trying to do things that are not as expensive as a million-dollar project, daily to improve the flooding throughout the City. She said also at the same time with the kind of storms that are happening sometimes it is worth purchasing flood insurance even if you are not in a flood area. She knows that this is not what the residents want to hear but with the type of storms we have been having it would be better

to have some type of flood insurance that could alleviate some relief from the expenses that may incur.

Mr. Carr stated that there was an article and a video on News 12 about a couple with severe damage to the first floor in their garage. Apparently, the couple was upset, and it was going around that it was a result of the Rowayton Avenue Bridge, and he wants to clarify that when the Rowayton Avenue Bridge failed it failed from a loss of material. He said the material got washed away and undermined which exposed the masonry foundation which led to the partial collapse of partial failure so there is nothing in the Keeler Brook Chanel that was restricting flow or backing anything up. He said they checked it and he and his staff was out there. It was a free steady flow with no obstructions. Mr. Carr mentioned that someone called this morning about an obstruction and Operations removed it. There is nothing in there from the bridge or remnants that would cause that backup. He said it was

just a lot of water and they are not going to be able to eliminate all the flooding, but they will mitigate the flooding. He said compared to other communities they fared very well, as far as the infrastructure there was no major failures at the wastewater treatment plant. They had six (6) lift pumps, those are main pumps that brings the sewage into the plant, all six (6) were on for six (6) hours. They can't remember the last time that happened. There was so much displacement of water. This was an act of God. He said they are working on it and learning from it. He said they could start figuring out the hot spots. People may be turned off to hear that selling the property or lifting the house is going to be a quicker less expensive solutions than rather waiting on the Municipality to get there and make improvements. He said they do have good infrastructure in Norwalk, but these last few storms have just been an anomaly. He said he has never seen that in his years of doing drainage design that this amount of flooding occurs so frequently of each other. He asked if anyone has sent an email and didn't receive a response to please forward it to him. He said he or his staff would respond. There were a lot of people that came into City Hall especially this morning and they were very upset, and Ms. Valadares and Mr. Berndlmaier handled that situation as appropriate as they can, but it is very unfortunate because they can't give the answers people want to hear.

Ms. Young asked how people would dispose of their ruined household everything.

Mr. Keegan said he spent quite a bit of time in the Ponus Avenue Area, and they got hit hard. He thinks everyone in that area appreciates what Public Works has done and is doing and they realize this was an extraordinary event. He thanked Mr. Carr and Ms. Valadares and their team for everything they do every time. He said the people over in the Ponus Avenue Area do expect them to go over there with their magic wand and fix everything because he has been preaching that to them. He asked if it was possible to send over a truck for a bulky waste pickup.

Mr. Carr said he spoke with Mr. Torre last week about a potential special collection. He also spoke to Ms. King about it as well. He said they will have a Tropical Storm Ida storm collection specifically for the bulky waste or any waste. He doesn't have the date yet. He said there are four (4) zones, and they are working through the logistics now.

Mr. Keegan said that they are trying to set up an email chain in the Ponus Avenue Area. He would like Mr. Carr to send him the information when he gets it, and he will pass it along. He thanked Mr. Carr and said he knows he is going to help as much as he can.

Chairman Tsiranides asked if they could put that on the Mayor's Dashboard for resident awareness. He said this just shows the importance of these drainage studies that they have been working so hard on and the added drainage improvements. He said they came a long way and there is more to be done and unfortunately, they won't be able to get ahead of all of them but mitigating the damage and the problems is a big help. Perhaps not for many, most people don't see it that way, but he remembers when some of these areas flooded well into a couple of feet into people's house and now it is much less. Hopefully it will keep getting better or these storms will start being further and few between.

Mr. Carr added that they have 3% of the City's land area going out to bid in October, and while they wrap the study and the construction bid documents, they are on that cycle of design, construction, design, construction. He said after the next two (2) drainage studies are done, if they're comparable areas, that's another 6%, so once it is done, studied, completed, constructed, the land mass goes up. It is more viable for them to do it in 6% increments, the design is not as expensive as the construction so if they are on that kind of every other year cycle for construction and design, its feasible. He said in a few years it could be 25% of the City. The benefit is when you start winding channels and start increasing pipes and doing regional solutions and then start adding the regions together. He said you might have studied and done construction in 20% but may have benefitted further upstream properties outside the study areas and at time could have benefitted the City 40%. Benefits are not just in that area because other things do drain there and ultimately everything's interconnected. He said he hadn't worked for a municipality that has done as much as they are doing now.

Chairman Tsiranides commented that it is more than what's been done in the past so that is good to see it's in the right direction. He thanked Mr. Carr, Ms. Valadares, and his staff for doing a good job. He said he knows it is hard to stay ahead of it, but they have done a great job.

Mr. Livingston thanked them as well.

Chairman Tsiranides announced that potentially with the caveat that it may be cancelled on Friday, there will be a Special Meeting of the Public Works Committee and the Planning Commission next Monday, September 13, 2021. The next scheduled Public Works Committee meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

## **UPCOMING PROJECTS**

**ADJOURNMENT: MS. YOUNG MOTIONED TO ADJOURN  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:57P.M.**

**NEXT MEETING: SPECIAL MEETING - MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
6:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD**