

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
DECEMBER 7, 2021**

- ATTENDANCE:** Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; Tom Keegan; Darlene Young; Tom Livingston; Lisa Shanahan; Dominique Johnson; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner
- STAFF:** Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Ralph Kolb, Wastewater Treatment Manager; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Dan Stanton, Senior Civil Engineer; Darin Callahan
- OTHER:** Anthony Catalano, Woodard & Curran; Joe Kirby, Woodard & Curran; Dan White, Woodard & Curran

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 to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairwoman Smyth called to order the public works committee meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021. She stated that the meeting is being done by video conference. She announced all the committee members by name. Chairwoman Smyth welcomed the three (3) new members of the Committee, Ms. Johnson, Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner and Ms. Shanahan. 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. Chairwoman Smyth closed public input at 7:08p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2021.**

There was no report on this item.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM
**MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER, MS. JOHNSON AND MS. SHANAHAN ABSTAINED
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS

- 2. APPROVE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2022.**

Chairwoman Smyth stated that the meetings are all set for video conference because that is where they are right now and should the time come where they could be live again, they will return to room 231.

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

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A SUBORDINATION AGREEMENT WITH HEAD OF HARBOR SOUTH, LLC PER TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM OF ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, DARIN L. CALLAHAN DATED OCTOBER 27, 2021.**

Chairwoman Smyth said that the item is regarding drainage and sewer easements at Head of Harbor South and complying with the environmental laws.

Attorney Callahan said that they received a request from the Head of the Harbor at One (1) Smith Street requesting they provide a subordination agreement in connection with an application they are making for an elur or an environment land use restriction. He said effectively that was an agreement to subordinate the City's interest in the easements they have on that property to the land use restriction that DEEP requires for the Head of the Harbor to comply with certain environmental laws given certain hazardous constituents on the property. They have executed a subordination agreement for that purpose. DEEP subsequently advised the Head of the Harbor that they determined an encumbrance on the

property and that is the position they are taken. He said that when the Head of Harbor got their site plan approval, one (1) of the conditions of the site plan approval was that the City had the right to install a sign advising the public that there is a public right of access to the water. To his knowledge, a sign was never installed. DEEP interpreted and that has been recorded in land records as an encumbrance and a right to effectively install the sign. The sole purpose of this is to subordinate that site approval condition to either of the Head of Harbors is requesting.

Mr. Livingston summarized that they previously granted or entered into a subordination agreement and due to the manhole or a pipe (sanitary sewer through their parking lot) and since they did that, they have the right to put up a sign that the State is requiring that they also enter into an agreement for that and will be the same terms as the existing subordination agreement.

Attorney Callahan answered exactly.

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

4. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, ITEM VII.C.4 TO ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR ALMSTEAD TREE & SHRUB CARE COMPANY LLC FOR THE SUPPLY AND PLANTING OF TREES AND SHRUBS. ACCOUNT NUMBERS 09 21 6030 5777 C0631.

Chairwoman Smyth said this is to add an account to this item from left over funds being moved.

Mr. Carr said yes. The account is a Recreation and Parks capital account. This is additional funding to cover the costs of six (6) of the 26 additional tree plantings that the Department of Public Works and Recreation and Parks worked together on to plant after the site and to enhance screening along the property line and improve the overall aesthetics of the area and impact of the West Rocks Athletic Field Project particularly on the adjacent property owners known as Sunrise Hill Condominium Complex. This account will cover six (6) tree plantings of the 26 trees planted.

Mr. Livingston said they are not changing the action item, just adding another account. He wanted clarification on that. He asked if they really had to go through the process to add an account.

Ms. Valadares responded yes, they do because it is all capital funds and when they went for the first resolution, they included all the accounts and to add another account after the fact, Purchasing requires they go back to committee for approval and show that change was approved.

Chairwoman Smyth said she has seen over time that there have been a lot of technical corrections on the Public Works agendas. She met with Mr. Carr and Ms. Valadares last week and they explained the process of the technical corrections.

Ms. Valadares added that most of their projects go beyond a year and the funding may come from two (2) accounts and sometimes the next year account is not yet available and the reason for the technical correction. She said they are trying to be extremely transparent and apologized to the Committee for so many. She said the original contract is always capped on what was approved unless they asked for an amendment to the contract. If it is just a technical correction, they are just shifting the accounts that will be funding.

Ms. Johnson thanked for the explanation. She asked if the trees and shrubs been planted already or is it in progress.

Ms. Valadares answered that the majority of the trees have been planted. She said two (2) or three (3) of the trees were not the trees they wanted so Almstead will replace and plant those in the Spring.

Ms. Johnson thanked her and said she was happy to hear that the condominium association was consulted.

Ms. Valadares said 20 trees were planted along the road which was part of the program and then they added the other six (6) to give them an extra buffer between the new field and the condominium. She said they met on site with the representatives, and they chose the species and location.

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

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO CARGILL FOR TREATED ROAD SALT FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL, PRICING NOT TO EXCEED \$87.00 PER TON FOR NORMAL AND AFTER-HOUR DELIVERIES EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2021-22 WINTER SEASON.**

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 25 5322

Chairwoman Smyth said that this product is environmentally friendly and safe, and they have been using it satisfactorily for years.

Mr. Carr said the Operations Department has been using this product for several years. It is a proprietary product and is basically a treated rock salt which is a sodium chloride rock salt that is sprayed with magnesium chloride to help with efficiency at lower temperatures. He said generally, magnesium chloride could effectively melt and be an effective de-icing agent up to zero degrees Fahrenheit versus calcium chlorides which can go a little lower to minus 25 degrees Fahrenheit. The product comes pretreated, sprayed already with magnesium chloride and it has a binding agent known as xanthan gum. The xanthan gum secures or keeps the molecules of the rock salt together so that it helps reduce balance and scatter when they plow the roads which typically start from the middle of the road or the center line or the crown so when the rock salt hits the ground it starts in the middle and then the way it works is it starts from the highest point and trickles down to the gutter line to the shoulders of the road. When the rock salt isn't treated it tends to balance and scatter hard against the pavement and it never really sits and grips at the top of the road pavement or crown surface,

so it goes to the shoulders, the gutter line and lose about 70 percent of the de-icing and the melting and it never starts where it is supposed to. Magnesium is a bit safer for the environment and more forgiving on surfaces such as concrete whereas calcium eats through it. He said they stand behind this product. It is a proprietary which is why they are requested sole source approval. Allowing them to preload their trucks prior to a storm will obviously reduce their response time and allows them to keep the trucks pre-loaded so they don't have to keep shuffling around and moving material or taking material out.

Mr. Torre said about four (4) years ago there was a salt shortage, and they couldn't get salt and the following year it went up to \$93 per ton for the clear lane and it has been bid as low as \$78. They have been using this for about 10 years. They go through 1500 tons less of salt using clear lane than they would with regular rock salt because of its effectiveness on the ice and the hard pack on the road to stop the binding from the ice to the pavement. This salt is \$11 more than regular rock salt but they are using 1500 tons less than they would if they weren't using the treated salt.

Mr. Carr asked Mr. Torre if the shed holds use approximately 5,000 tons of salt.

Mr. Torre responded yes. He said five (5) to seven (7).

Mr. Carr stated they have a full shed of salt and salt on back order ready for when they get back-to-back storms. He said Mr. Torre and his crew in operations are outstanding and completely solid. Mr. Carr said that the City of White Plains does a fantastic job at snow plowing until he came to the City of Norwalk. He thanked Mr. Torre's crew again.

Ms. Young asked about the shelf life of the product.

Mr. Torre said they could sit on their shelves for four (4) to five (5) years and doesn't go bad. He said they need to replace the roof on the salt shed because there are holes in it and the water will bind up the salt and make it not useful. He said they patched up the roof and hopefully it will make it through this year, but they will definitely have to look into the next fiscal year for a roof replacement.

Ms. Johnson asked about the price increase.

Mr. Torre responded that the price increase from this year to last years was \$5 more.

Ms. Johnson asked if that was the 3% referred to in the scope.

Mr. Torre responded yes.

Ms. Johnson asked about the environmental friendliness of what happens when everything melts and goes into the storm system/sound.

Mr. Carr said the magnesium chloride is a naturally occurring element within the environment and is typically found in seawater, marina and marine applications. He said the magnesium chloride is effective to zero degrees Fahrenheit, pavement temperature, it is an anti-bonding in the icing engine so when the plows do come through, they can scrape off the snow from the asphalt with ease. The magnesium chloride, based on its properties, it breaks

down and it's less corrosive to the environment and a lot more friendly to aquatic life since the compounds are found naturally occurring in salt water.

Mr. Torre offered to share the mscs sheet of the product and the environmental impacts as well to any of the Council Members.

Chairwoman Smyth asked Mr. Torre to share that with the Committee.

Mr. Torre responded yes, he will.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if there were other products that may be more environmentally friendly that they are not using for any reason such as cost or convenience.

Mr. Torre responded yes there are other products. He said what makes Norwalk unique is their geographical location. He said they have tried other products, even using a liquid application that caused an accident. He said those products take the moisture from the air and put it on the roads and the roads never dries. They put out the chemicals in anticipation of melting the snow before it builds up but the humidity just in the air is tough which causes black ice. He said this is the best product they have found so far.

Ms. Johnson thanked him for the detailed explanation and said it was really helpful.

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

6. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, ITEM VII.C.3 TO ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC, 1ST AMENDMENT FOR PROJECT PM2021-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. ACCOUNT NUMBERS 09 22 4021 5777 C0021 AND 09 22 4021 5777 C0503.

Mr. Carr stated they are adding additional accounts for the current pavement management program.

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

7. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, ITEM VII.C.6 TO ADD ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR AHNEMAN KIRBY, LLC FOR PROJECT NO. 4048 ON-CALL SURVEYING SERVICES. ACCOUNT NUMBER 01 37 50 5258.

Chairwoman Smyth said she believes this is to add an account number after BET approval.

Ms. Valadares replied yes and stated this account is from an operations account for professional services. They use this account for some of those on-call engineers and had to wait to transfer that money from the rollover from last fiscal year to this fiscal year and now the funds are available.

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

8. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, ITEM VII.A.5 TO ALLOCATE \$300,000 FOR USE ON THE STORM SEWER SEPARATION PROJECT AND ACCOUNTS DESIGNATED FOR M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT DRG2020-1 ON-CALL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS USING WPCA ACCOUNT NUMBER 09 20 4062 5777 C0361.

Mr. Carr said this is to add funding using a WPCA account. He said the on-call drainage improvement contract is very useful. He said it is intended to assist the Department of Public Works by upgrading, replacing, repairing storm drainage in the street prior to their paving so to address any deficiencies with existing utilities in the street, on the road before they place down the new asphalt. The on-call drainage contract that M. Rondano is working on in the Ohio/Plymouth/Center Avenue Area uncovered, with the help of DPW staff, eight (8) storm sewer catch basins that were connected to the sanitary sewer. He said the introduction of storm water into the sanitary sewer reduces the capacity of the existing sanitary sewers. He explained what could happen if there was a surge of water from a storm.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked Mr. Carr to translate the acronym for WPCA.

Mr. Carr responded Water Pollution Control Authority. WPCA is responsible for the wastewater treatment plant, collection system which are the pipes in the right-of-way and the 25 pump stations for sanitary and storm sewer systems.

Ms. Valadares stated that this action was approved at WPCA's Board Meeting. The minutes with the approval have been included.

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

9a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH COLONNA CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVING LLC, FOR PROJECT DRG2021-1 DREAMY HOLLOW/BETTS BROOK AREA DRAINAGE, SANITARY SEWER & WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$864,505.00 (BASE BID), \$682,815.00 (ALTERNATE 1) AND \$5,598,675.00 (ALTERNATE 2).

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0440
 09 22 4021 5777 C0440
 09 20 4062 5777 C0361
 09 22 4062 5777 C0361
 09 22 4021 5777 C0021**

9b. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH COLONNA CONCRETE & ASPHALT PAVING LLC., FOR PROJECT DRG 2021-1 DREAMY HOLLOW/BETTS BROOK AREA DRAINAGE, SANITARY SEWER & WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$715,000.00.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0440
 09 22 4021 5777 C0440**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this project has been in the works for several decades prior to his arrival, back in the days of Mr. Dominic DiGangi who was the prior, prior, prior director of Public Works. The Friendly Pond Area, the project is listed as Dreamy Hollow Betts Brook and that encompasses an approximate 400-acre watershed or drainage area. Basically, that area collects stormwater runoff and drains to a certain point, that is the definition of a watershed. That 400-acres consist of about .63 square miles of the City's landmass, so the city is approximately 36 square miles, and the actual land mass is 22.8 square miles. He said of the 22.8 square miles, .63 square miles or 400-acres is 3% of the City's landmass which is the 22.8 square miles which is about 14,600 acres so of the 14,600 acres, this project helps alleviate flooding issues that many residents have encountered. The reasons why that area has been plagued with flooding is because the topography is very flat, the fill and the soils do not possess a very good quality or ability to percolate water and the construction of the fill material is not being compacted properly potentially and things settling over time and soil moving around under the ground has created the utilities to shift. He said the storm and sanitary sewer pipes can become a roller coaster when they shift and there are sags in the pipe and bellies in the pipes. This could cause a reverse pitch meaning the outlet flow is pitched back the other way and flow inwards. He said the flooding issues have exacerbated the sanitary sewer issues because from the poor soil conditions, the sanitary sewer pipe over many, many years moved, settled and got disjointed and so a lot of influence infiltration to the existing sanitary sewer line which was coming from the groundwater and rainwater. The pipes in that area are undersized to a degree and could benefit from a realignment on how it travels. This predates his tenure, but when he began there was a public outcry in the Friendly Pond Area, in particularly, Saddle Road, Assisi Way, Surrey Drive, Daphne and Honeysuckle. His staff, Mr. Torre, Mr. Sotnik and Mr. Berndlmaier have been around for decades and have seen firsthand other approaches to this issue. They don't want to approach this from a band-aid perspective so Fall 2019, they commissioned Woodard & Curran to perform a flood mitigation study and from that study they received general recommendations and different design alternatives. They proposed those alternatives to the City and collaborated with Woodard & Curran. They targeted the alternative that had the best cost benefit ratio that was economically feasible and not cost prohibitive. He said they were pleased to say that between the Summer of 2019 and now, the project was put out to bid in November, received one (1) bidder in December. He said the contractor has very positive references and is working on the Webster Lot right now if any of the Committee Members wanted to see their work. He said they are working on installing green infrastructure which is stormwater management related. He said a lot of homes were devastated from Elsa and Ida. There are a lot of areas in the City that can benefit from flood mitigation. He said that his staff has done an incredible job of keeping up with the momentum and working with the consultant. He gave an example of some challenges and one that had to do with an easement and the property owner not wanting to allow the project to be on their property. They went back to the contractor, Woodard and Curran to redesign one of the design alternatives that would benefit the people who are affected from the flooding. They put out a design to construction that would benefit approximately 60 homes that would see some reduction in flooding levels anywhere from an inch to three (3) inches to something more substantial, more than a foot. There are approximately 60 homes that can benefit from the construction of this project. The construction is anticipated to last approximately 12 months if approved by

all parties. There will be a pre-construction meeting to go over expectations, a definitive project schedule. The total cost of the project is 7.15 million dollars. He explained the different accounts to the Committee. 1.1 million dollars from the project is sanitary sewer related. Mr. Carr said for a 400-acre watershed or three (3) percent of the City's land mass to benefit 60 homes it would cost approximately 6.1 million dollars and that is a flood mitigation of up to the 25-year storm event which again is not a storm that occurs every 25 years, it is a storm that has a 4% chance of occurring annually. It is several days in one (1) year that that storm could actually occur, and we know from Elsa and Ida that it is very possible. He explained base bid, alternate 1 and alternate 2. He said the base bid is what the City is committed to, to the scope of the work they are actually committed to, alternate one and alternate two is sometimes if the City needs to allocate funding from different source or they don't know yet exactly what funding sources they are going to use, not that they do not have money to support the contract but there are some cases when municipalities don't have the full amount to award. He said they wanted to decipher which capital accounts they were going to utilize or federal funding if any. The engineer's estimate was very close to the final bid which was 7.15 combined. Mr. Carr said based on the available funding from Public Works and WPCA, they do have adequate capital funding to award the project and recommend the work of the contract. He said they are going to help as many people as they can with what they can afford to do. He gave kudos to his staff and Woodard and Curran.

Mr. Livingston said that it is terrific and thanked Mr. Carr for pushing this along. He said it is really a great effort that all of them put in and it is really important to the residents. He asked what is the difference between 9a and 9b on the agenda.

Mr. Carr answered that 9b is the authority that the Public Works Committee, Common Council and Mayor could invest into the Chief of Public Works to authorize contract overages up to but not exceeding 10% so they do not have to go back to council.

Mr. Livingston asked if that was the contingency.

Mr. Carr replied yes.

Ms. Shanahan said that she wants to give a commendation to Mr. Carr. She said they have been at his desk so many times in the last six (6) months with flood mitigation issues across the City and she is really excited to know that something is being addressed as this is an important project and she really appreciates it. She thanked him again for the flood seminar last week. She thought it was helpful for them to have a sense of the 10 projects that DPW is taking on to work on across the City, so it is not just 3% of the City's landmass it is a lot more than that. She said they really appreciate that effort because it's critical and will be an ongoing issue for their City and they really appreciate Mr. Carr addressing this.

Chairwoman Smyth stated that they are very lucky to have Mr. Carr and his expertise on flooding. Norwalk is lucky to have you.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner said that she found the presentation last week extraordinary helpful and she appreciated the context very much. She asked about the homeowner who rejected the easement and asked if they were to change their mind down the line, would this be a project that could be built upon in ways that would achieve other flooding reduction goals if there

were a change in surrounding circumstances or are they locked into this is the improvement and it is the best that could be done right now and that is what it is going to be.

Ms. Valadares answered that the easement was supposed to happen upstream of the project so it would be very easy to add it on even if the property owner changes a few years from now and someone approaches them about this, it would be easy to accommodate and add that pipe to benefit another neighborhood. She said they have already left some provisions on the design in case it should happen in the future.

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

- 10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE WOODARD & CURRAN AGREEMENT DATED AUGUST 12, 2019, TO PROVIDE CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH “DREAMY HOLLOW/BETTS BROOK AREA – DRAINAGE, SANITARY SEWER, & WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS” CONSTRUCTION PROJECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOPE OF SERVICES TASK ORDER 1F DATED DECEMBER 01, 2021 (COPY OF INCLUDED) FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$291,400.00.**

ACCOUNT NO.	09 19 4027 5777 C0425
	09 21 4021 5777 C0440
	09 22 4021 5777 C0440
	09 18 4062 5777 C0361
	09 19 4062 5777 C0361
	09 20 4062 5777 C0361
	09 22 4062 5777 C0361

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this is for the construction administration services from Woodard and Curran who is the engineering record for the Dreamy Hollow Betts Brook Drainage, Sanitary Sewer and Water Main Improvements to provide professional services typically administered by the consultant that help the owner, in this case the City of Norwalk, administer their contract so they attend the pre-construction meeting, review shop drawings, review any questions that the contractors have during construction and provide technical assistance and support to the City. If there is an unforeseen condition encountered in the field whether it's contaminated material or rock in an area they are using, the engineer would take the information, analyze it and consult and collaborate with the City to determine if a design change or field change should be made in the field. He said that could include rerouting the pipes, chipping rock or doing more exploratory testing. The Consultant with their expertise reviews the project in totality and decides what the best path would be for the City. They are basically a technical advisor throughout the process. They attend bi-weekly meetings. He said in the beginning of the project they will have more frequent project meetings and once the contractors get a good flow of the work and there is a comfort level from the City and from the consultant then those meetings will decrease unless there is a major issue in the field or there is an issue with the contractor then they will meet accordingly. Mr. Carr said at the end of the project, the consultant will prepare as-built drawings or record drawings. They basically take the design plan and compares it to what is being built in the field and document any everything that is happening so the drawings are

accurate. The City takes that into record and import it to GIS, so they know what is there and what is not. The Consultant also attends a project closeout meeting so they can develop a punch list from that exercise, they will walk around with the City and look at what the contractor has left and prepares a list. They also review payment applications; the City will approve and process them. He said this is not a full-time oversight meaning there will not be someone from Woodard and Curran standing out there eight (8) hours a day. He said that Woodard and Curran and his staff are very diligent about coming up with a budget and level of effort that they can yield the greatest benefit for the project but still reduce capital costs. He said they did a fantastic job.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

11. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO UNITED CONCRETE PRODUCTS INC. FOR THE PRE-CAST BOX CULVERT FOR THE ROWAYTON AVE OVER KEELERS BROOK BRIDGE AS A SOLE SOURCE REQUEST FOR THE AMOUNT OF \$244,130.00 (PROPOSAL) PLUS \$24,413.00 (10% CONTINGENCY).

ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0315

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this sole source procurement request is to allow the City to purchase the new pre-cast concrete box culvert from the manufacturer directly. This would replace the existing that partially failed bridge that is currently over Keeler's Brook and that bridge is a combination between an existing stone masonry bridge and a 72-inch corrugated metal pipe. That bridge has been there since the early 1900s and around the 1960s there was a refurbished pipe. He said as a result of Tropical Storm Ida and Elsa continued the deterioration of the bridge. In July of 2021, they received calls from customer service that there was a partial failure of the bridge deck. The bridge deck uses the asphalt surface over the existing masonry culvert and metal pipe that is visible on each end of the Brook. Public Works deemed it unsafe for any vehicular traffic and contacted the bridge consultant Freeman Companies, LLC. It was recommended full closure of the bridge; the Mayor supported that closure and also the Traffic Authority. They have been working with Freeman Companies, LLC to develop design plans for the rehabilitation of the bridge. DPW coordinated with their engineering consultant to prepare an 80% design completion as well as coordinating with the vendor, United Concrete. He detailed all the committees and/or commissions that they have coordinated with on this project. They have also coordinated with Army Corps and DEEP. Although they want to order the culverts prior to receiving the permits, they understand it is a gamble but by ordering now it will reduce the delivery time or the fabrication time which is about 45 to 60 days. If they buy directly from United Concrete, they will be saving about 20% of the cost. He said this work is an emergency in nature. They are trying to avoid any negative impacts from the bridge and if the bridge does collapse into Keeler's Brook, it could exacerbate funny conditions upstream and they don't want to make a problem worse. If they do not order the box culverts, the contractor will put a 20% overhead and profit marker on the culvert.

Ms. Valadares added that they really want to reopen the bridge as soon as possible. They understand that it is really been an inconvenience for everyone. She said they are trying to expedite this project, so they are moving a lot of pieces at the same time. The first thing they

have to do is the permit which they have no control over, but they are having the conversation and sending all the designs to them. Based on the design they have, they decided to create a purchase order with United Concrete so they can order the culverts. She said they really believe that there will not be major changes coming from DEEP in regard to size of culverts, they have checked the hydraulics many times and she believes they will be fine. That is the reason they are adding 10% to the purchase order when they usually don't do for that type of purchase. She said they usually add 10% to project into construction not when they buy materials but the fact that they know they do not have it totally permitted yet and in case they are required to make any changes to the culvert, they have the funds and will not need to come back to committee. She anticipates the work being done by April.

Mr. Livingston thanked them for staying on top of this project. He said he appreciates all the steps they have taken.

Ms. Shanahan asked if they could talk more about the hydraulics and possible flooding impacts downstream.

Ms. Valadares said that they are not changing the size of the culvert. They are sending exactly that to DEEP. They surveyed the existing culvert and calculated the flow and sending that information to DEEP. She said they do not want to make any difference or impact downstream. She said they are not improving it and she understands that there is flooding upstream of the bridge because this bridge will not add more capacity downstream. They are keeping it the way it is today.

Mr. Carr added that is what is called an in-kind improvement. However, there is one (1) improvement the neighbors would like and that is to receive the concrete box and it will have a stone veneer type of look to it. He said it is basically a template the concrete manufacture puts over the wet concrete to make it look like stone. The road will be paved up and around the bridge. There are a few things that will get improved around the bridge.

Ms. Valadares added that they will also pave the street that is currently being used as a detour.

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

12a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AND AGREEMENT (SOLE SOURCE) WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PROJECT BR2021-1 ROWAYTON AVENUE OVER KEELERS BROOK BRIDGE FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$679,407.00.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 06 4021 5777 C0315
 09 21 4021 5777 C0315
 09 22 4021 5777 C0315**

12b. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PROJECT BR2021-1 ROWAYTON AVENUE OVER KEELERS BROOK BRIDGE FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$135,882.00.

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said this item is in conjunction with Item 11. Eleven was for the material procurement for the contract and Item 12a and 12b, 12b is for the change orders and 12a is for the contractor for the project. Three (3) contractors were solicited, two (2) provided quotes and the lowest quote is what before the Committee, the third couldn't provide due to timing and resources. They have worked with FGB in the past and they are a well-known qualified bridge contractor, and they have nothing negative to say. He said what this sole source procurement or non-competitive bidding allows them to reduce the need for public works departments to go through a formal competitive bidding process. He said that it reduces project duration and schedule. Having a sole source contract directly with the contractor will reduce the construction time and it saves in project costs as well. He said that if they were not able to receive a sole source waiver, that would likely push the schedule out to Fall of 2022. He said it also saves on project costs in the five (5) to 10% range not just from being the lowest bidder but also because the contractor provided feedback upfront. He explained the process.

Ms. Valadares said they had received all three (3) quotes, PJF ended up submitting at the last minute. She said FGB just finished a couple of bridges in nearby towns. She has spoken to an engineer from one (1) of those towns and they only had nice things to say. FGB is local and their yard is a few blocks from the bridge. She informed the Committee that 12b is requesting a 20% contingency on the project as opposed to the normal 10%. They are asking for 20% because she does not have a full design yet and it is still part of the unknown. She said there are a few things that they would have to work on particularly related to utilities that may need to be replaced or moved.

Chairwoman Smyth said that she appreciates, and she is sure the residents appreciate the focus on getting this done quickly, efficiently, in the interest of the public welfare and doing it in this manner to design to build and saving money. She said it is really incredible and she thanked them.

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

Ms. Valadares asked Chairwoman Smyth permission to introduce the three (3) senior engineers to the new committee members. She introduced Paul Sotnik, Drew Berndlmaier and Daniel Stanton. She said they are the ones that take care of most of the work that you see. She said that eleven out of the twelve items they have on the agenda, happens because of their hard work. They are very close involved in all the projects on a daily basis.

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. DISCUSSION

1. PROJECT STATUS

a. SEDIMENT REMOVAL CONTRACT UPDATE

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She said they are about to finish as they have finally received the material. They need to have some piles to a culvert under a driveway which was approved a

few months ago in a change order. The driveway will be paved tomorrow and finish up some work on the end wall. She said they ordered a few more pipes and they are upgrading the pipes in the next parcel, and it should start next week. It should be completed by the end of December.

b. CURBS, SIDEWALKS AND PAVING

Ms. Valadares reported on this. The plants will close on December 17, 2021. There hasn't been much done in the past few weeks. They are not doing any new paving right now. She said they have been completing punch list items. North Taylor still has punch list items to be completed before the end of the year. They have one (1) crew on Center Avenue Extension working on the curbs and sidewalks. Weather permitting, they will be there for another week and a half. There needs to be certain temperatures so they can put down the concrete, after that they will pause then restart everything in the Spring. She said the goal is to provide the Committee with a summary of the metrics of what they were able to complete this past calendar year by the next meeting in January.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked her and said that a lot of them have noticed the improvements of the curbs and sidewalks around town. She said it is really great to see, well done. It makes our City more walkable.

B. TREE OPERATIONS REPORT AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Carr Reported on this. He said the Tree Operations Report is generated by the Superintendent of Operations. This report encompasses any tree removal or maintenance that they have performed on public property, i.e., beaches, city schools and parcels and work with the right of way. The report shows what trees they have maintained, removed and why, it gives location, tree health and other attributes that help the operations division determine if a healthy tree should stay or if the tree is in danger or presents danger to anyone in the right-of-way. He said he would circulate the tree plantings list to the Committee. The tree plantings list is typically completed in the Spring and Fall. He said he could report those numbers now and then circulate the charts that show the exact locations the trees were planted. 26 trees were planted in Spring 2021. 72 out of 75 trees ordered have been planted for in the Fall 2021. They have planted 98 trees out of 101 trees. The other three (3) trees were not planted because the species was not available. He said they are very pleased to announce that they have planted 98 trees. That number does not include the 18 trees plantings that they worked in conjunction with TMP.

Mr. Sotnik said that the 18 trees were planted on Wilton Avenue. TMP had done some work to located those and they ordered, staked and planted through the Almstead Tree Contract. He said they received requests and placed orders for 75 trees. They planted 72 of the trees and the three (3) due to supply so they will be carried over to Spring 2022. He said the best planting cycle they had was Fall of 2021. He gave the Committee some background of the tree planting.

Mr. Livingston asked if that included the Recreations and Parks plantings.

Mr. Sotnik answered no, those are separate.

Mr. Livingston asked how many trees they have lost on City property.

Mr. Torre said they have lost 21 removals, pruned 12 trees and completed 50 tree inspections.

Mr. Sotnik said they have carried over from the remaining budget they have to go through to June 30th. He said they have approximately \$20,000 remaining and have orders for over 40 trees.

Ms. Valadares stated that they have doubled their capital request for next year as well. She said they usually get \$65,000 and they are asking for \$165,000 for this fiscal year.

Mr. Livingston said there is also money set aside for that and they should request it.

Ms. Valadares said because it is part of engineering capital request that funds the tree planting, they increased the request. She asked Mr. Sotnik to confirm the final number.

Mr. Sotnik responded that he believes \$165,000 is the final number including the number for the studies that would have to be completed as well.

Ms. Johnson thanked the staff for all the information they have been giving them especially for the new committee members. She said that she has been speaking with some of the taxing district commissioners and wanted to know if there was some kind of interfacing with them about tree plantings.

Mr. Sotnik responded and said that the Tree Alliance is asking for grants from the Third Taxing District and have been receiving \$2,000 for the past several years and they are procuring trees in areas, and they have been coordinating together. He said he is also a Board Member of the Tree Alliance. Mr. Sotnik said that what they can't get to, the Tree Alliance is actually trying to do themselves. They have also received \$2,000 grants from the Sixth Taxing District to do tree plantings through the Tree Alliance. He said those are lotteries where people will apply for them and chose approximately 20 to 30 people and the locations and go from there. If the location works, they will plant the tree accordingly.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked for an overview of the priority areas in terms of tree planting and the selection process that has been used and guide the number of requests. She said that it is great news about the number of trees planted and intended.

Mr. Sotnik said that one (1) of the things that they have been trying to get more trees in South Norwalk where there has been a large number of impervious surfaces and not nearly as many trees and that is the first area they are looking at. They were able to get some trees over on 15 Madison along the perimeter. They are going to try to get the trees needed in South Norwalk first then they will look at projects where they can do larger plantings were there can be an impact in an area rather than do a one (1) off here or there as well as other requests that come in. They try to coordinate with other projects. He said they are

looking at putting 11 trees in on Elmwood Avenue in the Spring depending upon the construction schedule. There are a variety of factors. He said in areas that they know need trees will be the first areas they target.

C. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT –SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2021

Mr. Carr Reported on this. He explained how to read the report to the new Committee Members. He said the reports have the recycling tonnage of what is coming in and coming out and garbage collection tonnage what's coming in what's coming out, shows revenues because they do receive a revenue for recycling \$17.50 a ton. He said the MSW collection or garbage, and recycling is collected through City Carting which is a third-party vendor. The operation of the City's Transfer Station on Crescent Street is owned by the City but operated by City Carting. He said there are three (3) City Carting contracts, one (1) for operation of the transfer station, one (1) for the disposal of recycling and one (1) for the collection disposal of garbage (MSW). He said they are still higher in numbers in recycling then they were in the past and that is contributed to the workforce that are probably working from home. It is not impacting the budget, but it is noteworthy to show the difference between recycling and the garbage. He said it shows that they are returning to the pre-pandemic numbers but are not quite there yet. It is still too early to tell because they are still in the pandemic, but they trend every month and watch for abnormalities. If there are big fluctuations that is something they need to consider in their operating budget.

Ms. Young asked where does illegal dumping fall into the report or do you just report it.

Mr. Carr responded if the illegal dumping was collected by Public Works, that would be included in their tonnage. That would be included in the MSW not the curbside tonnage number. He said they do not have a breakdown of illegal dumping. He said it may be in operations but not on this report.

Ms. Young asked if they could share that information at some point. She said she is not sure if he is aware but in the last six (6) months she has reported a good six (6) incidents and has become a chronic issue. She said they will dump and when it is picked up, they will dump again. She said it is taxing on their department and on their resources to have their people continue to pick up this stuff.

Mr. Carr said he would work with Mr. Torre to track the number of illegal dumping if it is feasible.

Ms. Young said or just finding trends in areas where there is an issue.

Mr. Torre said that they could provide a list of areas for every illegal dumping. He said a lot of them happen to be in South Norwalk. He said he doesn't know the tonnage, but he can certainly give her the locations and the frequency at those locations because they do track that information. He said they have taken the initiative to put up signs and cameras. Mr. Dave Shockley put up bear cameras on Sheehan Ave/Grey Rock and the police department caught four (4) people that were cited for illegal dumping. He said funding for cameras and things like that would be huge in helping curb some of the illegal dumping.

Ms. Young thanked him and said stronger code enforcement guidelines could help. She said she mentioned it to Mr. Livingston, Ms. Smyth and Ms. Shanahan and she thinks that is something that needs to be addressed because it is wearing on their resources.

Mr. Carr mentioned Sunset Hill Avenue where there has been a lot of calls and other places as well. He said they track their work in City Works which is their workflow management system and their software. He mentioned under the recycling report, the curbside tonnage is down 11% and what people bring in is down by 26%.

Mr. Torre said that the market for recycling isn't there right now and people are just throwing recycling out.

Chairwoman Smyth asked if they have had cameras budgeted in the past and is that something you could budget for in the upcoming budget season.

Mr. Torre said there were talk of cameras, but he isn't sure what department was to take the lead whether it be the Police Department, DPW or David Shockley.

Chairwoman Smyth suggested that be something they investigate.

D. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT

Mr. Carr Reported on this. He gave a brief background for the new Committee Members. He said currently they have taken about 60 tons of food scraps out of the waste stream and put into food composting. The split is two thirds of the food compost pickup or tonnage collected is from the Rowayton Community Center versus one third at the Norwalk Transfer Station. They would like to add a third location. Based on input from the Council, Mayor's Office and DPW Operations, the third location would most likely be at Cranberry Park. They applied for two (2) grants in October. Mr. Torre and Ms. Paladino worked with the Mayor's Office to apply for Recycle CT grant but did not receive that and they applied for the Compost CT grant and did not receive that as well. He said they did put money into the operation budget under the operations division just in case they did not receive the grants.

E. EXECUTIVE SESSION – NEW CANAAN/PONUS AVENUE

Mr. Livingston made a motion to enter into executive session. All were in favor. The Committee entered into executive session at 8:50p.m.

At 10:09p.m., the Committee returned from executive session. Chairwoman Smyth stated no votes were casted or taken and that it was strictly informational. All Committee Members returned from Executive Session.

**ADJOURNMENT MS. SHANAHAN MOTIONED TO ADJOURN
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 10:10P.M.**

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2022
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD**