

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 4, 2022**

**ATTENDANCE:** Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; Tom Keegan; Tom Livingston; Lisa Shanahan; Dominique Johnson; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Darlene Young (7:04pm)

**STAFF:** Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Jessica Paladino, Waste Programs Manager

**OTHER:** Terra Hix, Helpsy; Lisa Sciannella, Helpsy; Samuel Berg, Eversource; Cathy Lezon, Eversource; Diane Revolous, Common Council Member; Diane Lauricella

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. A quorum was present.

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Chairwoman Smyth called to order the public works committee meeting on Tuesday, January 4, 2022. She stated that the meeting is being done by video conference. She announced all the committee members by name. 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.)**

Diane Lauricella began by wishing everyone and the Committee a Happy New Year. She thanked Chairwoman Smyth and said she looks forward to working with her in the coming months. She said with great interest, she read the December minutes and she has a few questions. Ms. Lauricella said that she knows a lot of wonderful work is being done with the sediment removal and flood control and would like to know if green infrastructure has been incorporated, implemented, or designed into the Dreamy Hollow Program or the Betts Brook Project. She said she asked about this months ago and the green infrastructure phase is becoming popular. She hopes that they can talk about some ideas for discussion items and understanding what green infrastructure is and is not. Her second question is about City Carting. She said City Carting was purchased by Wind Waste and wants to know the status of their contract. She would like to know where she can get a copy of the old City Carting Contract and the Wind Waste Contract. She said several years ago she requested that they look at seeing whether it should be brought out to bid. She said City Carting received their recycling contract as a no-bid contract in mid 2015 or so. She said she is a waste management professional, and she has ideas on how they can improve and reduce their waste streams. She thanked the committee and said she looks forward to hearing the rest of the meeting.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked Ms. Lauricella. There were no other public participants and public input was closed at 7:08p.m.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021.**

There was no report on this item.

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

### **2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT WITH PRIORITY LANDSCAPING, LLC TO PROJECT DPW2019-1, REMOVAL & DISPOSAL OF DEPOSITED SEDIMENT WITHIN THE WATERCOURSE, CONTRACT DATED NOVEMBER 22, 2019, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$80,000.00.**

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

Mr. Carr reported on this. He asked Mr. Berndlmaier to share his screen. Once the screen was shared, Mr. Carr began to explain the need for the second amendment. He said initially, this contract was for the dredging and cleaning of the Kellee Drive Watercourse. There were originally five (5) locations where they would perform watercourse maintenance. They have dredged and basically removed sediment to restore hydraulic capacity or area of flow in five (5) locations, Kellee Drive, Hunter's Lane, Lloyd Road, June Court and Friendly Road. The sediment removal for the Kellee Drive Area is not completed. He said while they were working on Kellee Drive, they have received complaints from Tropical Storm Ida and Elsa and their stormwater flooding database. The houses of 14 and 16 have been plagued in the past from flooding. Water was entering the front of 14 Kellee Drive then entering the basement, 16 experiences flooding but it is more of a land mass flooding and not so much in the structure. He showed them the upside L shape on the map which he said is an easement that the City has currently for drainage and a storm sewer network that comes off Kellee Drive from catch basins and there were two (2) existing six (6) inch pipes that went from the cul-de-sac on Kellee Drive South then to eventually discharge to the watercourse. He said that watercourse and that wetland area would flow by gravity to another water tributary. He explained the direction of the flow to the Committee. 264 West Cedar Road had a culvert that accepted upstream drainage from the two (2) six-inch pipes and an existing 10-inch pipe that came off Cedar going from South to the North. He said that those three (3) pipes, discharged stormwater runoff from both West Cedar Street and Kellee Drive into this wetland marsh flat area that would eventually by gravity reach the open watercourse that they performed dredging and sediment removal then eventually it was piped out and went to another watercourse. He showed them on the map the path to the drainage.

Mr. Berndlmaier added that those pipes were all buried, and they had found them completely under dirt. He said for Kellee Drive to drain, that water was backing up and then going into the driveway of 14 Kellee Drive because it had nowhere to go. He explained where the pipes were located.

Mr. Carr said during the watercourse maintenance they realized there was an issue, and they were all interconnected. Initially they went in there to restore the watercourse and open capacity and clean out sediment then they realized the pipe that goes underneath 264 West Cedar takes and accepts upstream drainage from those two (2) six-inches and the one ten-inch pipe which comes from Kellee Drive and West Cedar Street. He said they have a flooding stormwater database, so they knew Kellee Drive was an area of concern. He presented that map at the flood mitigation project seminar several weeks ago. He said the Kellee Drive Flood Mitigation Project is this project. He said while they were doing the watercourse maintenance, they met with conservation and amended their permit to not only include the originally scoped project to clean the watercourse but to also reset that culvert that travels underneath 264 West Cedar driveway because the culvert was too high so they had to lower that pipe so that all the other storm water runoff upstream from Kellee Drive coming from those two (2) six-inch pipes and then the one (1) 10-inch pipe from West Cedar can be accurate and adequately conveyed underneath the driveway and avoid backups upstream and over time the flooding and the ponding in that area, prior to their resolution, has accumulated silt, debris and sediment to where those pipes were buried. He said they amended their permit, received conservation approval to expand the scope for the project because they thought it would be a perfect time since they are in the area, and they could

mobilize the contractor's there so there is efficiencies and cost reductions while solving one (1) of the major drainage issues that they have had in that area. He said this has been on the books for a long time and it is not a very large scope project but still very important nonetheless and something they can easily tackle. He said the two (2) six-inch pipes were upgraded to one (1) 15-inch pipe and they installed a new drainage manhole to make the turn, he explained where. He said they also exposed the 10-inch pipe and removed a lot of the silt and debris. He said they regraded that area as well. It was regraded so the water can flow positively from where the pipes discharge to that 24-inch culvert underneath 264 West Cedar. He said it is a 24-inch reinforced concrete pipe and that pipe was not upgraded or changed, they only reset it and made it lower so the water on the upstream of the driveway can get under. He said this is where the bulk of the cost was incurred. He said once they reset the pipe, they learned that the soil was unstable and very soft. Engineering worked with the Contractor to devise a solution which entailed pilings with caps being placed at certain foot intervals underneath the pipe to serve as a support so the pipe will not sink into the soil. They installed additional supports which was an unforeseen field condition which accounts for more than 75 percent of the additionally requested funds for this contract. The \$80,000 value should be \$110,000 and the reason for that is the Contractor did not include \$30,000 for work previously performed under a prior pay requisition so the initial request was \$80,000 and they are respectfully requesting that amount be amended to \$110,000. 75% of the cost is derived and results from the additional supports needed for that reinforced concrete pipe going across 264 West Cedar. He pointed out the easement area off Kellee Drive and said that is where they could put the pipe then he brought the Committee's attention to the blue lines where the pipes were before. They changed the alignment of the pipe so that it sits within fully the City Storm Sewer Easement, and it discharges down the flat wetland area then goes under the driveway and eventually to another watercourse and then under West Cedar Street. He said it made a significant impact and for two (2) or three (3) homes, that would be a benefit. That is one (1) of the projects identified as an ARPA Project but was resolved with the existing capital funding.

Chairwoman Smyth asked Mr. Carr to clarify the difference in amounts with the backup materials and what is being requested.

Mr. Carr said that the \$80,000 does not match the \$67,000 on backup materials because they built in a contingency in the event that since this work is not done yet there's still a little bit of the work that needs to get done which is basically repair the existing retaining walls on each side of the driveway, regrading and topsoil. The work is not finished yet, but they had to start it because when they opened the driveway and realized the site conditions and the soft soil and with the culvert and the two (2) six-inch pipes that they upgraded, they wanted to get the work done before the Winter. The Contractor submitted for \$67,000 but forgot to include \$30,000 for work that was performed prior to this. Mr. Carr said that they also included a contingency in the event there was any other unforeseen conditions, and it will be in the backup for the Common Council.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner thanked Mr. Carr for the explanation. She asked what happens to the sediment after dredging.

Mr. Carr responded that the sediment is hauled off-site. He said for this contract the sediment will be taken and disposed of through one (1) of the contracts they have with another vendor.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner referred to Ms. Lauricella's question and asked Mr. Carr to speak a little about overall how things work in terms of water management, what aspects they were able to build in or not to kind of prepare for the future of water management. She would like to know where a project like this might fit into the overall water management scheme that they are working on.

Mr. Carr said there are two (2) components in the project. The piping network that was undersized and the watercourse component. He said the stormwater goes into the catch basin the catch basin is connected to the pipe. The end of a pipe always discharges to an open watercourse and all watercourses are connected. He said the project has pipes that were undersized, and they realized that a lot of the problem was at 14 and 16 Kellee Drive, what they were experiencing wasn't in front of their house. He said the two (2) six-inch pipes were undersized but then that water would pond at the bottom behind 14 and 16 to the Southeast down to the right in the flat kind of wetland marsh area because the pipe going on the 264 West Cedar was too high. He said this is a pipe configuration issue blended with topography and with the addition of an undersized pipe.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if the watercourse that they are feeding into that crosses West Cedar is large enough to handle additional water.

Mr. Carr answered up to certain storms. He said a lot of those watercourses unfortunately are constricted based on their geometry and that is the cross-sectional area where water flows along the sides and the bottom. A closed drainage system is more like a piping system so when someone says an open water course that is what you see, a brook or a stream. He said there were no issues in the past and unfortunately the issues have accumulated over time with sediment and moves silt and it buried three (3) pipes that were once exposed. It stopped working but now it is working properly. He said there will not be any additional water, they are not redirecting an old pipe and putting in a new pipe somewhere that it didn't exist or drain to before. It is still the same drainage area, they just made it more efficient. He said the water will travel faster. He said they are just restoring it back to its existing hydraulics.

Mr. Berndlmaier added that they have permits through Army Corps of Engineers and DEEP and Conservation. They received those permits because a lot of the watercourse restoration was also to improve the habitat for the local fish. He said he couldn't believe that there were actual fish in so many streams he looked at. By removing the sediment, they created a lot of pools and had to place woody debris in certain spots. They had an environmental specialist working with them and their contractor to help them set up an environment for the fish. He said it really was a restoration of the environment but ended up helping the City's storm system because those watercourses were clogged with all the sediment and debris that built over years and years. Mr. Berndlmaier said that during his tenure of 25 years there had not been a project like that. He said they removed a lot of material, and they were able to restore a lot of open watercourses.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner thanked them.

Mr. Keegan asked Mr. Carr about the homeowners he mentioned that would be directly affected by this improvement, he said isn't it safe to say that others drainage will be improved as well.

Mr. Carr responded there are two (2) or three (3) homes in the immediate area that will receive the betterment from this. They are improving the City's storm sewer network. He said it is not a connected network as those pipes are disconnected so they outfall and discharge to a watercourse. This ultimately improves the hydraulic efficiency to the watershed and will certainly mitigate any potential flooding from the neighbors who were not being impacted by the storms they are experiencing now. He said if they continue to get severe storms back-to-back and the ground is saturated that increases the chance for pooling and ponding and flooding. He said an upstream neighborhood could benefit from those improvements. There are more than three (3) homes that will benefit but the immediate betterment is the two (2) to three (3) homes.

Councilwoman Smyth asked for a motion to make an amendment to change the amount from \$80,000 to \$110,000 partially due to a clerical error on the part of Priority Landscape and to include contingency.

**\*\*MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE AMENDMENT  
\*\*AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO C.N. WOOD ENVIRO, LLC. FOR A TRACKLESS BOOM FLAIL MOWER ATTACHMENT FOR THE TRACKLESS MT TRACTOR, PRICING NOT TO EXCEED \$28,000.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 22 4031 5777 CO313**

Mr. Carr described the tractor to the Committee and why it is useful. The tractor can reach areas his staff cannot.

Ms. Johnson asked if the trackless system is something they can go electric on.

Mr. Carr said the tractor is diesel gasoline and then referred this to Mr. Torre.

Mr. Torre said they have four (4) trackless machines, two (2) from Parks and Rec and two (2) from DPW. One (1) of their tractors have the boom arm. He said a tractor with the boom arm costs approximately \$150,000 but the boom attachment is only \$28,000 and it can do the work of three (3) people for a week in one (1) day. He said it has a 17-foot reach. Electric isn't feasible for the type of work they do as they would be recharging the battery too often.

Mr. Carr said they are looking into specialty items and appliances to make electric such as they have 11 of their carpools, two (2) plugin electric hybrids, the other nine (9) being traditional hybrid gasoline engine combustion combinations. He explained why electric doesn't work on bigger machines such as snowplows.

Mr. Torre gave the Committee examples of what it can do and why electric doesn't work for bigger items. He said they are always looking for electric appliances and they use some electric appliances for some jobs.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about the emission standards for heavy equipment. She wanted to know if there were anything they can do in terms of retrofitting or ways to protect the employees from the bigger equipment.

Mr. Torre said that all the heavy-duty trucks that they purchase have computers and are emission friendly. He said they will shut themselves off and regenerate when it realizes it is putting out more carbon into the environment than wanted. He said at times they would drive the truck just to clear them out because if they don't, the computer in the truck will shut off until it regenerates enough where it is burning cleaner.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner thanked Mr. Carr and Mr. Torre.

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

## **INFORMATION / DISCUSSION**

### **A. PRESENTATION BY HELPSY – CURBSIDE TEXTILE COLLECTION**

Mr. Carr gave a brief explanation about the reduction in the waste stream. He said they were really impressed by Helpsy. He said the objective is to begin a curbside textile pilot program. He turned the floor over to Helpsy. Terra Hix introduced Lisa Sciannella and herself from Helpsy. She shared her screen and began the presentation (attached). After the presentation, Ms. Hix opened the floor for questions.

Mr. Livingston asked how their program makes money.

Ms. Sciannella answered there are a few ways they make money. She said they are for profit business. Depending on the condition of the clothing, they resell what they can. They sometimes receive high end clothing with tags that could be resold. They have a sorting facility that goes through the clothing and basically photographs the items for resell on an online thrift store.

Mr. Livingston asked how often they make home pickups.

Ms. Sciannella said they would start one (1) day a week and determine the demand. She said the beginning could be slow so they would start with one (1) day a week with 30 to 40 pickups in that day and they would monitor it. If their slots are filling up quickly then

they will add a second day or a second driver on the same day. She said they want their program to be as convenient as possible for the residents.

Mr. Livingston asked if they have a marketing program, they can share with the City on how to get the word out.

Ms. Sciannella responded absolutely. They have a standard media kit that includes press release template that can be modified, digital content that can be posted on social media, or any social media outlet that someone may have. She said they can help with that.

Mr. Livingston asked if they are working with any other communities in the area.

Ms. Sciannella said they are in Stamford, Connecticut. The other places are Massachusetts, New York, and New Hampshire.

Mr. Livingston asked when they can start.

Ms. Sciannella said once they have a signed agreement the lead time is four (4) to six (6) weeks which allows for the promotion of the program so residents can learn about it before starting.

Ms. Young asked if they were any other places in Connecticut besides Stamford.

Ms. Sciannella responded the only place in Connecticut right now is Stamford. She said they work in 10 communities in Massachusetts including Cambridge and the City of Boston.

Ms. Young said what is the threshold for it not making good business sense for help.

Ms. Sciannella asked if she was asking if there was a minimum number that they would service and responded hypothetically in the beginning if it's slow and only 10 people sign up are they going to service them, and the answer is yes. She said they make that make sense for them by having quite a few bin locations so if it's a day where they only have five (5) pickups in Norwalk then their dispatching team would route it so that they pick up those houses and other locations to make a full route. She said the sign up cuts off for example, if they agreed on Wednesday, the residents would not be able to sign up on Tuesday for the next night because the lead time is about two (2) days so if they were looking at Wednesday and the day is Tuesday, they would be looking at the following week. The reason for the lead time is so they can make operation decisions.

Ms. Young asked about the bin program and if they find strategic places on City property where those bins are placed and asked how that works.

Ms. Sciannella said that they have done that in the City of Boston and Cambridge successfully. She said they would identify municipal properties that could host bins and some of those places could be parks or DPW's transfer station, public housing and or

parking lots. Anywhere where there is high traffic and is visible would be convenient for people on their way to work or home.

Chairwoman Smyth said they could be right beside the food scrap bins.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if there were a minimum number of bins the City would be committing to hosting.

Ms. Sciannella said it is all at their option. She said a draft agreement was sent to Mr. Carr and it was written in a way that the City can choose to execute any of the programs, home pickups, bins, or any other combination thereof. She said some municipalities will choose to start with home pickups and then add on the rest. She said there is no minimum number, but she thinks that adding it next to the food scrap sounds great.

Ms. Shanahan said she has a concern that people may not put appropriate things in the bins and wanted to know if there is a charge back to the City. She asked how they would handle things like that.

Ms. Sciannella said unfortunately people do leave things that are not textiles sometimes with good intentions however if it causes any kind of overflow or unsightliness, they have a 24-hour hotline and they would respond within 24 hours to get that cleaned up with no charge to the City.

Mr. Carr said he wants to clarify something in the contract, they currently have a vendor that supplies bins for textile recovery and recycling and since there are several companies that would provide that service, the City would have to go to an RFP for that part of the contract. Since there are other vendors that compete against Helpsy, they couldn't just issue that as part of their contract without a proper RFP process. He said Mr. Torre, Ms. Paladino and himself spoke with the Law Department and the Purchasing Department about that and this is strictly only for curbside pickup. He said they have bins now and the vendor currently supply bins at the Norwalk Transfer Station.

Ms. Paladino said the supplier's name is Used Again. She said they collect the bins on a weekly basis.

Ms. Sciannella thanked them for the clarification. She said the contract would only include home pickups and later down the road if things wanted to be added they absolutely could.

Mr. Carr asked Ms. Sciannella to speak about coordinating especially if the pilot program expands and is very successful, that the more drivers Helpsy has would be coordinated with their sanitation schedules with their third-party vendor.

Ms. Sciannella responded absolutely. She said that is always part of their goal to work with the municipality to the day that they offer. She said they would pick a day that makes sense that is going to eliminate or reduce cross contamination and confusion with other curbside programs going on such as trash and recycling. She said they wouldn't want to be the same day as recycling or trash because residents would leave stuff outside and then it's

confusing. Part of the kickoff process is they look at the zip codes so when they sign up, they put their name address and zip codes and that is what populates the days of the week that drop down from the menu. She gave an example from Boston. Boston's trash and recycling schedule is every day at some section and there is no way to say this half is going to be Tuesday, this half is going to be Thursday, so they do Saturday and Sundays for them, so they won't interfere at all with any of their existing programs. That would be part of what they coordinate.

Mr. Carr said that Operations Division would update the website to include the program and give a narrative about what Helpsy does and provide a link to their website describing their mission, services and what exactly textile recycling is.

Ms. Sciannella said that would be part of that media kit she alluded to earlier. She said they could put out a blurb, copy and paste to the City's website with a link to scheduling, a video, those types of things.

Mr. Livingston said he is concerned about putting the items in plastic bags. He doesn't like that as they were one (1) of the first municipalities to get rid of plastic in their stores and to encourage people to use it even for a good purpose kind of rubs him the wrong way. He asked if there was another way to look at this.

Ms. Sciannella said that some of their competitors require residents to purchase specific bags for home pickups. She said they are hoping residents use bags that they already have. She said the plastic bags would keep the items dry and that is their goal. They also have people that put things in amazon boxes or paper bags, and it is a shame if things get wet due to weather and the clothes are ruined and then they are not usable and would have to be discarded. She suggests reusing bags that are already out there.

Mr. Livingston added or other containers.

Ms. Sciannella said they have a special instruction section on the scheduling website. Sometimes people don't want to leave their stuff outside or don't have a porch or what have you so there is a section where they could leave a blurb like call me when you get here so they could bring the clothes out. She said their drivers are trained so if they can't find the bag, they call the person. She said they have a high success rate, 85% of pickups are done successfully.

Mr. Livingston said he doesn't want the City to encourage the use of plastic bags.

Ms. Sciannella likes to think of it as keeping the clothes dry so they can collect them. She said there are plenty of plastic bags out there and they certainly don't want to create more and just reuse what they already have.

Chairwoman Smyth asked what they do with the plastic bags that they receive the clothes in.

Ms. Sciannella said it depends on the condition of the clothes. When the clothes get to their sorting facility, the clothing is sorted and the bags are opened, set aside, and recycled through their warehouse. She said all their cardboard and plastics they use are recycled but she is unsure of the details of who does it.

Chairwoman Smyth said this is a great idea and much needed.

Mr. Carr asked about the revenue. He asked if it was two cents or ten cents a pound.

Ms. Sciannella said it is two cents a pound, \$40 a ton.

Mr. Carr said just for reference they pay \$95 a ton to have their msw disposed and hauled away from the City of Norwalk.

Ms. Sciannella said they like to think of the value is the two cents a pound but also tipping fees. She said if they can divert things from the landfills that would be saving the City from some of those costs.

Ms. Shanahan asked if they have a sense of how much they are disposing of clothing and what the savings could be in their tipping.

Ms. Sciannella said the average person discards 100 pounds of textiles per year. 85% ends up in the landfill and 15% ends up in a bin or a goodwill/thrift store. She said they think of a landfill as their competition, so they like to set a goal of seven pounds per person is what they aim to collect. She said based on the population that would be the math that they would do as their goal for the first year at seven pounds. The goal of seven pounds includes more than one (1) collection model like the home pickups or later on the bins or clothing drives and that type of thing.

Mr. Carr asked if Ms. Sciannella would be managing the app. He said they are not looking to create extra work for customer service or themselves. They spoke with Stamford who spoke very highly of Helpsy. They want it to be a program where they will have broad oversight and deal with issues as they come about but they don't want public works or customer service to get inundated with calls. He asked her to explain how she would manage and oversee the program and what the interfaces between Helpsy, City of Norwalk and the residents.

Ms. Sciannella said all the scheduling is done on Helpsy's end so anything that is missed like she mentioned they have an 85% success rate but what happens to the other 15%, they forgot to put their bags out or it was taken by someone. Anything that is considered a failure will get an email from them for example if a bag was missed, the resident will get a call about it asking if they need help. If it is a newer driver, they would reach out and call them. They do have a 24-hour customer service line. All the communications the residents will get will have their number to call. She said with all the municipalities that they work with get very few questions. She gave a few examples. She said it is a very small number of people sending questions to public works and in that instance public works just forwarded the emails to them and they took care of it. She mentioned that she has given an

overview of how the program works at a town meeting. She said the relationship with the City and what they need to do is assist with them getting started by helping them promote the program. They have a community outreach person that would be working with the City's person sending them materials for them to post and kind of keep it in the residents' ears. At the end of the month, the City will receive a report of how many pounds they picked up, quarterly reports and any other information that they request.

Mr. Carr talked about the possible City savings once the program is up and running and asked how long it takes to start seeing a difference in the waste stream and/or meet the metric that was originally implemented.

Ms. Sciannella said that they have not been in business for five (5) years yet, but she would assume by five (5) years they would be there. She said the biggest thing they have seen is the involvement of residents. She used Newton, Massachusetts as an example stating they have a lot of green communities and facebook pages that they have promoted since the beginning. Stamford is in a transition as far as changing leadership, so they are a little stagnant there. She thinks it may take a couple of years, perhaps one to two years.

Mr. Carr asked for some metrics.

Ms. Sciannella said unfortunately they do not have the numbers that he is looking for, but they track the weight very carefully every month. She said if after the first month they notice the collections are very low, they would then open the dialogue of what they can do to get this program out. She said they do this once a month and payments go out quarterly, so they do it quarterly as well. Their goal is to improve those numbers, so they are incentivized to make sure that happens. They try to be very collaborative and have that dialogue so if there are any concerns, they keep that open.

Chairwoman Smyth added that she images they see bumps at the change of season when people clean out closets.

Ms. Sciannella responded yes; they do. The busiest time is when people change out their closet like Fall or Spring clean outs and sometimes with the holidays as well.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked them for the presentation and said it's an exciting time in Norwalk.

## **B. DISCUSSION**

### **1. PROJECT STATUS**

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

Mr. Carr stated that this was covered under item #2.

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

Ms. Valadares said that there isn't much of an update. At the last meeting she stated that construction was ending that week, and nothing has changed. She said in the backup, they added the engineering metrics for 2021 and they will go over it with the Committee. She said they will see the comparison of what they did last year compared to this year.

## 2. ENGINEERING METRICS 2021

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said his staff did an incredible job on this. He said they wanted to capture what they have accomplished from 2019 to 2020 and they felt it was pertinent to kept that going to the present. In 2020 they did more paving, curbs, and sidewalks than they did in 2019. When covid hit things slowed down however 2021 was still a very good year. He gave them a snapshot of road paving in 2021 and said it averages out to about 25% less than they did in 2020. That in part was attributed to the on-call drainage contract. They are fixing some of the storm sewers, prior to paving and fixing sanitary sewers, some of the work and scheduling unfortunately forced the contracts to move onto different roads. The contract has assisted them in fixing the problem before paving the road and has altered their programming to include reviewing roads for those issues prior to paving. He said the contract is a betterment for the City. Mr. Carr reviewed some of the roads. He explained base contract and amendment streets. He said the plant closed on December 17, 2021, so there was no more paving after that. He said the curbs and sidewalk program and the paving program are tied together. He explained that the preparatory work can slow down paving for some of the roads. All of which are some of the reasons for slower production. Mr. Carr said they repair and rehabilitate curbs and sidewalks on the roads they are going to pave. In sequential order they will fix the underground utilities first, storm and sanitary because those belong to the City, install new curbs and sidewalks, and then pave. He said that is the ideal progression but can be taken out of order along the way but that is the model they try to implement. He said those are the reasons road paving was down.

Ms. Valadares added that traffic was also a reason. She said that fact that most people worked from home the traffic was very light it became quicker to get to those smaller routes. They were also able to add a lot of new streets last year. This year they were able to complete their base contract bid.

Mr. Livingston asked if this was a calendar year or fiscal year number.

Ms. Valadares said it is calendar year, January through December.

Mr. Livingston asked if it would be a busy Spring.

Ms. Valadares responded not necessarily; it would be average. She said they have roads they had to move to the Spring, and they know that they can only handle a certain amount of work and that is what the amendment to their contract was about. She said they added to their contract what they could handle.

Mr. Livingston said that they enter a contract on a fiscal year basis right and he was curious to know how he should think about that in the context of looking at those reports on a calendar year basis.

Ms. Valadares explained why the report is based on a calendar year. She said they send that information to the State for reimbursement on different projects and it is based on calendar year so that is the reason.

Mr. Livingston thanked them. He said he appreciates the report and noted that this is the first time he has seen anything like this on this committee.

Ms. Valadares added that last year their increase on paving was over around 33%. She said on average they are above 7%.

Mr. Carr said and that goes for curbs and sidewalks as well. He said there was a 100% increase from 2019 to 2020 and now they are just 6% below from the prior year but if you go two (2) years prior back they are still almost double 100%. He said the encroachment permits have increased approximately 17% issued. Driveway permits were 66% and plan reviews were up 20%. Engineering has been very busy.

Mr. Berndlmaier added that they are stretching the dollar further and that doesn't reflect their total dollars available, and they still have funds available to spend in the Spring. He said they only postponed some of that work until Spring because there is more prep work to be done and got too close to winter. He said if they were getting too close to winter before putting in handicap ramps or paving, those would be the type of streets that were pushed until the Spring so not to get caught unaware before winter.

## **C. TREE OPERATIONS REPORT AND PROGRAMMING**

### **1. 2022 EVERSOURCE ENERGY TREE TRIMMING PERMIT WORK PRESENTATION**

Mr. Carr stated that there are two (2) representatives from Eversource presenting to the Committee. He gave some context and background about the tree trimming permit work. He said every year Eversource submits a permitting package to the Department of Public Works and is coordinated through Operations, Engineering and then implemented with oversight from DPW's Operations while Eversource's contractor is performing the work. Procedurally, it used to be the permit application, which would be a map of wherever Eversource was going to work and generally a scope of what they are going to do and how long they are going to be where, was submitted to the Tree Advisory Committee and although posted on the website and discussed at the meeting, it was not as visible as they would have liked it to be. He said they understand the goal and support the preservation of the existing tree canopy and would like to expand their existing tree canopy both private and public. They encouraged Eversource to put together a robust illustrative easy to follow presentation of exactly what maintenance activities they are going to do, why they are doing, where and for how long. He said the map is very easy to follow. He thanked Mr. Berg and Ms. Lezon for basically resurrecting, modifying, and enhancing any prior documents that were submitted. He said it is very informative and he appreciates that. Mr. Carr said they understand the sustainability of it, and he wants the Public Works Committee and Common Council, as they are all residents, to feel comfortable with what Eversource is doing and to know and understand that DPW is providing a lot more than just limited oversight and there is a lot of interactions with Eversource to ensure that they're not overpruning and not removing trees unnecessarily. He said the tree health that they ascertain from their arborist matches what Mr. Torre and their professionals say on the City side. He said

the collaboration has always been there and he again thanked Ms. Lezon and welcomed Mr. Berg. He said they are very happy where they have ended up and the whole point of the presentation is to ask a lot of questions.

Mr. Torre said this was the first time Eversource has given them a presentation as well thought out as this. He thought this was a great first step in being transparent with the City on tree removal and wanted the Committee to see it.

Mr. Sotnik agreed that they have never seen just a great presentation and thanked MR.SAM and Ms. Lezon. He said once they are done with this, the Tree Advisory Committee will put this on their agenda. They wanted to come to the Public Works Committee first.

Mr. Carr introduced Ms. Lezon from Eversource.

Ms. Lezon thanked Mr. Carr, Chairwoman Smyth, and the Committee for the opportunity to speak with them and they are very excited to share the work they have planned for 2022. She introduced Mr. Sam Berg. Mr. Berg is their arborist supporting the City of Norwalk. She said he has done an outstanding job collecting data and details that tell the story of what they are doing and why and give them information for their constituents. She said they are always behind the scenes if more information is need. She then turned over the presentation to Mr. Berg.

Mr. Berg thanked Ms. Lezon and Chairwoman Smyth for allowing them a forum. He said he does vegetation management for Eversource and for the City of Norwalk. He also manages the seven (7) other towns in the lower panhandle of Connecticut. They are aware of the revised Tree Ordinance and that is part of what facilitated the package they put together. He began to explain what vegetation management is. Vegetation management from his standpoint is something that is dictated to them from Pura. He said it is a required job through Pura and it is based on milage and four (4) year rotation. He shared his screen. (Presentation attached)

Mr. Livingston asked Mr. Berg to explain the backbone miles compared to total miles.

Mr. Berg responded backbone miles are going to be a three phase or any portion of the three-phase circuit that is not fused. He said three-phase meaning when you see the upper lines that are three running across the top is what they consider backbone so that comes directly out of the substation and moves up a main road and then it branches off into laterals from there so the difference in mileage is a single phase versus an unfused single phase and a triple phase line.

Mr. Livingston asked if that means they would be completing 104 miles total.

Mr. Berg responded 78 total. He said that is the total mileage which can be seen on the far left of his screen.

Mr. Livingston asked if that includes the 26.

Mr. Berg responded yes. He continued with the presentation. He then opened for questions.

Ms. Shanahan had a concern about some of the types of treatments that are used are herbicides and she wants to know what types are being used, why they are being used and whether there is notification of likely homeowners. She said that they have watersheds that run right into Long Island Sound and that is a very big concern for them.

Mr. Berg responded yes, they are notified 100% and they can say no. The herbicides they are using are called glyphosate in a concentrated form and it is applied directly to a stump of a tree that is known to be a basal sprouter. He said something that is going to put up sucker growth, if it was removed and it still had viable root system.

Ms. Shanahan asked if that was an ingredient in Roundup.

Mr. Berg answered it is one (1) of the ingredients in Roundup. He said if the products are used properly, and they are very effective and there is very little runoff. He said they don't broadcast, and they don't spray randomly, it is an application to the stump only.

Ms. Shanahan asked if this is something the homeowners can know that it's been put in any vicinity of their homes.

Mr. Berg said abutting properties and that would be them.

Ms. Shanahan wanted to know how the homeowners are notified and how to object.

Mr. Berg said a homeowner could object for their property but on abutting property, it would be by the Connecticut of Abutters Property List and if you were on the abutters list, they would let them know.

Ms. Shanahan said there is going to be a lot of work done in Rowayton, is it possible for her and Mr. Livingston to go with Mr. Torre to see what they are planning on doing. She asked for a tour with Mr. Berg of her district.

Mr. Berg said absolutely.

Chairwoman Smyth followed up on Ms. Shanahan's concerns about glyphosate and asked if they specifically tell the residents that that is being used on the nearby property because it is very concerning.

Mr. Berg said he understands and said there are options outside of glyphosate as well and yes, they do.

Ms. Shanahan asked Mr. Torre and Mr. Carr if it is possible to ask Eversource to never use that chemical in their City.

Mr. Carr asked about PURA. He said PURA doesn't necessarily exclude or include any types of chemical applications so there wouldn't be something that PURA could say that the municipality can't regulate, is that correct. He asked Mr. Berg if he had come across any municipalities that have said they prefer to use this application over this for environmental concerns.

Mr. Berg said he is looking at the literature right now and it shows the product pathfinder on the literature, and he would have to look at the active ingredient to be certain that it is a glyphosate product. He said it very well may not be, but it is pathfinder two is the product that is being used.

Mr. Livingston added before they put Mr. Carr on the spot maybe they should be thinking ordinances.

Ms. Shanahan said she wondered whether they could make the decision on their own about this, but she said they can certainly talk about ordinances.

Mr. Torre said that DPW does not use such products.

Chairwoman Smyth said they are aware of that. She said it is really concerning, the product should be entirely banned.

Mr. Berg said he completely agrees. He is looking at the active ingredients right now.

Mr. Livingston asked if they must use herbicides at all.

Mr. Berg said it is recommended and it is part of the scheduled maintenance pruning that PURA dictates. He said they do give the option. He said the active ingredient is trichlor, it is not glyphosate, and he will send that label to Mr. Torre and Mr. Sotnik to be included in the minutes.

Ms. Shanahan asked do they really need herbicides. She said that chemical happens to be particularly horrible but why do need to use an herbicide.

Mr. Berg said to limit the growth coming back from an invasive species that's underneath the line.

Ms. Shanahan said but it is not always an invasive species sometimes it's growth, so you are using an herbicide, why. She asked how fast you need to have that addressed; can it be cut from time to time why do they need to use an herbicide at all.

Mr. Berg explained on a four (4) year rotation, they can limit the growth, so it doesn't become a problem in the lines, but do they have to, no.

Mr. Torre said essentially what it does is limit how many times they must come to the City of Norwalk and prune.

Mr. Berg said correct.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if he could explain how the work is done. She has heard complaints from people that the work is not done to the standard of an arborist they would hire. She wants to know the makeup of his crew, who supervises and who assess the quality of work and if they have the ability for Mr. Torre or Mr. Carr or others to step in if it is not being done to proper quality.

Mr. Berg said that he is a license arborist, and he does the quality control for his crew. He has general foreman, and they need to be making proper cuts at the branch collars, they can't be stubbing cuts. He said they need to be removing the tree properly if there is a removal at all. He closely watches the pruning, and he oversees the quality of the work that is done.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if he would be in the City every day.

Mr. Berg responded yes.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner reiterated that the crews were supervised by a licensed arborist.

Mr. Berg said the crews are supervised on a weekly basis by a licensed arborist. He said all their work is quality controlled and that is the relationship between him and his crew and the opportunity to go out there and watch the work. He said his office is in Norwalk.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if homeowners are unhappy with the quality of the work how would they communicate that and what would be their recourse.

Mr. Berg said there are several resources on Eversource's website for direct contact for vegetation management or they could reach out to him. He said his contact information is part of that package.

Mr. Torre said that Eversource cannot take down a City tree without the City's permission. He said it would still have to be posted by the Tree Warden under State Law.

Mr. Livingston asked if they could talk more about removal and if they've had a chance to look at all the trees and what are their thoughts. He wants to know how they approach it and if they have any sense on how many they would remove.

Mr. Berg said they are just starting that process now. He said surveys are done along backbone and they prioritize the trees based on the risk associated with them. If it is a healthy tree that is structurally sound that has no outward appearance of imperfection, they don't want to take it down but if there is a dead ash that's over the lines or an oak that has a severe split in it that is structurally unsound, he will make a recommendation for its removal. However, all those trees are assessed, they have what is called a track qualification which is a tree risk assessment qualification that is through ISA, the International Society of Agricultural and they look at a lot of different factors when it comes to the recommendation of a tree. He said nothing gets done on any town tree without their expressed approval.

Mr. Livingston asked if they remove a tree is it replaced.

Mr. Berg said it would depend on and they would defer to Mr. Torre and the City concerning that.

Mr. Livingston said they do have an ordinance on that.

Mr. Berg agreed.

Mr. Torre added that it had not been a practice that Eversource has done in the past, but they are slowly gravitating towards tree replacement. He said they just got to keep pushing.

Chairwoman Smyth asked how much time and effort they put in to saving a tree that maybe is unhealthy but not like badly too far gone.

Mr. Berg said that PURA doesn't allow them the resources to do any kind of proactive work on a tree. He gave her an example depending on the type of tree. He said if the tree is healthy and structurally sound, he doesn't want to take it down, but tree mortality is continuing and is something they are still dealing with. He said from an environmental standpoint, some of the trees are suffering.

Ms. Shanahan asked if they trim a tree too rough and the tree dies, how is that addressed if people are dissatisfied with how the process went.

Mr. Berg said they can create a situation where they would come out to the house with the permissioning specialist, and he would ask if they could do the work and the answer is no and then they could make compromises. He said in Rowayton there isn't a lot of backbone, so the specification is not going to be as dramatic. He said they could get light trim and be customer present while the work is being done. He said if that is the way he can get the specification for the tree or as close to it as he can, he would rather do that then not touch them at all. They could be there together so the resident knows where they will cut and that is what they call customer present. He said he believes that walk would help because he could illustrate while they are there in the road visually because it is hard to grasp, not every area is pruned the same. He said he knows the sensitivity in that area.

Ms. Johnson thanked them for their presentation. She said she lives in one (1) of the areas where they are starting first and they have so many power outages in her area. She said they have a tree ordinance but do not have the Legacy Tree Program up and running and she is thinking about the homeowners that have legacy trees who would potentially want a light trim or would want to have the service Mr. Berg just described. She wants to know how to make sure the people in her area, since they are first on the list, be proactive to save some of those old trees that may not yet be seen as legacy.

Mr. Berg asked if that was the northeastern corner.

Ms. Johnson responded yes.

Mr. Berg asked if she had permissioning paperwork already.

Ms. Johnson said she told a light trim on her 150-year-old maple in the front because it is a feature of the house, and she is quite concerned, and she knows the neighbors are concerned that these are going to get hacked.

Mr. Berg said he knows the importance of their trees and their personal trees. He asked Ms. Johnson to reach out to Mr. Sotnik or someone on the Board, provide her address and he will coordinate something and go out to look at her tree and make it so that at least he will have the paperwork that it is a customer present prune and look at what may or may not need to be done. He doesn't want anything to come into contact with the lines.

Ms. Johnson said she is going to remove herself from this because she is not looking for a direct line but for the residents who may not know and they show up, there could be a resident very upset.

Mr. Sotnik said when residents have questions or concerns about the treatment, they can call customer service. He said Mr. Torre, Mr. Ortiz or himself could walk through the process with the resident and coordinate with Eversource for the meeting. He said they have a tree liaison program and if they have a liaison in the neighborhood, they can go out and keep an eye on and watch what's going on and if there are any concerns, the liaison can be the contact to get a hold of them and work with Eversource.

Mr. Torre said a few years back they were pruning in the Village Creek Area and that part of town is very strict with their own association with trees. They called him and Mr. Sotnik to come out with Eversource to look at the trees. He said 12 trees were slated to be removed that Eversource requested, and they only took down one (1) tree and the homeowner agreed and thanked them for taking it down. He urged the liaisons and Common Council Members to walk around and look at the trees where the City will be doing a project or not. He mentioned an incident in Rowayton where the sidewalk needed to be replaced but it had two big trees there, the homeowner would not receive a driveway permit unless he agreed to keep the

trees. He said there are things they can do as a municipality and one (1) of them is to monitor Eversource. He said that group is much better now especially with the transparency.

Mr. Sotnik added that there is a lot of time spent in the background coordinating. He said this is something that will be checked and monitored and not just doing whatever without being in constant coordination with the City. He said Eversource has coordinated with them on Arbor Day with plantings and ceremonies which is a result of working together.

Ms. Young thanked DPW and Eversource for providing this information. She appreciates all the effort that went into making that happen. She asked if this information will be on the dashboard. She wants to know if this information will be easily accessible for residents. She said if they know when those things are slated to happen, there could be those types of community meetings to just inform members about the process. They have all the pieces in place and now they must utilize them and that is a lot of work. There is a lot of continued effort, and this is a great start. She said putting it on the City's Dashboard, so that it is easy to find without so many clicks to get to the information is what they need to work on. She said great job and she thinks they should continue. She suggested that they come to the meeting quarterly for updates.

Mr. Sotnik said every year they put the map on the City's website. He said they didn't want to do it until after the presentation but as of tomorrow, some of the documents will be put on the website under the utility section. He said this presentation will be going to the Tree Advisory Committee at the end of the month.

Ms. Young said she appreciates that, and this may not be for DPW but as a City they need to do a better job of making the information easier to find on the City's website. She would like to see the dashboard utilized since there was a lot of effort put into it.

Chairwoman Smyth agreed with Ms. Young.

Ms. Shanahan also agreed with Ms. Young. She said that she would like to coordinate with Mr. Sotnik on inviting other organizations to the Tree Advisory Committee meeting knowing that this presentation will be happening.

Ms. Lezon said she has worked with Mr. Berg for a while and finds him calm and easy to work with. She cannot think of a better person to go out and speak with customers on something that is obviously very sensitive to everyone. He has a style and professionalism that makes him an asset to their company and will be to you as well. She thinks this is a great partnership. She said it is this kind of partnership and communication opportunities that they have been made available to them and will go a long way. She said Mr. Berg is a great resource.

Mr. Berg said that he forwarded the label of the herbicide that they use to Mr. Sotnik and Mr. Torre. He said the product is called pathfinder two and he will dig a little deeper into what is dictated to them by PURA under the scheduled maintenance trimming and whether they can come up with an alternative.

Ms. Shanahan thanked him.

Mr. Livingston reiterated what Mr. Berg said about applying it to stumps and asked if that means they only apply it to trees that are removed.

Mr. Berg said only to trees that are removed that are alive which are not as many as you think unless for the obvious structural imperfections. It is applied to live stumps.

Mr. Livingston said he is trying to figure out the issue, although he doesn't think they should use herbicides but leaving that aside, it's not put it on that many.

Chairwoman Smyth asked if he uses a stump grinder on a live.

Mr. Berg replied no. They don't grind stumps, they cut flush to the ground as safe as can be for the saw and the person operating the saw and then the product is applied to the top of the stump. The one (1) piece of information that he provided for the City (he mentioned the three (3) leaf brochure he showed earlier) does have that illustration on the back side of it. He said it is under Connecticut Statute 22a 66a and read it to the Committee, require that certain herbicide label information be provided to the owner of the property where the herbicide is with is and will be used.

Ms. Shanahan said there have been concerns that from time-to-time underneath lines that go by open areas, sometimes where there's gravel there that sometimes herbicides are applied there to get rid of growth underneath wires in places which are right-of-way and things like that, so are the herbicides only used on stumps or are there other uses that you make with herbicides. She asked him if he could dispel that rumor.

Mr. Berg said from the point of this conversation, he can only speak to roadside distribution. He cannot speak to transmission and their usage and substation and their usage.

Ms. Shanahan said so there might be usage there that you can't speak to.

Mr. Berg replied that is not his job. He said he doesn't want to speculate; he knows roadside distribution.

Mr. Sotnik said there is a difference between roadside distribution and high tower transmission lines.

Ms. Shanahan wanted to know who can answer that question for them.

Ms. Lezon said she will follow up with their vegetation management team for those answers.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner wondered if there was an opportunity to take something like Mr. Berg's list of short trees and distribute to homeowners who have backbone sort of lines. She said she would like to synergistically work some of their goals around the tree canopy into the fact that people are already going to be alerted and aware of this issue.

Mr. Berg said education is the best thing they can do. He said there is more than just that list. He began to read off different lists. He said there is a good opportunity for education, both from a community standpoint as well as neighborhood associations. He said he has great information and posters that are very informative.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner said she thinks that is a fantastic goal for them to talk about in terms of communication. Since this is going to be drawing a lot of attention particularly in East Rocks and West Rocks Neighborhoods. If they get people alerted to how they address their concerns about Eversource maybe they can simultaneously get some of this information out.

Mr. Sotnik asked with the packages that go out with the notifications, could they put some other information in with it.

Mr. Berg said he has a brochure that he picked up called, let them be, illustrated roadmap to 30 buzzworthy pollinators to plant near and around power lines. He said it is amazing. He said yes, he can add that type of information.

Ms. Lezon said these are great ideas that she can take back to her management. She said it is best when more people are informed and educated. She thanked them.

Mr. Livingston asked if the brochure differentiates between native and non-native because a lot of the trees that were pointed out earlier are non-natives.

Mr. Berg said the list doesn't illustrate whether they are native or non-native. It is close to 35% that were native.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner said if it is pollinator supportive, her guess is it's probably mostly native.

Ms. Shanahan said yes and no. She has been looking at this for a long time and it's just not the way that it works. She directed Eversource and said they are really interested in just adding natives to Norwalk. One of their goals is to have 80% natives so it would be helpful if they are going to share information like that on whether they are natives or not. She said it would be reassuring to their neighbors in a way that non-natives will not be. They just want to focus on natives.

Mr. Berg said he understood and replied yes, they could certainly work with that compiling a comprehensive list of species compatible for natives.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner thanked him for his willingness to engage with people on this. Getting people alert now will be helpful.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked Ms. Lezon and Mr. Berg for hearing their concerns and regressing their concerns and moving forward with more transparency.

#### **D. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2021**

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said November 2021 as compared to last year, their curbside tonnage for msw is down approximately 7%. The msw tonnage which is the total amount of weight leaving the City of Norwalk, that they pay for is down 8%. The pandemic effects are lessening. Recycling curbside tonnage is down 6% and the transfer station is down approximately 2%.

Mr. Livingston asked if they can break down the recycling by route to see if you can do any sort of comparison to figure out where it's down and why.

Mr. Carr deferred this to Mr. Torre or Ms. Paladino.

Ms. Paladino said it would be incredibly difficult because City Carting or Wind Waste as they are called now, uses their trucks interchangeably so she would need to get a lot more information from them. There are times when they will finish a route and not dump for the day then use the truck in a different route in a different section of time. There are a lot of accumulation of numbers when they dump.

Ms. Paladino said November of last year, the numbers were up high. They were in the throes of the pandemic looking at both garbage and recycling numbers that were up 18 to 20% and this decrease in 6% to 8% is them leveling back out to a new normal. The other issue is that part of the transfer station floor has been closed so they are seeing less tonnage coming through their transfer station which is seeing less tonnage out of their transfer station.

Mr. Carr said there was a question about City Carting Contracts and all three (3) contracts expire June 30, 2023. The contracts operate the Crescent Street Transfer Station, which is owned by the City of Norwalk and operated by City Carting currently, the recycling collection and disposal which City Carting provides city-wide and then the garbage msw collection which is provided within the Fourth Taxing District which is basically all the taxing districts in the City minus the Fifth and the Sixth. They will be meeting soon with Administration about the direction in which they want to go. Once that is determined, they will put out an RFP. The current three (3) contracts will not be amended or extended.

Ms. Young asked Mr. Carr to repeat his last comment about City Carting.

Mr. Carr said the current three (3) contracts held by City Carting will be reissued for public bidding. They will be solicited for public bids. He said there will be no extensions or amendments.

Ms. Young said City Carting has done a good job in hiring Norwalk residents. She said she questioned if that would happen when they first came on board, and she knows that they do hire and have hired a significant number of people from Norwalk.

Mr. Carr said he received resumes from people over the holidays and so he forwarded them to City Carting.

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

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said so far in fiscal year 2022 they have collected 33.6 tons of food scraps. They had a high month. The reporting month in November accounted for the pumpkin pickups. He went over the report with the Committee. They have two locations, Crescent Street Transfer Station and Rowayton Community Center. They received 71% from Rowayton and 29% from the Transfer Station. He said a proposed third location will be implemented once the proposed operating budget is hopefully approved. Staff put in a request for \$12,000 to support and fund a third location, likely to be Cranberry Park, pending no unforeseen changes or different direction. They applied for two (2) different composting grants over the last two (2) months, and they were both denied.

**ADJOURNMENT MS. SHANAHAN MOTIONED TO ADJOURN  
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY  
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:45P.M.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 1, 2022  
Public Works Committee  
7:00 P.M. Location TBD**