

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
March 1, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; Tom Keegan; Tom Livingston; Lisa Shanahan; Dominique Johnson; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Darlene Young

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

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

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Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



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, March 1, 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.)

There was no public participation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022.

There was no report on this item.

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

2. AUTHORIZED THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT NO. 11.23-01(21) WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO MAINTAIN GRANITE CURBING, CROSSWALKS, PLANTINGS, AND OTHER NON-STATE STANDARD APPURTENANCES REQUESTED BY THE CITY AND INSTALLED WITHIN THE STATE RIGHT-OF-WAY AS PART OF ENCROACHMENT PERMIT NO. 3019477 ISSUED TO NORWALK LAND DEVELOPMENT, LLC.

Mr. Carr reported on this item. This agreement is to authorize the Mayor to allow CONNDOT to work on their ramps in areas outside of their right-of-way. This would give them permission to allow right-of-way items to be installed such as concrete curb, granite curbs and sidewalks.

Ms. Valadares added that the work has already happened. During the development of the Mall and part of the approval plan for that development, the City requested through Land Use, some improvements on I-95, exit 15 Northbound. She stated that is the reason for the traffic light there and the brick paver crosswalk and shrubs. This was installed by the Mall as part of the approved plan. Now it is not the City's right-of-way, it's the State's right-of-way. The City asked permission to allow the Mall to install with the caveat that the City will be maintaining. All that is left to do is sign the agreement and they also wanted to inform the Committee that they are responsible for the maintenance of those improvements that were asked during the plan review process that the Mall installed. There was no cost to the City, however they will be responsible for maintenance within the State right-of-way.

Mr. Livingston asked about the location and if it was next to the Mall up on I95.

Ms. Valadares answered correct.

Mr. Livingston asked and there is a sidewalk there.

Ms. Valadares said yes, the sidewalk there is not the issue but across from the Mall is where the State right-of-way is, so they asked them to install granite curb to match what they have on West Avenue and there is a crosswalk there as well. They asked for the brick pavers and some shrubs as well. She said they just need to maintain that and that is planting the crosswalk and the granite curbing.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked for clarification about the Mall installation and asked if the Mall has maintenance responsibilities or a responsibility to pay them back for the maintenance.

Ms. Valadares responded no that is the part of the agreement. She said the City saw that as an opportunity to improve and carry over the same standards they have with West Avenue. She said during the plan review they asked that it be approved as part of the process so they could carry over that extra block with the caveat that the City will maintain.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner thanked her and said she is glad that they pushed for that because it is nice to have the consistency.

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

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 29, 2021 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AI ENGINEERS FOR PROJECT NO. DPW2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM FOR ONE (1) YEAR.**

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 30 5258
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 21 4021 5777 C0234
09 22 4021 5777 C0234
09 22 4021 5777 C0315
09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0471
09 17 4021 5777 C0526
09 19 4021 5777 C0617
09 20 4031 5777 C0617
09 21 4021 5777 C0617
09 22 4021 5777 C0617
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 6030 5777 C0643
09 21 6030 5777 C0365
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09 22 6030 5777 C0367
09 22 6030 5777 C0588
09 20 6030 5777 C0657

Mr. Carr reported on this. He said that item #'s 3, 4, and 5 are associated with one another and those items consist of DPW's On-Call Engineering Services. They utilize three (3) different consultants, AI Engineers, Weston & Sampson and Tighe and Bond. They each have their specialty and a variety of disciplines that helps assist DPW for specialty items or even some day-to-day work that staff cannot cover or allocate resources to the original agreements which were approved on 2/9/21 with an option to extend for two (2) terms of one (1) year each. Mr. Carr said they are respectfully requesting the Committee's

recommendation to the full Council to support the extension of \$100,000 each to support a lot of the capital projects and a lot of

different issues that may come up. They are providing the services in lieu of having the additional staff required to perform that work.

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

- 4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 29, 2021 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC. FOR PROJECT NO. DPW2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM FOR ONE (1) YEAR.**

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	09 20 6030 5777 C0657

Chairwoman Smyth reiterated that it was noted this particular contractor, Weston and Sampson, are good with permits.

Mr. Carr responded yes.

Ms. Young asked how long they have been operating like this.

Ms. Valadares replied one (1) year. She said this is the first year and they have used all of the allocated funds. She said in the Summer there is a list of projects that they can help them with, and this is the first extension with a second one-year extension.

Ms. Young asked if this was different from the other types of contractual agreements they go into for other areas.

Ms. Valadares responded correct. She said in the past they put out an RFQ (request for qualification), and then they engaged three (3) companies. She said depending on the service, if they need to outsource, they will send out task orders to each one. She explained how each company may have a certain expertise that they can use for a project. She gave the example of

Weston and Sampson being good on permitting with CONNDOT and all of that. She said anything related to those issues will be given to Weston and Sampson most of the time. It is not a big contract and \$100,000.00 goes really fast. If they have a major project, they will put out an RFP. She said this contract allows them to get some of the smaller tasks done that unfortunately sometimes they don't have the staff to do during their busy season.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if this is something more preferable to have those consulting services on-call because they have particular expertise and don't need full-time or is it a stop gap to make up for the fact that the department is understaffed.

Ms. Valadares answered that it is kind of a combination. Some of these companies have the expertise and it would be very hard to hire a whole department with that type of expertise and it is also good to have extra hands. She gave an example about plan reviews stating they could send them to one of the companies to review, especially during their busy season so they can meet their deadline. She said those companies are very familiar with their drainage manual and can review the plans within three (3) to four (4) days.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner said thinking long-term in terms of their needs, and asked if there was a sense of 50/50, extra expertise versus hands that could be replaced by a staff member if you had them, is it 80/20.

Ms. Valadares said it is more like 50/50 as of now and that may change.

Chairwoman Smyth said that they talked about this last month with another contract for consulting where they asked the same question because that is something that would come up year after year with Public Works, is it more helpful to have a junior engineer. She recalls that Ms. Valadares said last month things have changed in that arena and it is actually more efficient dollar wise to hire out.

Mr. Carr added that if you hire a junior engineer with salary and benefits it will cost the City anywhere from \$75,000 to \$90,000 if you include the benefits and it may even be higher than that so hiring a contractor for \$100,000, you are really getting a junior engineer with benefits. The thing is they will be coming in as a junior engineer so the \$100,000 with each of those consultants, there are different staff types as outlined in their proposals. There are staff that are specialized and ready to be deployed and dedicated to the many needs of their municipal clients. The new junior engineer would have to be trained which isn't a bad thing, but it is still one (1) body, one (1) staff where with a \$100,000 there would be a multitude, an array of various disciplines and various skill sets of different staff working on different projects. Every municipality does this because otherwise the output will not be as desirable or there will be a lot of input and not as much output. He said the construction inspector, Tighe & Bond are very good at drainage and their pavement program so they tend to use them, but

they will use the others for different projects. He said it is good to spread the wealth and keep them honest at the same time. Having the three (3) vendors at their disposal, all of whom they have a good relationship with, really broaden what they can do. He mentioned that the third party could serve as a buffer for the City should they end up in litigation so they will have the third party looking at this and they have their technical expertise and their forensic engineers as well. So

if there is ever an issue structurally, a failure, they would partner with them, they will have an independent third party verifying the work, so it covers them. He said they have an on-call drainage contract where the contractor goes and repairs the drainage in advance of paving, on-call surveying, and on-call engineering. He said with the level of service that is not diminishing and the requests that are coming in, those on-call contracts really are the backbone of keeping engineering flowing.

Ms. Valadares added that when they are using a company, they don't just have one (1) person working on a project. They also have two (2) drafters that are in-house that are kept busy at all times. When you are working on a project besides engineering, you will need someone that can draft a drawing in AutoCAD or complete the surveying and with a company, there will be staff that will be able to complete those services instead of hiring just one (1) person and run the risk of that person not being able to do the tasks associated with what they give them to do.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked them for the explanations given and said that it was very helpful to know moving forward.

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

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 29, 2021 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND TIGHE & BOND, INC. FOR PROJECT NO. DPW2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$100,000.00, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM FOR ONE (1) YEAR.**

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09 22 4021 5777 C0617
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4021 5777 C0643
09 22 6030 5777 C0643
09 21 6030 5777 C0365

There was no report on this item.

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

- 6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND FREEMAN COMPANIES DATED FEBRUARY 27, 2019 TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE EMERGENCY RECONSTRUCTION OF THE ROWAYTON AVENUE BRIDGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH SCOPE OF SERVICES EXTRA WORK ORDER NO. 4 “BRIDGE PRESERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF CITY-OWNED BRIDGES RECONSTRUCTION OF BRIDGE NO. 102-009 ROWAYTON AVENUE OVER KEELERS BROOK” DATED DECEMBER 1, 2021 (COPY INCLUDED) FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 22 4021 5777 C0315

Chairwoman Smyth stated that this has been an ongoing project and they are hoping that they are nearing the end. She asked Mr. Carr to give the Committee the specifics.

Mr. Carr stated this is a continuation of work that is already being performed for the replacement of the Rowayton Avenue Bridge over Keelers Brook. Freeman Companies was the company that originally came out and assessed the emergency conditions where the pavement failed, and the concern arose in early 2021. This is just a continuation of works and this is why it is the first amendment of the first contract change to provide design services and basically carry the Rowayton Avenue Bridge Replacement Project to construction. He said this is everything they need from the contractor to build and construct the project, and this is just professional services related to the engineering and design to prepare a set of plans that is buildable, constructable for the contractor that is FGB. The Rowayton Avenue Bridge did receive local permitting from the Conservation Commission, City of Norwalk and they also did receive Connecticut DEEP approval and they are still awaiting Army Corps permitting which is the federal portion. They placed the order for the precast concrete box culvert which is going to replace the existing stone arch masonry and half metal pipe because the culvert is two (2) different materials that goes underneath the Rowayton Avenue Bridge. He said they released that to United Concrete for fabrication two (2) weeks ago and that was pending their receipt of the permanent approval from Connecticut DEEP, and they didn't want to go ahead and release the box culvert to cut to United Concrete for fabrication if the State was going to possibly reject so they waited for the State approval. They believe they will receive the Federal approval for permitting needed to commence. He said the

construction should begin hopefully in March 2022 and they are hopeful that based on the six (6) to eight (8) week lead time for the concrete box culvert, that they project could be constructed in May 2022. There may be weather and other delays that push it a little later, but the critical path item is the delivery of the culvert. FGB will be performing site work and site preparation in advance of placing that culvert and some of that work includes relocating utilities and/or utility poles, striping the pavement and mobilization to get the equipment on board. There are things the contractor will

do to set up and prep prior to the delivery of the culverts. Once the culverts are in, there will be a crane involved because they have to pick and set each section when they install the culvert along the brook. They are making great progress. Mr. Carr commended Ms. Valadares, Mr. Sotnik, and the team for really sticking with this. He said they worked feverishly. He said they were unable to place the order for the culverts until they at least had approval from the State.

Ms. Valadares stated that the order was placed but the process is the contractor has to submit shop drawings. The drawings usually take a good six (6) weeks so when the contractor produced the drawings, they placed the order. After that, they have to approve the drawings and once approved it goes into manufacturing the culvert and that's the part that they hold. They held it for a week or two (2) until they received the confirmation and once, they received them, they released the shop drawings. She said they gained a lot of time. They placed the order after it was approved back in December and then they worked on the shop drawings and held on to them until Connecticut DEEP approved. In the meantime, they stalled the contractor until they received approval and didn't lose their place on the list for the order. They have already begun some utility work with installing new polls on the new locations as of last week.

Mr. Livingston asked how long the actual project takes once they receive the culverts.

Ms. Valadares answered eight (8) to 12 weeks. She said they do not have a date yet for the delivery but should have it soon and they do not want to push since they do not have the other permit. Soon as they received the permit, they will go after the culvert to really set up the delivery date.

Mr. Livingston said they appreciate it.

Chairwoman Smyth asked if they are expecting the Army Corps permit within a week or so.

Ms. Valadares responded that they should be getting it soon. She said there was another item that was required from the SHPO because it was a historic bridge, so they needed that approval first and they received the approval last week, so they sent it to them. There shouldn't be anything else holding them up. Mr. Sotnik will call to check on the status and by the next meeting they should have a delivery date of the culverts.

Chairwoman Smyth thanked Mr. Sotnik for his persistence.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. DISCUSSION

1. ROWAYTON AVENUE BRIDGE

Previously reported under Item 6.

2. WINTER OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that they are coming to a close of the Winter Season although March is always a tricky month. To date, they have had 12 storm events and they call it an event when they have to call staff in, and they have to salt the City. Over the course of those 12 storm events, they have accumulated 29 inches of snow, approximately one to two inches of sleet (ice, frozen rain mixture). Things get complicated with that type of mixture for snow removal winter operations. He said that they can't not salt because that would lead to treacherous road conditions. They have used approximately 2,400 tons of salt. He gave them some stats. Their salt shed holds can hold up to 7,000 tons of salt but that is if you fill it to the top. They have to be able to get the equipment in there, loaders to take it out, scoop it out, dump it into the dump trucks. They don't typically keep the salt shed at full volume, so they keep it at about 5,000 tons. They have used about half of the salt that they have in the shed. Mr. Torre stays on top of that and is always ordering more salt for the snowstorms. He said they have plenty of salt and are currently under their salt budget for the year and the overtime budget for snow removal is on par. He said fiscally and also based on the season, their overtime budget and the funds expended do match up and align with what they had anticipated. They maintain 625 lane miles of City roadway. A lane mile is basically the length of each lane. They have 255 centerline miles. For snowplow purposes, the 625 lane miles is more pertinent and more important because they have to salt each lane per mile. In the last 12 months, they have used about 200 tons per storm. He said they typically use between 150 to 200 tons a storm up to maybe 900 if it's continuous, 12 inches or more and maybe with a combination of snow and sleet. They can use from 200 to 900 tons of salt per storm, but they typically hover over 200 to 300 per storm. Each dump truck holds about three to five cubic yards of salt. One cubic yard of salt is equivalent to 1 ton of salt. Ton equals weight and cubic yard equals volume. He stated that they also maintain 20 facilities, City Hall and 19 school facilities that they have to clear, salt, treat, and plow. He said no matter how much snow accumulates; it is always the same level of effort. Mr. Carr gave kudos to the Operations Department. He said this Winter had a lot more freezing rain and that slicked surface and they had been very conservative but if they think the road is going to be wet or have moisture, they have staff on-call. There have been instances that if a storm was due to come, they would have a skeleton crew stay back, a supervisor and two (2) or three (3) trucks just to spot/solve the trouble areas like hospital hill, the shady or colder areas north of the Merritt Parkway, Silvermine/Cranberry area. He said the northern parts of the City tend to have microclimates and the pavement temperatures vary anywhere from two

(2) to five (5) degrees in the North End of the City versus the South bend. It could be melting in South Norwalk, but you could have a layer of ice in Northern Norwalk. He said his hat is off to the Operations Department, Mr. Torre does a fantastic job managing the effort, the foreman, Dilene Byrd is there the whole time as well as a dispatcher. He said it all comes together. He said that some of the Council Members came for a ride, others stopped down and they appreciate that, and he thanked them for their recognition. He said that means a lot and it is definitely received by the Department, and they appreciate that.

Chairwoman Smyth stated that they appreciate their work and said they do a great job always.

Ms. Johnson said that she is on the edge of Route 15 microclimate and during both of the ice storms they all were fantastic, and she just wanted to thank them again. She said it got really slick and DPW made it safe for everyone to go to work and school. She said every time she sees a plow she waves.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner commented that there is a YouTube video on how miserable it is to plow that was put up several years ago and she wanted to applaud all of them. She said it has been beautiful this year, everything had been plowed to a tee. She said whatever misery it may cause the drivers; they have done a spectacular job and they are really grateful. It has been a difficult winter with all the icing down the hill and it had just been like flawless, and they are really grateful.

Mr. Carr thanked her.

B. TREE OPERATIONS REPORT AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Carr reported on this. Due to the weather, they have not planted any new trees. They are coordinating future plans for planting which would be shared in upcoming meetings. He said he wants to focus this on the status of the Eversource permit and their pending tree maintenance work which will occur in Spring and once the weather changes for the better. There is a site visit scheduled for this Friday morning at 8:30a.m. in Rowayton. Eversource representatives, specifically Sandberg, to walk the arborist and walk the site with the Tree Warden; Mr. Torre, and Deputy Tree Warden and Senior Engineer; Mr. Sotnik to go over the scope of work and figure out exactly what they are doing as far as their maintenance operation and each specific area that they will be working. For example, are they pruning the trees, is it a light trim or a removal? They do not have a final list of the actual removals as of yet. Once they receive the finalized list, they will share with the Committee. He said even though their Tree Ordinance requires a one-for-one replacement of removed trees, oftentimes the replaced tree cannot be planted in the same spot because of the trunk system, roots, and a lot of times the trunk/stump is left in place. They could plant new trees in similar areas as long as there are no utilities or other conflicts. They are working with Eversource very diligently and they want to convey the message that they do not want to remove trees unless they absolutely have to, the asset is dead, or it could pose a serious health condition. He talked about over pruning trees by Eversource could be the City's liability. He said they have put a pause from using herbicides and pesticides on the

trees and that has been tabled indefinitely. Eversource will be walking the site along with Councilwoman Shanahan and Council President Livingston. He said they will get a taste for what to look for in the trees and Eversource documents the condition of the trees. He said they will be there as a third party and if there is a pruning, they may agree or disagree but if there's a proposed removal, they will either concur or disagree. There will be experts there that know if the tree should be removed, and it is not Eversource unilaterally just tagging the tree. Eversource cannot tag a tree unless the Tree Warden or Deputy Tree Warden are all in agreement that the tree is dangerous, dead, not healthy, or there's an absolute need for removal. DPW is working with Eversource to find a healthy balance in regard to the trees. If trees are removed, there is a sufficient or an adequate amount of replanting. They are working their hardest to get a one-

to-one replacement. He explained to the Committee if they are unable to it is due to cost or the fact that they could utilize their PURA abilities, which is a State mandate. He said they are working to get the best they can for the City.

Mr. Sotnik mentioned that in the past during a walk through, Eversource wanted to take down 11 trees and they were able to negotiate that down to just one (1) tree. He said that Mr. Ortiz will review the request and then post it. They cannot remove anything until it has been agreed to. He said as long as the tree is safe and in the best interest of the City, they will continue to talk them down from any removal.

Ms. Shanahan thanked Mr. Carr and Mr. Sotnik for fighting for their trees. She said she loved hearing Mr. Carr call the trees, their assets because that is how she views them. She thinks that is fantastic and really appreciates the City working so hard to keep the canopy as full as it can and convincing Eversource not to use that chemical that they came to find out is completely toxic to fish which is horrific for a City on the water like theirs. She stated that she will try not to be difficult at the Friday meeting.

Mr. Carr encouraged her to ask the hard questions at the meeting regarding trees. He said they are the experts so she should ask anything to get better clarification.

Chairwoman Smyth mentioned that she went on a walk regarding the trees and although it was a small area, two (2) trees needed to be removed and there was no doubt the tree was dead. She said Mr. Sotnik was knocking on the tree and took out his tape measure to check the tree. The tree was threatening the power lines and a house so that tree had to come down and the other was an Ash Tree which is one of the last few living in the State. She was impressed with Sam when Mr. Torre said they do not want him using any herbicides until they say it's okay and Sam agreed. She thinks they are doing their very best to work with them.

Mr. Carr responded that's good. He is very familiar with Mr. Sotnik on site walks, and he knows he will take out that hammer. He said it gives a person perspective when they hear it's hollow at the base of a trunk. He explained how much goes into taking down a tree. He said Eversource doesn't want to do that either. It prolongs the operation, they have to pay a contractor and it is not easier to just take down a tree, it is actually a lot of work. It is ideal to prune and leave the tree there.

Mr. Sotnik agreed with Mr. Carr. He said like Chairwoman Smyth said, it is pretty interesting when you think a tree is solid and you put a tape measure a foot or two under it where it is all rotted, you don't realize what is holding the tree up or in that case not holding it up.

Chairwoman Smyth appreciates Mr. Carr and his efforts to work with Eversource. She understands one-to-one replanting is not going to happen but get as close as they can and be mindful about what they are able to replant and have them replant.

Ms. Johnson thanked Mr. Carr for that piece on PURA as she found it interesting. She asked about the trees on City property and wanted to know if the tree fund is applicable and if Eversource then could be an entity that would donate to their tree fund and having a one-to-one depending on where the tree is.

Mr. Carr said that is certainly a possibility. He said they can certainly ask them as it is not outside of their fiscal purview. He said mechanically and procedurally they could accept the money from Eversource. He said that is what the tree fund is exactly meant to do. It might be easier for Eversource instead of them going through Almstead contracts. He said that would definitely be a good use for it and it might actually benefit them for not having to worry about installation and the labor and the materials, it is also one (1) less thing for them to manage. If Eversource is amendable to it, they will certainly raise that to them at their meeting tomorrow and might just be easier for them to write a check.

Ms. Johnson said she will refer all things tree to Councilwoman Shanahan, and she thanked Mr. Carr.

Ms. Shanahan said she loves it.

C. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – JANUARY 2022

Mr. Carr reported on this. Compared to January 2021, volumes and weights continue to decline. March 2020 they kicked Covid 19 pandemic off. He said by January 2021 that was the midpoint and they were very much into the throes of Covid 19 and that was a good benchmark to see. 2021 was a year later into the pandemic Comparatively looking back from where they are now, the numbers are all negative meaning that their percent decreases the amount of recycling and it's down unfortunately. The amount of garbage is down also. All the numbers are trending down which isn't a bad thing either because that is also less that they have to pay for the garbage to go out which right now they pay \$95 per ton. They were operating at a high norm, and they are returning back to pre-pandemic levels but still operating a little higher than before the pandemic. The recycling revenue is down which is a little disheartening because you would think with more people home, they'd want to recycle more but unfortunately, they are not. Garbage is down, likely because of people returning to work and returning to the office and they will continue to monitor that, but they are returning to normalcy.

D. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – JANUARY 2022

Mr. Carr reported on this. To date they have collected 94.73 tons of food scraps. He said this is a pilot program in its second fiscal year. The first fiscal year which ended June 30, 2021, they saw a split, the ratio between the Rowayton Community Center and the Transfer Station was approximately 65% to 35% respectively. 2/3 of the food scraps are being collected from Rowayton, the other 1/3 is being collected from the Transfer Station. They are still seeing that same number to date. For this fiscal year, July 1, 2021, to present day, they have 70% of the food scraps waste stream is collected from Rowayton Community Center and 30% is collected from the Transfer Station. If the operating budget is approved as currently proposed, they have requested additional funding upwards in the amount of \$12,000.00 to supplement and subsidize a third location. Unless something changes would

likely be in the Cranbury Park Area. He said for both permitting reasons and because the program needs to be a staffed facility or has to have the ability to have staff oversee, collect and secure the area. He said they are excited because that third location will bridge the gap between the other two (2) locations and the City. They expect it to be very successful and he thinks the program is exceeding his expectations and they are really proud how quickly it came together. 100 tons is 200,000 pounds, almost a quarter million pounds of food scraps that would normally go to the municipal solid waste stream is now being used as compost.

Chairwoman Smyth asked assuming the operating budget goes through, and you have the funds, approximately when might we see the station at Cranbury Park.

Mr. Carr responded hopefully when the funds get approved July 1st, they will speak to the vendor about curbside compost and delivery of the toters. They would probably start out with just a few to see how much that location is using. They anticipate something similar to Rowayton and more than the Transfer Station. From that point, they will utilize social media to get the word out and at the meetings. He thinks before the end of the Summer that program would be set up and that third location will be active. He said there is not a lot of effort to do it, the vendor will drop off the 35-gallon toters, maybe more, they will do their marketing, advertising and public outreach and education and then the program is active as soon as they deliver the toters.

Mr. Livingston asked if there are any economies of scale that are getting price breaks if they open a new location.

Mr. Carr said there could be. He said they could certainly see if they would be willing to entertain a reduction in the cost per pickup. He said the program is managed by the number of times they have to come and pick up the bins. He thinks it's \$5 a toter and x number of weeks per month that they could pick up. They have eight (8) toters at the Rowayton Community Center and eight (8) toters at the Transfer Station and they pick up once a week on average then in the Summer, they will increase the collection due to the smell, heat, and temperature. Winter and Fall has a reduced collection, and, in the Summer, it is increased.

Mr. Livingston said it would be great if they could get some sort of break.

Ms. Shanahan said they have five (5) big toters now at the Rowayton Community Center. She asked how many kits they have leftover. She said they sold about 100 kits, but she thinks they have enough that it could part of their social media campaign. She said the kits are \$25 each.

Mr. Carr said they had purchased approximately 250 and sold 100 so they have at least 100 to 150 left. He said he could get that number and circulate to the Committee.

Ms. Shanahan said she would be happy to do one (1) afternoon with anybody who happens to be a Common Council Member from that district to sit and sell them. She said people found those really helpful and that is a good way to share the information.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked if Mr. Carr had any sense or information about the grocery stores, Costco, and the restaurants, if there is anyone doing industrial composting for their businesses. Is there any connection or tie-in that they could build on, coordinate and/or encourage people to start using that would also help potentially allow them to do economies of scale with their personal collection? She said she was curious whether or not that had come across his radar although she knows it is outside of his purview.

Mr. Carr said they haven't dealt much with the private entities. He said he could follow-up with Ms. Paladino and Mr. Torre. He said they do not have any visibility on if those private entities are participating in their own food scrap composting. He said they can continue to promote public outreach but there is nothing in their ordinance and he doesn't know the logistics of a private/public partnership of how that would work using the City funding. Right now, they do not have any commercial entities participating and no one has approached them.

Ms. Shanahan said that she could talk to Mr. Carr offline about it. She said she knows a little bit about it.

**ADJOURNMENT MS. SHANAHAN MOTIONED TO ADJOURN
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:08P.M.**

**NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2022
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD**