

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
NOVEMBER 4, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** Laurel Lindstrom, Chair; Kelly Straniti, Christopher Potts  
Andrew Conroy (8:54 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Hal Alvord, Director of Public Works

**OTHERS:** Carmine Dalacy, Diane Cece, Susan Lerow, Demtriu Arnone,  
Paul Retter, Mr. Byrd

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. A quorum was not present.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**Public hearing on proposed revisions to Department of Public Works Rates  
and Fees.**

*The following remarks by all speakers have been summarized and are not necessarily  
verbatim.*

Ms. Lindstrom called the public hearing on the proposed revisions to Department of  
Public Works Rates and Fees at 7:35 p.m. She then asked if there was anyone present to  
speak to the item three times. No one came forward to address the Committee. Ms.  
Lindstrom closed the public hearing on the proposed revisions to Department of Public  
Works Rates and Fees at 7:36 p.m.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PORTION**

*The following remarks by all speakers have been summarized and are not necessarily  
verbatim.*

Mr. Byrd requested an update on Buckingham and Lockwood project. He said that it was  
frustrating to hear about all the delays in the bidding process.

Ms. Carmen Dielsi of 45 Olmstead Place said that she would like to speak face to face to  
everyone about Olmstead Place. She said that the project was not shown to the residents  
in a clear manner. She said that she would like to have the pond back but realized that

was not possible. Ms. Diane Cece handed out a list of items that the residents felt could help mitigate the situation resulting from the pond being drained.

Ms. Cece said that she agreed with Ms. Dielsi and that if the residents had known what the project would end up looking like, they would have fought the City to prevent the changes. She said that Conservation officer was out to inspect the site twice and that the site was in compliance. She said that Mr. Alvord had been out to check the area and that it was in compliance. Ms. Cece then reviewed the items on the list she had handed out. Ms. Cece said that while the minutes reflect the Mr. Alvord's comment that the neighbor's property did not abut the pond, but their yards are just a few feet from the pond.

Ms. Cece said that when the Fitch School was open, the City had maintained the pond and had electric lights and was well cared for. After the school closed, the City stopped the maintenance.

Ms. Cece said that the pond debris was still there and along with a number of tree limbs that were broken when the cranes came in to remove the debris.

Ms. Cece said that even if the site is within compliance, it does not meet the needs of the neighbors who live around the pond. She said that she didn't want to have people ask where the neighbors were when these items were being discussed.

Mr. Paul Retter, of 2 Overlook Road, a Norwalk resident said that he was concerned with the public road, he wanted to make sure that when a road was turned over from a private entity to the City, the City should make sure that the road was in compliance with the City standards and that the City did not find itself in the position of having to make extensive repairs or upgrades to the road.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION PORTION**

### **1. Project updates –**

Regarding the Buckingham/Lockwood pipe replacement, Mr. Alvord said that on Buckingham, Yankee Gas is cleared to move forward on the project and he was not sure why they hadn't started yet. He pointed out that there was an easement issue on the corners of one of the streets. When asked if he felt that the easement would be granted, he replied that he did believe so, but that it would be a lengthy project.

### **Olmstead Wetlands**

Mr. Alvord said that he was at the site recently and that the trash should have been hauled away by Penna. He said that he would have to have a meeting with the contractor about the issue.

Ms. Cece asked for a point of clarification. Mr. Alvord said that he would be meeting with Penna about the punch list and that he would have a meeting with the appropriate parties to review the items on Ms. Cece's list.

Mr. Arnone said that Penna had been out at his place to replant the area, but they had dropped off sand, not topsoil and that the area had been seeded. He pointed out that seeding lawns would normally be done in September, not November.

Ms. Cece stated that her list was for fixing the issues, and not the contractor's punchlist.

Ms. Lindstrom pointed out that this was the last time this particular committee would be meeting before the newly elected Council would convene.

### **BUSINESS PORTION**

#### **1. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday October 6, 2009.**

The following corrections were noted.

Page 1, under OTHERS: please change "Andy Delsey" to "Danny Dielsi"

Page 2, paragraph 3, line 2: please change "Tige and Bond" to "Tighe and Bond"

Page 2, paragraph 5, line 1: please change "when the review the" to "when they review the"

Page 3, paragraph 1, line 1: please change "maintenance fess will be" to "maintenance fee will be"

Page 3, paragraph 4, line 3: please change "if it is a .net. Mr. Alvord" to "if it is a '.net'. Mr. Alvord"

Page 3, under Buckingham/Lockwood pipe replacement, paragraph 1, line 3: please change "down streak and" to "down stream and"

Page 5, under Agenda Item 5, line 1: please change "this will study will" to "this study will"

Page 5, under Agenda Item 5, line 3: please change “that member of the” to “that a member of the”

Page 7, under Roads: paragraph 4, line 2: please change “Hendrics” to “Hendricks”

## **2. Approve proposed revisions to DPW Rates and Fees**

Ms. Lindstrom stated that as chairwoman, she would forward the Rate and Fees along with the Procedure for Accepting of a Private Street as backup to the Council for the next meeting because a quorum was not present.

## **3. Approve Procedure for City Acceptance of a Private Street**

Mr. Alvord said that there had been a detailed discussion about this last month. He said that there were provisions in the code for the residents of a private road to gift their private road to the City. There are two roads whose residents would like to do this. Mr. Alvord then reviewed the certification process and the necessary record searches. The \$2,500 application fee would cover the core bores and other needed tasks, such as pulling the “as built” drawings. There are two stop points where the residents could elect not to proceed, which might be needed if the street did not have appropriate drainage or was not built in compliance to City standards. The residents would be responsible for bringing the road up to City standards and this could become a very costly venture for them if there were a number of issues to deal with in doing so.

Mr. Alvord explained that while he understood the idea of retaining a portion of the application fee for the work that was done up to the decision not to proceed. Mr. Alvord explained that it would take more time and effort to issue a partial refund so he felt it would be best just to refund the full amount. He added that there would not be many cases where the process would be limited to just pulling the drawings. Fieldwork always has to be done. The residents would be required to bring the street up to code and the City would give them a detailed estimate of what it would cost to bring the street up to the City standard.

Ms. Straniti then asked about the two stop points. Mr. Alvord reviewed these with her and answered the details questions related to this.

Mr. Potts asked about the cost of doing the field work. Mr. Alvord explained that the application fee was an average. He sat down with Mr. Linnartz and they calculated what it would cost to do the field work on routine tasks.

Mr. Alvord said that he had not heard back from the City Counsel on the questions regarding the Procedures for City Acceptance of Private Street until just before the

meeting. Mr. Potts had several questions about various details in the document, which the Committee then reviewed.

Mr. Retter then asked if these procedures had been checked with other cities that have done this before. Mr. Alvord said that the staff had checked and could not find other municipalities that actually had procedures in place. However, there are two of our neighboring towns that want to adopt Norwalk's procedure once they are finalized.

#### **4. Approve proposed schedule of a Committee meeting for CY 2010**

Because the new Council has not been sworn in yet, Mr. Alvord said that he would put this item back on the next agenda.

### **GENERAL INFORMATION PORTION Cont'd**

#### **Project Updates**

##### **Bridges:**

Mr. Potts asked about the Reed Bridge. Mr. Alvord said that the two lane pavement will be opened to the public until Deering paving works on widening the street.

##### **Building Management:**

Mr. Potts asked about the elevator. Mr. Alvord said that there was a main piston failure on one of the elevators. This included a small fire in the elevator shaft. He explained that there wasn't an account for repairs to large items like the elevator in the budget, so they were involved emergency appropriations.

Mr. Potts asked about the painting of the cupola on City Hall. Mr. Alvord said that by the time the contracts were approved, the mean temperature was too low to have proper paint adhesion.

Mr. Potts asked about Maywood Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that there was no drainage on the Norwalk portion of Maywood. This would be a major capital project.

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the signal at East Avenue and Winfield Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that this particular signal was the last one that was replaced and he was not certain whether or not it had been completed. The synchronization will take a bit of work, but can not start until all the lights are installed.

Mr. Retter said that the traffic delineators were working well at the intersection of East Avenue and Hendricks. Mr. Alvord said that during the first few days, there were a few

drivers who made awkward turns around those delineators, but he had not seen these types of turns recently on the traffic monitor.

Ms. Straniti said that she had gotten a great compliment about the No Parking signs at Country Convenience. She said that the resident told her that it was a great improvement. Mr. Alvord then reviewed the procedure involved in putting a No Parking sign on a State Road.

Mr. Potts said that the residents of Beechwood had requested No Parking signs because of the Norwalk Community College enrollment increase. Mr. Alvord said that he has tried to cultivate a relationship with the State DOT and other State entities to enable this type of request to move forward smoothly. After a brief discussion, Mr. Alvord said that he would have the traffic analysis review the situation.

Ms. Lindstrom said that there had been a No Parking sign on East Avenue by Rowan Street. Mr. Alvord explained that the City is trying avoid sign pollution. He added that there were wooden No Parking signs nailed to telephone poles. These are illegal signs and the police can not enforce them.

Ms. Straniti asked if a particular resident had contacted DPW about patching potholes on Burlington Court. Ms. Lindstrom said that she had heard concerns expressed about the sidewalks under Strawberry Hill Avenue Railroad underpass. Mr. Alvord explained that the pavement was in the same condition as Burlington Court. Ms. Lindstrom said that there was a student who lives on Gregory Blvd. who had to walk to Nathan Hale and the parent was concerned about the lack of sidewalks and the poor condition of the sidewalks.

*Mr. Conroy joined the meeting at 8:54 p.m. A Quorum was now present.*

Mr. Alvord said that usually the department receives \$125,000 for sidewalks and curbs. He said that this would limit what the department could do. He said that he would like to have a five year plan for sidewalks.

### **Water Pollution Control**

Mr. Potts asked what the result came from the meeting with Black and Veatch about the power generators. Mr. Alvord explained that there had been ongoing discussions with the Third Taxing District. The kick off meeting focused on the timeframes for meetings about the electrical plant.

## **2. Norwalk Transfer Station**

Mr. Alvord distributed copies of the Tonnage Report to the Committee members. He said that the green bins have been selling quickly.

Mr. Alvord said that there is a Chief Custodian and he has been accompanying Mr. Gianitti and Ms. Panciera have been visiting each one of the schools to encourage the District to recycle.

Mr. Potts asked about the Special Appropriation line, which Mr. Alvord promptly reviewed. He also included the reasons for that budget line item in his remarks.

Mr. Alvord then handed out a packet of additional information to the Committee members that had arrived after the Committee agenda had been completed.

**Studying Burnell Blvd bridge for No Parking restriction.**

He said that the Burnell Bridge was not designed to have vehicles parked on both sides of it all day. He believes that most of these vehicles are from the construction workers at Avalon Bay.

**2009 paving Program – all streets completed except for Sasqua Road.**

Mr. Alvord said that all the streets had been paved except for one which had drainage issue.

**Cost comparison – Drainage on Sasqua Road**

Mr. Alvord said that this will work will be done in the spring.

**Fleet Services winter prep completed without overtime.**

DPW has been carefully planning the timing of the winter prep for the trucks and has now completed the task without requiring overtime. He added that the department was also training the drivers who would be plowing and reviewing their new routes with the drivers. Signs are now posted on the backs of those vehicles informing the public that the driver is in training.

**DOT Updates on:**

- a. Replacement of East Avenue Bridge**
- b. Walk Bridge Repair**
- c. Catenary Replacement Project**

Mr. Alvord said that the State was transferring budget allocations from various accounts to cover repairs to a major bridge. He felt that the three Norwalk projects would be put on hold because of the repairs needed to the other bridge.

### **Hiring freeze implemented October 27, 2009**

Mr. Alvord explained that he was currently down 18 staff positions and that there was another job vacancy coming up that he would not be able to replace.

### **FY 2010-11 budget guidance and outlook**

Mr. Alvord informed the Committee that he had received the memo from the Finance office and that the budget forecast for the next fiscal year was not good.

### **BUSINESS PORTION Cont'd**

Ms. Lindstrom stated that there was a quorum present and that the Committee

### **Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday October 6, 2009 - Cont'd**

**\*\* MS. STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2009 AS CORRECTED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Approve proposed revisions to DPW Rates and Fees – Cont'd**

**\*\* MR. POTTS MOVED TO APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO DPW RATES AND FEES.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **Approve Procedure for City Acceptance of a Private Street – Cont'd**

**\*\* MR. CONROY MOVED TO APPROVE PROCEDURE FOR CITY ACCEPTANCE OF A PRIVATE STREET**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Alvord explained that the information would be included in the Council package as backup, but the Council did not need to approve the procedure since the Public Works Committee had already approved it.



Ms. Lindstrom said that she appreciated being the chair for the last six months and felt that progress had been made on a number project. She said that the committee had worked well together and that Mr. Alvord had worked well with everyone.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. STRANITI MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

