

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 6, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Laurel Lindstrom, Chair; Michael Geake; Douglas Hempstead; Christopher Potts; Kelly Straniti (7:34 p.m.); Andrew Conroy (7:38 p.m.)

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Diane Cece, Lisa Roccecia, Andy Delsey, Olmstead Place; Carl Bruce, Asset Works

Public Hearing

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

Ms. Lindstrom opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. She said that it had been publicized and asked if anyone wished to speak. After asking several times and hearing no response, Ms. Lindstrom closed the public hearing.

Public Participation Portion

1. **Public input.**

Ms. Lisa Roccecia asked for an update on the Moody's Lane flood remediation project and if the bid package had gone out.

Mr. Andy Delsey, asked about the Olmstead Pond project. He said that he lives very close to the pond and said that it is a mess and dangerous.

Ms. Straniti joined the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

Mr. Delsey said that he was here with four other people regarding the Olmstead Pond project.

Ms. Diane Cece, Olmstead Place said that she was here this evening to talk about the ongoing Olmstead Pond project. She said that there were a few neighbors here from Olmstead Place and they asked her to speak on their behalf.

Ms. Cece said that the dredging of the Pond was completed, but a number of neighbors felt that the Pond had nothing to do with the flooding. Instead they felt it had to do with

the piping. Ms. Cece said that they really did not want this project done, but there were neighbors who live on the pond who wanted to help the neighbors who got flooded. She said that they let the City move forward with the project.

Ms. Cece said that even though they understood that the Pond was going away, it was not clear what was being done.

Mr. Conroy joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Ms. Cece said that the area became a weed infested dump. She said that she went to the Tige and Bond paperwork to see the terminology of what they planned to do. She said that their plans called for a meandering stream with an enhanced wildlife habitat.

Ms. Cece presented a current photograph of the Pond. She said that it was overgrown with weeds and there was stagnant water. She said that she was here to tell the Committee that they reluctantly gave into the project, but it is not acceptable. Ms. Cece said that she wanted the Committee to take this up as an action item and to find a remedy. She said that the Conservation Officer reviewed the compliance of the Plan.

Ms. Lindstrom said that the Committee would discuss this later when they review the project list.

There were no other members of the public who wished to speak.

Business Portion

**** MR. GEAKE MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

1. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement with AssetWorks, Inc. for the purchase, installation and implementation of integrated fleet and fuel management systems for a sum not to exceed \$130,000.00.

Account Nos. 09090600-5777-C0375 (\$60,000.00)

09100600-5777-C0375 (\$8,000.00)

09063110-5777-C0339 (\$1,750.00)

09073110-5777-C0386 (\$6,750.00)

09094031-5777-C0313 (\$53.72)

09104031-5777-C0313 (\$53,446.28)

Mr. Alvord explained that the memo in the package gave an overview of what they are attempting to do in fleet management services.

Mr. Carl Bruce, an Account Representative from Asset Works gave a power point presentation of the system. He noted that they are the only vendor that offers a fully integrated fleet and fuel management system. Mr. Alvord said that the annual

maintenance fee will be built into the operating budget and the data conversion and training is included in the cost. He said that IT does not foresee any additional costs.

Mr. Potts asked about the reports. Mr. Alvord said that 20-25 reports will be run routinely and he will have access to the system to pull reports. Mr. Bruce explained that the license is based on the fleet size. Mr. Geake noted that usage based pricing is not an uncommon practice.

Mr. Hempstead said that he was trying to understand the math and asked how they came up with \$130,000. Mr. Bruce said that there is an extra \$10,000 in there. Mr. Hempstead asked for clear figures. Mr. Hempstead asked if they could do this for \$125,000 and Mr. Alvord explained that they have already been through the negotiations.

Ms. Straniti asked about technical support. Mr. Bruce said that they have a website, phone support and a 24 hour on call system if the system goes down. Mr. Conroy asked if it is .net . Mr. Alvord said that it was and there are plans to support Windows 7.

Mr. Alvord clarified that the various account numbers are related to fleet. There is some account scrubbing to ensure they are doing a re-appropriation of funds.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the maintenance fees were being paid up front and Mr. Alvord said that they were.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

General Information Portion

1. Project updates - See attached project status sheet.

DRAINAGE/SEWER

Buckingham/Lockwood pipe replacement

Mr. Alvord explained that the bid package is close to being ready to advertise. Yankee Gas is working on relocating the gas line. He said that they are going to start the project down stream and then work up. They would like to start in November and it will take until spring to complete the project.

Olmstead Place Drainage Improvements

Mr. Alvord said that the grasses growing at the site are native. He said that the plants will develop over time and an annual cutting is required. Ms. Lindstrom asked about the concept of a meandering stream. Mr. Alvord said that it can be described in a number of ways. Typically there is a trickle, but there is not a lot of running water.

Ms. Cece noted that the record of this meeting will only show that she spoke. She asked her neighbors to identify themselves. They were:

Carmen Dalacy, 40 Olmstead Place
Alex Sandros, 47 Olmstead Place
Susan LaRowe, 42 Olmstead Place
Ted Coppola, 35 Olmstead Place
Jerry Kurby, 37 Olmstead Place

Ms. Cece requested that this item be included on next month's agenda. She said that L&L Evergreen never had a picture of the planting plan that was approved by the Conservation Commission. Ms. Lindstrom said that this will be on next month's agenda. Mr. Kurby asked how many Committee members went to the site, besides Ms. Lindstrom. Mr. Alvord noted that there is a homeless camp behind Fitch School.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she hoped they could do something about the plantings. Mr. Alvord said that what is being referred to as the Pond was one acre of scum that was three inches deep. He said that in response to complaints by Mr. Dalacy, flowering dogwoods were planted along the property line.

Mr. Conroy asked how many people were invited to see the Pond. No one was invited. Ms. Lindstrom said that she went because it is in her neighborhood. Mr. Hempstead said that if they knew there was an issue, they all would have been there.

Mr. Geake asked what was first, the three inches of scum, or the houses. Mr. Alvord said that he does not know; the houses have been there since the 1950's. Ms. Lindstrom said that the first time she saw the Pond it was very pretty and she saw turtles there.

Mr. Geake asked about the best way to get to the Pond. Ms. Lindstrom explained that there is a public right of way between 43-45 Olmstead Place.

Mr. Conroy asked if the Pond is in the resident's backyard. Mr. Alvord said that it was not. All of the homes have their own backyards. He said that 45 and 47 Olmstead Place never flooded because they are located uphill from the Pond.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

2. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday September 1, 2009.

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 2: Mr. Hilliard should read Mr. Potts

Page 3: rights should read right
Page 6: 990 systems should read (90) systems

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. CONROY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

3. Approve proposed revisions to DPW Rates and Fees.

Mr. Alvord noted that there were no comments at the public hearing. The proposal is to provide a discount. Ms. Lindstrom noted that the green recycling bins were selling very well.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

4. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order(s) to Signal Services, Inc. for Traffic Signal Cabinet w/Controller, specified in bid #2521, for an amount not to exceed \$45,900.00.

Account Nos. 09094021-5777-C0442

Mr. Alvord explained that the controllers are the standard ones that are built into the traffic control system. Mr. Potts asked if the new controllers will use video detection. Mr. Alvord said that they will.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

5. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation for the Norwalk Traffic Management Study and approve the provision of the required twenty percent (20%) matching funds as follows:

Account No. 09074120-5777-C0396 (\$25,000.00)

09024021-5777-C0317 (\$22,891.21)

09034021-5777-C0317 (\$7,266.33)

09044021-5777-C0317 (\$44,842.46)

Mr. Alvord reviewed the history of this item. Ms. Lindstrom said that this will study will incorporate the traffic calming plan. If this is approved, it will then go through the RFP process. Mr. Alvord said that member of the Committee will be invited to participate in the RFP process.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. CONROY MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

6. Approve Procedure for City Acceptance of a Private Street.

Mr. Conroy asked if there was a rush because he would first like to give it to the 6th District Commissioners. Ms. Lindstrom asked if this item could be held off to next month. Mr. Hempstead asked for a list of private streets. Mr. Alvord said that there are over 140 private streets and he will e-mail the list to the Committee members. Mr. Hempstead suggested that Public Works retain the fees.

Mr. Alvord said that he has never gotten a request to accept an existing private street since he has been here and neither has Mr. Linnartz.

**** MR. CONROY MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. POTTS MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

7. Schedule a public hearing on proposed revisions to the Public Works Rate and Fee Schedule to be conducted at 7:30 PM on Wednesday November 4, 2009 in Room 101, Norwalk City Hall.

Mr. Alvord said that Public Works is the only department that is not reimbursed for their support at various events throughout the year. Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord if he had a sense of what is spent on a yearly basis. Mr. Alvord said that he did not have the over time budget for these events. If the support takes place during straight time, then the regular work is not being done.

Mr. Hempstead expressed concern about charging Veteran's organizations. Mr. Alvord said that the event organizers get billed for Police control. Mr. Conroy said that he has conceptual problems with the fees. He said that for example, if they are doing the Memorial Day parade, it is a City parade and they would have to charge a huge fee and may have to cancel the parade.

Mr. Hempstead said that he would like to see actual costs.

Ms. Straniti suggested allowing people to pick up the cones. Mr. Conroy suggested charging a flat fee to cover an event.

Ms. Lindstrom said that the option to pick up cones is worth looking at.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO TABLE THE EVENT SUPPORT FEES
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING ON
RATES AND FEE SCHEDULE
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

The following item was withdrawn.

8. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to _____ for the purchase of three (3) high compaction refuse bodies, specified in bid #2874, for an amount not to exceed \$_____. **(bids due Tuesday October 6, 2009)**
Account No. 09 09/10 4031 5777 C0313

General Information Portion

Bridges:

Mr. Hempstead commented that a nice job was done on the Reed Street Extension.

Drainage:

Ms. Lindstrom said that this was discussed earlier.

Roads:

Sasqua Road – Mr. Alvord reported that drainage has been installed and they are trying to schedule a paving date.

Devil's Garden is in the 2010 paving plan.

East Avenue – Mr. Alvord said that the date is based on the DOT. Ms. Lindstrom said that they are going to need public information meetings along the way. Mr. Alvord said that he plans to hold a public information session within six months.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she has been hearing positive feedback about the no left turn onto Hendrics Avenue.

3. Norwalk transfer station.

Mr. Alvord said that the report for the month of August is in the package. He said that they are trying hard to market recycling. He said that last year they did over 6 tons of

recyclables. He added that for a city of this size there is no reason why twice that amount can't be done.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if there was a plan to get this out to the public even more. Mr. Alvord said that there was, but the problem was that they had no luck working with the Central Office and he does not have anyone to work with the Custodians at the schools. He said that if they could increase recycling, they would decrease garbage.

4. Additional information items.

Mr. Alvord said that a public information session on the Triangle Street Bridge in East Norwalk has been scheduled. He said that he e-mailed the Metropool notice to the Councilmembers representing South Norwalk so that they would be aware of the sidewalk closures.

Mr. Alvord said that the Traffic Authority is going to recommend making Reynolds Street one way at their next meeting. Ms. Lindstrom asked if the neighbors have been notified. Mr. Alvord said that he will check.

Mr. Alvord said that the groundbreaking ceremony will take place next Thursday at the Waste Water Treatment plant.

Mr. Alvord said that over the next couple of months, people will see trucks with signs "driver in training". This will get the drivers oriented to their snow routes.

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services