

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Laurel Lindstrom, Chair; Michael Geake; Carvin Hilliard;
Christopher Potts; Kelly Straniti; Douglas Hempstead (7:35p.m.)

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Larry Ruttenberg

Ms. Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Ms. Lindstrom welcomed Mr. Geake and Mr. Potts to the committee.

Public Participation Portion

1. Public input.

Mr. Larry Ruttenberg, Buckingham Place said that he was here for his monthly update.

2. Project updates - See attached project status sheet.

Bridges

Ms. Straniti asked for an update on the 123 Bridge replacement. Mr. Alvord said that four months ago he was told that it would be completed in about a year. He said that he believes that the bridge will open next summer with all four traffic lanes completed.

Mr. Alvord reported that two more DOT bridge projects will be added to the list. They are Triangle Street and Burnell Boulevard.

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the 136 Bridge repairs. Mr. Alvord reported that the DOT requested four closures.

Mr. Hempstead joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Alvord gave the Committee the bridge closure dates. Mr. Hilliard asked if the bridge could be closed at night. Mr. Alvord said that would still impact traffic.

Mr. Potts asked for an update on the Reed Street Ext. project. Mr. Alvord said that it should be completed in October. They are currently working on the underground utilities.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the status of the Scribner Avenue/West Cedar Street/Taylor Avenue bridges. Mr. Alvord said that the DOT is talking about starting the project next year. They plan to close West Cedar Street and Taylor Avenue simultaneously. West Cedar Street is going to be a significant project.

Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord if he has gotten feedback from the State regarding the Silvermine River Bridge over the Merritt. Mr. Alvord said that they had a public informational meeting two months ago, but has heard nothing further. The general sentiment is to not touch the bridge; however, there are public safety issues at stake.

Building Management

There was no discussion.

Drainage/Sewer Extension

Mr. Alvord reported that he has the DEP permit in hand and they are moving at lighting speed on the Buckingham/Lockwood pipe replacement project. Mr. Alvord said that Yankee Gas originally said that they would not be able to move the gas line until next year. Following a meeting with Mayor Moccia, they are beginning the work.

Mr. Alvord said that the bid package should be out in 10 – 14 days and the work will probably start up stream in November.

Mr. Hilliard notified Mr. Alvord that a resident on Maywood Avenue is getting flooded. Mr. Alvord took the resident's name and said that he will investigate. Mr. Alvord said that the punch list items for Olmstead Place have been completed.

Mr. Hilliard asked about the status of Bouton Street. Mr. Alvord said that they back cleared the culvert and in 1-2 years intend to do another McVac contract. They are still working to come up with a final solution.

There is nothing new on the Five Mile River project. The issue is bank erosion, except for Mckendrie Court.

Traffic

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the status of the Strawberry Hill traffic calming project. Mr. Alvord said that they can only move forward if they stop other projects. The DOT has other priorities. He added that he did not believe they will lose funding.

Roads

Ms. Straniti asked if Ponus avenue will get paved under the stimulus funding. Mr. Alvord said that was not on the list. He said that they have to spend the money first and then get reimbursed. Mr. Alvord said that he did not believe they were doing to do any economic stimulus projects until next spring.

Mr. Alvord said that Main Street is going to look very different when it is completed. They are going to start paving next Tuesday night. Currently Yankee Gas is replacing the gas mains. Ms. Straniti said that West Main Street is very bad and needs to be paved.

Sidewalks

Mr. Alvord said that there is \$125,000 to be used for emergency repairs. He said that he and Mr. Linnartz have talked about creating a program to address sidewalks, but they first have to get the infrastructure corrected. Ms. Lindstrom said that a plan is a good idea.

Mr. Hempstead suggested adding footpath repairs to next year's capital budget. Mr. Alvord said that there are 45 miles of footpaths and they were not constructed rights. Mr. Hempstead said that he sees people walking with babies on state highways where there are only remnants of footpaths. Mr. Alvord said that he did not recommend including footpaths into highway improvements. Mr. Hempstead suggested putting \$20,000 into the request. He said that this was a project that was worthy of funding. Ms. Lindstrom said that she agreed.

Water Pollution Control Authority

Ms. Lindstrom asked for an update on the Renewable energy study. Mr. Alvord said that the attorneys for Black & Veatch are delaying the contract. A groundbreaking ceremony will take place at the end of September for Phase I of

the treatment plant upgrade. The work will start in October. Once the project is completed the water will be drinkable.

Parking Authority

Ms. Lindstrom asked for an update on the Yankee Doodle Garage painting project. Mr. Alvord said that the stairwells will be painted. He said that the parking study is taking up a lot of time. Mr. Alvord said that the Redevelopment Agency took on a broader study. He said that he believes they are about to provide an initial draft. Mr. Alvord said that free parking on the street can't be permitted because the developers need the revenue to pay off the bonds.

Mr. Alvord said that the main tower in the Maritime garage has water leaks. Some are warrantee items. There is some additional ceiling work that has to be done.

Other

Ms. Lindstrom asked where other project should be added to the agenda, such as the no left turn project. Mr. Alvord explained that the purpose of the list is to demonstrate the projects that use staff resources. Ms. Lindstrom asked for a way to get information out to the public so that they know about new projects.

Business Portion

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE MINUTES**

- 1. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday August 4, 2009.**

The following correction was made:
Correct the spelling of Mr. Pavlicin's name.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. POTTS AND MS. STRANITI)**

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

- 2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to Altec Industries Inc. for the purchase of a 2010 LRV-55 Bucket/Chipper Unit mounted on a 2010 Ford F750 Truck for a sum not to exceed \$112,013.00.
Account No. 09 09/10 4031 5777 C0313**

Mr. Alvord explained the item. He said that this equipment will add significant efficiency to tree trimming jobs.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

3. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute a Second Amendment to the Agreement with Tighe & Bond, Inc. for professional engineering services for drainage improvements – Lockwood Lane for a sum not to exceed \$10,000.00. Account No. 0909 4027 5777 C0421

Mr. Alvord explained that they were employed to do two projects.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. GEAKE MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD TWO ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

4. Schedule a public hearing on proposed revisions to the Public Works Rate and Fee Schedule to be conducted at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 in room 101, Norwalk City Hall

Mr. Alvord explained the revisions. He said that a second bin will be available to recycle paper. He said that Ms. Lindstrom suggested using a different color bin. In order to encourage people to use the second bin she suggested offering a discount if a resident purchases both bins. She said that it will be easier for people to place papers in a separate recycling bin rather than putting the papers in a bag or tying them with a string.

Mr. Hempstead said that he would like to be able to offer the bins for free. He suggested that Mr. Alvord approach The Hour to underwrite the cost of the bins. Ms. Lindstrom said that they need to begin advertising that the recycling program has been expanded.

Mr. Hempstead said that he has nothing but kind words for City Carting at the Transfer Station. It has been running very professionally.

The Committee discussed the new recycling procedures.

94-3.4 – will revise the charge for a blue bin from \$10.00 to 2 for \$15.00 and \$5.00 with a senior discount to 2 for \$7.50. Any rate changes require Common Council approval

**** MR. HILLIARD MOVED ITEM FOUR
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

Approve technical correction to Council authorization of May 12, 2009

As Authorized:

2b. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue Purchase Orders to Econolite, Inc. for the purchase of Econolite Solo Terra Video Detection Systems, the City of Norwalk's standard traffic video detection system, as necessary to support the replacement of traffic loop detectors, traffic signal maintenance and the traffic signal upgrade project, not to exceed ninety 990) systems.

Mr. Alvord said that he was informed last Friday that item 2b was a faulty authorization and required the following correction.

As Corrected:

2b. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue Purchase Orders to Econolite, Inc. for the purchase of additional Econolite Solo Terra Video Detection Systems, the City of Norwalk's standard traffic video detection system, as necessary to support the replacement of traffic loop detectors, traffic signal maintenance and the traffic signal upgrade project, not to exceed ninety 990) systems. Account Nos. Various

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

General Information Portion

1. Norwalk transfer station.

Mr. Alvord said that the report is in the package. He said that recycling was added to the report. Mr. Alvord said that he and Ms. Lindstrom discussed where to include revenue.

Mr. Alvord said that due to the economy there has been a large reduction in tonnage. Ms. Lindstrom suggested tracking the tonnage on a quarterly basis. Mr. Alvord said that there are seasonal variations throughout the year. November is the highest month.

2. Public Works Open House – Saturday October 3, 2009

Mr. Alvord announced that the open house would take place on October 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. He invited all committee members to stop by. The Household Hazardous Waste Day will take place on September 12th from 8:00 a.m. to noon at Norwalk High School.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

