

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
AUGUST 4, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Laurel Lindstrom, Chair; Michael Geake; Douglas Hempstead;
Carvin Hilliard (7:38 p.m.)

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Diane Cece; Diane Lauricella; Larry Ruttenberg; Nick Overall;
Tod Bryant

Ms. Lindstrom called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Public Participation Portion

1. Public input.

Mr. Ruttenberg, Buckingham Place, said that he was here for his monthly update on the Buckingham/Lockwood project. He said that Mr. Alvord already updated him on this project.

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

Mr. Nick Overall, East Norwalk thanked the Committee for reviewing the resolution for the second time. He said that he wants it to be the best project it can be and keeping a good urban design is key.

Mr. Tod Bryant, Morgan Avenue said that the key part of the resolution is that the public will be involved. He said that he hoped that people would stay on top of that. He added that the Committee did a great job in re evaluating the resolution.

Ms. Diane Lauricella speaking as a Citizen said that she echoed the previous speakers relating to the East Avenue project. She said that in reading the resolution, she thought it would have more definitive language. She said that she had hoped that the Committee would have held another public meeting. Ms. Lauricella said that the resolution was quite unusual and is making an effort to show that there has been a public informational meeting. She said that she is in favor of both aspect of the project, but asked if they could be put on hold until the document is available for the public and the Common Council to review.

Ms. Lauricella said that based on the Common Council's resolution, there was a second resolution they talked about. She said that she would like to know the status if the road is

widened, because there is no wording in the resolution about widening the sidewalk. Ms. Lauricella said that it seems that there are not going to be any takings. She said that she thought there would have been more definitive information available.

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

2. Project updates - See attached project status sheet.

Bridges:

Mr. Alvord said that nothing had changed from the last report. Ms. Lindstrom asked about the outcome of the Merritt over Silvermine meeting on June 30th. Mr. Alvord said that the DOT heard the public. Mr. Hempstead added that most of the feedback was to leave the existing bridge alone. Mr. Alvord said that there are some safety issues because of the proximity to the two rivers. Mr. Hempstead said that to their credit, they had the original drawings from the original bridge and mimicked them. Mr. Alvord said that the DOT is required to hold one public informational meeting. Mr. Bryant said that he understands that they received a determination of adverse impact.

Building Management:

There were no comments.

Drainage/Sewer Extension:

Buckingham/Lockwood

Mr. Alvord reported that the 40 day comment period for the DEP expired on August 2nd and he believes there were no negative comments. There is a conflict with Yankee Gas and the Mayor and Mr. Alvord will meet with them tomorrow. Ms. Lindstrom requested results of that meeting.

Bouton Street

Mr. Alvord said that they do not have a final solution for Bouton Street yet.

Traffic:

Traffic Signal Updates

Ms. Lindstrom asked if the traffic signal bid packages went out. Mr. Alvord will check on them.

Roads:

Mr. Alvord said that Wall Street and Bouton Street are done. They will begin working on Newtown Avenue. Mr. Hempstead asked if there was a way to paint the railing on the Wall Street bridge. Mr. Alvord said that he would check.

RT. 1 Improvements

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the Rt 1 improvements. Mr. Alvord said that was being done as part of the Poko development; DPW will manage the contract.

Sidewalks:

There were no comments.

Water Pollution Control Authority:

Phase 1 WWTP Upgrade

Mr. Alvord reported that the bids came in 17% below the cost estimate. This is a three phase project.

Parking Authority:

SoNo Railroad Station Improvements

Mr. Hilliard asked about the SoNo Railroad Station improvements. Mr. Alvord reported that the lighting is almost complete. They are putting in more efficient lighting. He added that they had an incentive program from SNEW.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the hours of parking enforcement at the Tasty Freeze (IMAX) parking lot. Mr. Geake said that he has heard complaints from the restaurant staff because they have to run out and put money in the meter. Mr. Alvord said that the restaurant staff can park in other areas at a reduced rate. The Committee talked about parking issues at City Hall.

Other:

Mr. Geake asked if the GIS software was installed. Mr. Alvord said that it has to be connected to three different systems. They expect to go live in October. Ms. Lindstrom asked if the committee has been meeting. Mr. Alvord said that they have been meeting and hired a consultant. There are about 30 different actions; eight have been completed.

Business Portion

- 1. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday July 7, 2009.**

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

The following corrections were made:

Page 3: Todd should be Tod

Second paragraph, ...and other alternatives should be studied to deal with the traffic.

Fourth paragraph, laced should be lacked

Page 4: Pablison should be Paplison

Page 11: under 8b. ...Bob Duff and he is willing to arrange for the DPW

...would be less to pay because they will not have to do improvements

**** MOTION PASSED AS CORRECTED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. GEAKE)**

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

- 2. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to Cargill, Inc. – Deicing Technology Business Unit for Treated Road Salt for Snow and Ice Control, pricing not to exceed \$94.89 per ton for normal and after-hour delivery effective for the 2009-2010 winter season.**

Account No. 0140 25 5322

Mr. Alvord reported that the bid summary sheet was in the package. Mr. Geake asked how they budgeted for this. Mr. Alvord explained that the Finance Department sets the pro forma and they are influenced by the previous winters. He added that there is no scientific approach. Mr. Hempstead said that historically they tend to come in under budget. Mr. Alvord said that this company is located in New Jersey; they were the provider last year and their service was impeccable.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

3. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to *Gabrielli Truck Sales, LTD* for the purchase of three (3) 2010 Mack GU712 Plow Trucks for a sum not to exceed \$499,452.

(Bids due Friday July 31)

Account No. 09 09/10 4031 5777 C0313

Mr. Alvord explained that the bids did not come in until after the meeting packets were sent. Ms. Cece said that she objected because the company was not on the agenda.

Mr. Alvord said that Hartford Freightliners submitted bids, but none of them met the specs.

Ms. Lindstrom noted that they received basically two bidders; Freightliners submitted four bids and Gabrielli submitted one bid. Mr. Alvord said that he tried to get the bids back in time from the Purchasing Department in time to put them on the agenda.

Ms. Cece said that she wanted to voice a formal objection to this. She said that this is another fill in the blank and there is no time for anyone to research. She said that it does not seem to be a time is of the essence project. Ms. Cece asked that this item be tabled to the next meeting.

Ms. Lindstrom asked the Committee members if they had any concerns. Mr. Geake asked if these were off the shelf items. Mr. Alvord said that they typically try to get RFPs out in late April or early May for the next winter season.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the Committee had questions about the trucks. Mr. Hilliard said that he had no questions. Mr. Hempstead said that if the Committee wants to table this item, he wanted to know what information they were looking for. Mr. Hempstead said that he has trust in Mr. Foley. Mr. Hilliard said that he agreed with Mr. Hempstead and did not see delaying this item for the sake of delaying it, unless there was a specific reason to do so.

Mr. Geake asked how long the response time was. Mr. Alvord said that they had three weeks and received only one valid bid. Mr. Geake said that then the only alternative would be to re-bid the item, and that would delay the process if it were tabled. He said that would push this to the beginning of September, and questioned what that would accomplish.

Mr. Alvord said that the bid came in well below budget. He added that they do not have Freightliner trucks in the fleet. He said that it is a weaker item and that it would be foolish to purchase that truck.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

4. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to Award Excellence Co., LLC for the Supply of Uniforms (Work Apparel) for a sum not to exceed \$17,000.00. Account No. 0140 21 5276

Mr. Alvord explained that there have been three different uniform companies since he arrived and the service has been terrible. The Union has agreed that the uniforms will be purchased and the employees will launder them.

Mr. Hempstead asked if this was a bid or a proposal. Mr. Alvord explained that it was a bid. Everyone except for the apparent low bidder met their specifications. Ms. Lindstrom asked if this will save money. Mr. Alvord said that they spent \$39,000 on uniforms last year. He said that they anticipated the bids to come in at \$22,000, but they came in at \$15,000. Mr. Alvord said that he suggested the not to exceed price.

Ms. Lindstrom asked how many uniforms each employee would get. Mr. Alvord said that it depended upon the department, but typically each employee would get five summer and five winter uniforms. Mr. Hempstead said that it is important to be sure that there will always be money in the budget for uniforms. Mr. Alvord said that the company is located in Florida.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

5. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue Orders on Contract to Wanat's Westport Electric Company, Inc., for the Washington Street Historic Light Project, for a sum not to exceed \$36,750. Account No. 0900 091 05701 C0009

Mr. Alvord explained that this item went before this Committee last month, but the Common Council sent it back at the urging of Mr. Krummel who did not like the fiber optic portion. Mr. Alvord said that all of the traffic signals are connected with fiber optics. He said that this is a good price and Westport Electric is willing to do the work. Mr. Hilliard said that this is a small amount and feels that it is appropriate. Mr. Geake asked if Purchasing had any input. Mr. Alvord said that they did.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT**

B. INSTALL FIBER OPTIC CABLE ALONG PORTIONS OF RIVERSIDE AND PONUS AVENUES. COST OF WORK IS \$36,750 (\$31,116.00 PLUS \$5,634 ALLOWANCE FOR CONTINGENCY AND POLICE TRAFFIC CONTROL)

ACCOUNT NOS.

014031-5264

014031-5267

014031-5269

014031-5296

014031-5336

014031-5341

014031-5343

014031-5345

**** MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

6. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to enter into an agreement with Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc. to provide engineering services for the Design of State Project 102-334, West Avenue Traffic Signal System Upgrade, for an amount not to exceed \$148,677.28. Account No. ConnDOT (TBP) NRA (TBP)

Mr. Alvorfd explained that this is the selection of the traffic signal consultant for West Avenue. The account numbers have not been established. Ms. Lindstrom said that Vanasse Hangen Brustlin were definitely qualified. Mr. Alvord said that he will try to get the account numbers from the Redevelopment Agency.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

7. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to sign the Resolution in support of the 2009 ARRA Norwalk Pavement Preservation Project (RESOLUTION FOLLOWS).

RESOLUTION

2009 ARRA Norwalk Pavement Preservation Project

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has identified and put forth locally maintained Federal Aid System collector and arterial roads that meet the requirements of the Pavement Preservation Program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has conducted a public open house to inform residents of the scope and benefits of the project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT acknowledges that the ARRA Pavement Preservation Program is a reimbursement program, that all expenditures must be borne by the City and that expenditures in excess of the ARRA amount will be borne solely by the City; and

WHEREAS, the South Western Regional Planning Agency has endorsed the project.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Norwalk, CT based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby fully supports the proposed project.

Mr. Alvord said that there are limits to how the stimulus funds can be used. He said that they have been trying to identify streets. He added that there is a requirement of having public outreach, which will take place tomorrow. Mr. Alvord said that the money has to be spent first and then they will get reimbursed.

Mr. Hempstead asked what would happen if at the public outreach, the public rejects the street. Mr. Alvord said that they had to tell the Feds which streets would be done. Mr. Alvord said that he did not think they would be able to do all of the streets because the DOT will take a percentage of the money to administer the federal grant; it is usually 1%. Mr. Alvord said the streets were chosen because there are no drainage problems on those streets.

Mr. Alvord said that this item was on the April agenda for information only and the public had an opportunity to speak. He said that he wanted to meet the criteria on the application so that they do not lose the \$1.9 million. They are now doing an open house. Mr. Alvord said that if anyone knows of a better street to let him know. Ms. Lindstrom said that she was comfortable with these streets, because the DPW know the streets.

Mr. Alvord said that this program was not part of what was submitted in the economic stimulus package. He noted that Mr. Yeosock found this on the internet.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if it was necessary for the Common Council to approve this resolution. Mr. Alvord said that he feels it is best to do a resolution. Ms. Lindstrom asked Mr. Alvord to include the full title of the act when this goes before the Common Council.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

8. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to sign the Resolution for Replacement of the Metro North Railroad Bridge over East Avenue and Reconstruction of East Avenue (RESOLUTION FOLLOWS).

RESOLUTION

Replacement of Metro North Railroad Bridge over East Avenue and Reconstruction of East Avenue

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has conducted a number of public informational meetings regarding the proposed project for the “Replacement of the Metro North Bridge over East Avenue and the Reconstruction of East Avenue” (ConnDOT Project Nos. 102-1375/102-297); and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has made a number of changes in the conceptual approach to the reconstruction of East Avenue in response to resident comments: and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has published a legal notice display ad, mailed a news release to multiple officials and agencies, and mailed a formal letter to abutting property owners, announcing the latest public informational meeting on the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the most recent public informational meeting was held on March 17, 2009 from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM in City Hall, at which residents and elected officials had the opportunity to provide additional comments and voice concerns; and

WHEREAS, the South Western Regional Planning Agency and the Norwalk Traffic Authority have endorsed these projects; and

WHEREAS, the Norwalk City Staff will continue to consider the comments and concerns of residents and will work to incorporate into the roadway project grass snow shelves, plantings, pedestrian amenities, underground utilities and other considerations to retain and/or improve the character of the neighborhood, the Common Council finds that the proposed projects, Replacement of the Metro North Railroad Bridge over East Avenue and Reconstruction of East Avenue (ConnDOT Project Nos. 102-1375/102-297) are in the best interest of the City of Norwalk, CT and will promote the health, safety and general welfare of its residents and provide for the convenience and safety of the motoring public and pedestrian traffic.

NOW THEREFORE, the City of Norwalk, CT based on the above information, and by virtue of this resolution, hereby fully supports the proposed projects.

Mr. Alvord said that some language was shifted as a result of a meeting with Ms. Lindstrom and Mr. Krummel. This has been coordinated with the DOT. Mr. Hilliard said that he is happy with this.

Mr. Hempstead said that as part of the record, the minutes from the July 7, 2009 meeting should be referenced to show the intent of the changes to the resolution. Ms. Lindstrom said that she wants to be sure the resolution is reality based. She pointed out that under the first Whereas it indicated that a “number of public informational meetings”. Mr. Geake suggested deleting “a number”.

Mr. Hilliard asked if this resolution is to satisfy the requirements to get funding. Mr. Alvord said that it was. He said that the DOT cannot start anything until they get this commitment.

The Committee agreed to remove “a number of” following the second Whereas.

Ms. Lindstrom said that although they did not spend a lot of time on pedestrian safety, it is essential to add that. She said that there is a perception that those voicing concerns wanted to kill the project, but in reality, they want it to be the best it can be. After this is approved, it is important that the Common Council keep on top of this. She added that it is important that the public have input on the design as it goes along to make it the best plan it can be.

Mr. Alvord said that he was fairly certain that they will be able to incorporate grass strips on the west side of East Avenue and stay within the City right of way. He said that he did not believe that would be the case on the east side of the street. Ms. Lindstrom stressed that they need to be sure that adequate pedestrian safety was incorporated into the design. Ms. Lindstrom said that she was not comfortable with the last Whereas where it states “*and will promote the health, safety and general welfare of its residents*”.

Mr. Alvord said that they will not be able to satisfy everyone. There was a lot of property taking in the original plan and people do not want property taken. He said that there is no room for bike lanes unless they want to expand deeper into people’s property. Ms. Lindstrom said that five foot sidewalks are not safe and that they should take into consideration the DOT regulations.

Mr. Alvord said that the professional staff and the DOT professional staff recommend 11 ft. wide roads; 10 feet is not safe. Ms. Lindstrom asked about the width of trucks. Mr. Alvord said that they are between 8 1/2 – 9 1/2 feet wide. Mr. Hempstead said that trucks use East Avenue because it is a major thoroughfare.

Ms. Lauricella said that as a point of information, before she spoke she did not know that there was a letter in the Committee package from Patricia Stewart (Administrative Assistant to Pam Sucato, Connecticut Department of Transportation). She said that this reminds her of a memo with the waste water treatment plant. She said that there is a lack of process for public comment

from this Committee. There is a track record of not caring about public input out of this Committee.

Ms. Lindstrom said that letter was part of an e-mail exchange that was sent to the State asking questions through Bob Duff's office. She said that every time a question was asked, they did not understand the question. They focused on the section under the bridge. Ms. Lindstrom said that Mr. Alvord passed the changes to them. Mr. Alvord said that the Dot is concerned about the exchange from I-95 and the railroad bridge.

**** MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

General Information Portion

1. Norwalk transfer station.

Mr. Alvord reported that the transfer station finished at 97% of budget. He said that the Committee will see a different report next month.

Mr. Alvord reported that there will be road closures at Rowayton Avenue on August 12th.

Mr. Alvord presented stickers that will be placed on catch basins reminding resident not to toss anything into them.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services