

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OF
THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 2, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: Laurel Lindstrom, Acting Chair; Andrew Conroy; Douglas Hempstead; Fred Bondi

ABSENT: William Krummel, Carvin Hilliard, Kelly Straniti

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Diane Cece; Larry Ruttenberg, Sarah Hunter, Tony Rossi, Maria Bryant, Nick Enna

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

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO DPW RATE AND FEE SCHEDULE

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by the Acting Chair. As there was no one from the public who wished to speak, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:36 p.m.

Public Participation Portion

1. Public input.

Ms. Lindstrom offered the public an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Larry Ruttenberg, Buckingham Place said that he was here this evening for his monthly update. He requested that the timeline be addressed when the Buckingham/Lockwood project update was discussed.

Mr. Rossi, who resides on Raymond Terrace, expressed concern about the road widening on East Avenue. He said that it is a neighborhood zone. Landscaping will be reduced/eliminated to road paving which he does not support. There is also a safety issue. He believes speeding will pick up if the street widens.

Ms. Sarah Hunter, who lives on Scofield Place, is not in favor of widening East Avenue.

She said it is not progressive thinking. Widening of the roadway will increase speeding. It will be an even greater truck route. She does not want the fumes. She said the green space will be lost between the street and the sidewalk. She asked, "Why the expense?" Also, she believes the character of E. Norwalk will be changed if the road is widened.

Ms. Maria Bryant supports the above speakers. She said there are already traffic issues on East Avenue and this will only compound it and bring in more traffic to the adjoining streets to get onto East Avenue. She said other alternatives need to be looked at.

Nick Enna said that the snow shelf will be eliminated. He said it will be harder to get through the snow. He does not support the widening of East Avenue. Also it will be harder to walk to the station.

Ms. Diane Cece, Olmstead Place, said that the widening of East Avenue should be tabled this evening. It is not the time to vote as there are many unanswered questions. Many residents have concerns and are just addressing them tonight. She asked, "What is the root cause?" Widening the roadway to alleviate congestion will increase speed. Speeding is not the answer to ease congestion. She said that more research is necessary. Also, one will not be able to cycle on East Avenue.

2. Project updates - See attached project status sheet.

The Committee discussed the status of the various on-going projects.

Bridges:

DPW Project Review was discussed.

James Street over Silvermine River and Perry Avenue over Norwalk River – Design in progress for both. Scheduling a public information meeting.

Mr. Alvord said that he is getting dates for the DOT coordination on Cedar, Taylor, Scribner – tentative bid date for demolition is fall 2009.

Building Management:

Mr. Alvord said that the lighting retrofit – PWC/Maritime Garage is on hold pending new cycle of incentive grants. Funding comes from the Capital Budget.

The City Hall 'It Center' – Mr. Alvord said the design is complete. No construction yet as funding required. The energy costs need to and will be reduced. The HVAC is on an emergency generator.

Drainage/Sewer Extension:

Buckingham/Lockwood pipe replacement – Mr. Alvord said that Olmstead Place needs landscaping. Final restoration is in progress.

No heavy equipment can be brought in while it is wet. Since there has been much rain lately, it has been delayed.

He said that a Storm Water Management Plan needs to be worked up. No report.

Mr. Alvord reported that on the Five-Mile River, they are monitoring resident corrective actions. So far, only one resident filed a permit application.

Traffic:

On the Traffic Management plan, the DOT grant was approved. Local match required. Grants are available but matching funds necessary.

As for the East Avenue signal upgrades – the new central computer system was installed. Controller installation is in progress.

Roads:

Regarding the Pavement Management 2009 plan, FGB Construction is getting the work done. There is \$1.9 million in economic stimulus money. Money will be released later this year. Mr. Alvord said there will be an open house, whereby neighbors who live along those streets earmarked can come. It is agreed that the City streets need to be repaved.

Mr. Conroy asked about Devil's Garden. Mr. Alvord said it is on the road paving list and in the five-year plan. He added that as there are budget cuts, paving of certain roads get pushed back to a later year. There is a pavement management program in place.

Other:

Mr. Hempstead asked about Smith Street and said that Smith Street should be opened. He said that it is along the River; and can be used for parking on the street side; and yes, there is dumping going on there because there is no activity.

Mr. Hempstead asked if it will pay for the City to buy the asphalt plant. Mr. Alvord responded that someone will need to run it.

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Business Portion

1. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday, May 5, 2009

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED:**

The following corrections were made to the May 5, 2009 Minutes as follows:
Page 3 – Paragraph 4
Should Read - East Avenue *Signal* Upgrade -....

It was noted that the May 5, 2009 Public Works Committee meeting was not adjourned.
Mr. Hempstead moved to adjourn the meeting.
The Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 p.m.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 5, 2009 MEETING AS CORRECTED.
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. BONDI).**

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

2. Approve proposed revisions to DPW Rate and Fee Schedule

On page 1 - there is no sticker for the transfer station.
95-9 on page 2 is being eliminated.
112-4A(3)(c) on page 3. This is already in the Ordinance.

Upon review of the Fee Schedule, a vote followed:

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

3.a. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement with Deering Construction for Project RD 2009-1 West Avenue Roadway Improvements for an amount not to exceed \$4,628,287.70

3.b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue Orders on Contract to Deering Construction for Project RD 2009-1 West Avenue Roadway Improvements for an amount not to exceed \$462,828.77.

Account No. Redevelopment Agency

4.a. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement with Deering Construction for Project RD 2009-1A Crescent Street Project for an amount not to exceed \$621,053.95.

4.b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue Orders on Contract to Deering Construction for Project RD 2009-1A Crescent Street project for an amount not to exceed \$62,105.39.

Account No. Redevelopment Agency

5.a. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement with Deering Construction for Project RD 2009-1B North Water Street Project for an amount not to exceed \$609,583.75

5.b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue Orders on Contract to Deering Construction for Project RD 2009-1B North Water Street Project for an amount not to exceed \$60,958.38.

Account No. Redevelopment Agency

Mr. Alvord said that the dollar amounts are incorrect in 3.a. and 3.b.

The correct amount for 3.a. is \$4,745,287.70

The correct amount for 3.b. is \$474,528.77.

He said that Deering Construction was the lowest bid on the overall package and was bid altogether as noted above.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO CORRECT THE DOLLAR AMOUNTS FOR 3.a. TO READ \$4,745,287.70 AND FOR 3.b. TO READ \$474,528.77.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE 3.a., 3.b., 4.a., 4.b., 5.a., 5.b, ...
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

6. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute a City/State Agreement for Demand Deposit for the West Avenue Traffic Improvement Project 102-334 for an amount not to exceed \$15,400.00

Account No. Redevelopment Agency

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This is part of the West Avenue Corridor Earmark grant of \$1.8m that the City received. The City is required to provide a demand deposit. Since the draft City/State PE Agreement shows a total of \$77,000 for State reviews, the City is responsible for 20 percent of the cost being \$15,400. This is the City's matching piece. The State will review plans and specifications out of grant amount.

This project is for the installation of new traffic signals at six locations on Belden Avenue and West Avenue in conjunction with the Waypointe project. The signals are:

- Belden at Burnell, West at Leonard, West at Chapel, West at Elm, West at Arch, and West at Maple.

Ms. Lindstrom asked who is doing the work.

Mr. Alvord said there are no bids yet. He said the work will start in the fall of 2009.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- 7. 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 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 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

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WHEREAS, the South Western Regional Planning Agency has endorsed these projects;
and

WHEREAS, the Norwalk City Staff will continue to solicit and consider the comments and concerns of residents and 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. 102-1375/192-297) 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.

Discussion followed:

Mr. Bondi said that in the last WHEREAS, first sentence – add ...*Staff and Common Council*.

The above resolution is required by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (CDOT) to fully commit the federal/state funds to the project.

Mr. Hempstead said that this does not have to be finalized this evening but said that the State's dollars should be locked in. A Vote should take place rather than table this agenda item. He had concerns that the dollars could be taken back if no action is taken.

Ms. Lindstrom said this should be tabled and voted on at the next scheduled meeting when Mr. Krummel is in attendance and more research conducted. Alternate routes and diagrams should be provided for discussion at the next meeting.

Mr. Bondi and Mr. Conroy believe this project should be moved along and not delayed any longer. Something is definitely going to be done with East Avenue. The bridge cannot manage the traffic from the highway.

Some residents who oppose the widening of East Avenue remained at the meeting to listen to the board members discuss their views.

Ms. Lindstrom said that many residents came out tonight to express their support against the widening and, therefore, further research is necessary. Her thought is to make changes to three lanes.

Mr. Bondi believes there should be four lanes.
He said that there are two projects here – the bridge and East Avenue.

Mr. Lindstrom said that nothing has changed since the March 17th meeting. She said that more solid urban planning is necessary. She felt the road should be left the way it is but the bridge widened. She added that signalization may help with the traffic congestion.

Mr. Conroy said the bridge needs to be widened as well, and needs to be dealt with. He said that the bridge should be separated out from East Avenue.

Mr. Alvord said that State has no deadline and that this can be stretched out.

Mr. Conroy said he needs more information and needs to see a traffic study.

**** MR. CONROY MOVED TO TABLE THE RESOLUTION TO THE NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING.**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO VOTES IN FAVOR
TWO (2) (MS. LINDSTROM, MR. CONROY)
ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. BONDI)
ONE (1) ABSTENTION MR. HEMPSTEAD.**

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

- 8. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an amendment to the Agreement with FGB Construction Company for Project No. PM 2009-1, Proposed Pavement Management Program, for a sum not to exceed \$1,500,000.00.**

Account No. 09100404021005777C0021

Mr. Alvord said the price of liquid asphalt is very good at the present time. It has come down and is at its lowest point since March 2008. The price point favors the City and will provide for advancing the paving schedule.

FCB Construction will complete the paving of the streets in the CY 2009 paving program in July. The proposed amendment will allow the paving, this year, of some of the streets that are scheduled for paving in CY 2010.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- 9. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute the Second Amendment to the Agreement with Vanasse Hanger Brustlin, Inc. for 4R Pavement Management Program for a sum not to exceed \$150,000.00**

Account No. 09100404021005777C0021

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Mr. Alvord said the original contract was in 2007. It is amended yearly. There is room for negotiation, he added.

VBH is the City's consultant for its Pavement Management program which include

- Plant quality assurance
- Field quality assurance
- City street evaluations
- Other services such as presentation support, updating data, engineering studies, etc.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

- 10. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute a Planting Maintenance Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation related to the planting of trees along US Route 1 (Van Buren Avenue).**

The Tree Advisory Committee (TAC) has been working with the Spring Hill/Hospital Area neighborhood Association to affect the planting of eight (8) trees along Van Buren Avenue. Since the area borders US Route 1, the trees would be planted in state right-of-way (ROW) and requires the approval of, and a permit from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT).

In order to receive final approval for the plantings from the DOT, the City is required to execute a Planting Maintenance Agreement with the DOT. The Agreement is provided in the meeting attachments.

Mr. Hempstead asked if a bond is necessary. Mr. Alvord said no.

Ms. Lindstrom asked who drafted. Mr. Alvord said the DOT.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

General Information Portion

1. Norwalk transfer station.

Mr. Alvord provided a handout – April 2009 Tonnage Report – Solid Waste Disposal – Norwalk Transfer Station.

Mr. Alvord reported that tonnage is down.

Mr. Hempstead asked where the 2008 report is.

Ms. Lindstrom said she would like a monthly report to see a comparison.

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She said a monthly report will provide a clearer picture of activity.

ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 7, 2009
Room 101, Norwalk City Hall

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hohlweck
Telesco Secretarial Services

