

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
OF
THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 5, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: William Krummel, Chair; Andrew Conroy; Douglas Hempstead; Carvin Hilliard; Laurel Lindstrom

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Diane Cece; Larry Ruttenberg

Mr. Krummel called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Public Participation Portion

1. Public input.

Mr. Krummel 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.

Ms. Diane Cece, Olmstead Place asked about the August/September maintenance plan and if extra maintenance was planned for the areas that are more prone to flooding. Ms. Cece asked who sits on the GIS Committee and about the 2009 ARRA stimulus package, specifically the pavement project. She noted that item 9 on the application points to public involvement. She said that there was no notice to the public that they were invited to comment on that item at the April 7th meeting. Ms. Cece suggested that the public should be invited to comment.

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

2. Project updates - See attached project status sheet.

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

Bridges:

Mr. Alvord distributed a notice from Metro North about the closings scheduled at the Rowayton Bridge. Public information meetings for the James Street, Perry Avenue and Westmere bridges will take place in the fall.

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Mr. Alvord reported that the DOT coordination of the Route 136 bridge repairs and the Metro North coordination catenary bridge project are taking up a lot of Mr. Sweeney's time. He noted that the Metro North project has to be coordinated with other bridge repair projects.

Building Management:

Old Police headquarters – Mr. Alvord reported that an architect was hired. It will be at least a year before anything gets done. The building will have to be demolished in order to get anything done.

Drainage/Sewer Extension:

Buckingham/Lockwood pipe replacement – Mr. Alvord explained that last week had been total chaos. The FSAI finding showed no significant environmental impact; he will have the opportunity tomorrow to find out if the DEP advertised that there was no significant environmental impact. Mr. Krummel said that there is a waiting period while the DEP hears from the public. Once the permit is received the bid package will go out quickly and a lot of the work can be done during the winter.

Olmstead Place Drainage Improvements – Mr. Alvord said that the weather has been a problem. He said that they now have a comprehensive maintenance program. Ms. Cece said that she noticed little or no pitch. Mr. Alvord explained that the holes will allow the water to dissipate and the pitch is as designed.

Calf Pasture Beach Road – Ms. Lindstrom said that the road was closed and asked if there is access to the Park. Mr. Alvord said that there is access to the Beach and the detour goes around Canfield Avenue. Ms. Lindstrom said that the trees look nice, but some have not bloomed. Mr. Alvord said that the contractor is required to replace any dead trees.

Stormwater Authority Pilot Program – Mr. Alvord said that he re-mailed the executive summary to the Committee members last month.

Mr. Krummel left the room and Ms. Lindstrom took over as Chair.

Traffic:

Strawberry Hill Traffic Calming & Safe Routes to School – Ms. Lindstrom asked for an update. Mr. Alvord explained that he is waiting for comments back from the DOT. Mr. Alvord said that he is not pressing these items because he has a lot on his plate in addition to the recent reduction in staff. He said that he does not see this moving forward this year.

Ms. Lindstrom expressed concern that they would be held responsible for having approved, in the Capital budget) the Strawberry Hill Avenue green street match. Mr. Alvord said that is a different project.

Traffic Management Plan – Mr. Alvord said that he requested that Mr. Hamilton move \$100,000 from the speed bump line to traffic management. He said that Mr. Hamilton could not find the written approval that he can move that money.

Mr. Krummel returned and resumed chairing the meeting.

East Avenue Upgrade – Ms. Lindstrom asked when this would be finished. Mr. Alvord said that it would probably be finished this year. Ms. Lindstrom said that she wanted to see how well the traffic flows once this is in place. She said that a left hand turn signal at St. John Street is needed. Mr. Alvord said that there is no left hand turn lane there. He said that there are a number of factors that have to be considered. Ms. Lindstrom said that it should be looked at; there is a lot of backup at Dunkin Donuts.

Ms. Lindstrom said that the people who live in the area need to be paid attention to; they know the intersection very well. Mr. Alvord said that it is not being dismissed. That intersection is impacted by a number of factors and can't be looked at in isolation.

Roads:

Mr. Hempstead asked when they could step up the pot hole program. Mr. Alvord said that weather is not the problem. He has 23 fewer people than two weeks ago. Today he had 2 – 2 man teams doing pot hole repair; this was a light vacation day. Mr. Alvord recommended going into Executive Session to discuss this in more detail. Mr. Hempstead asked if this could happen at the end of the meeting.

Water Pollution Control Authority:

West Side Interceptor rehabilitation – Mr. Alvord said that he did not have an answer.

Business Portion

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

1. Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting of Tuesday April 7, 2009.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. CONROY AND MR. HILLIARD)**

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

2. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement for Professional Engineering Services in connection with Project RD2009-1, West Avenue Roadway Improvements, Scope of Services to be in accordance with Tighe & Bond Proposal Section A Bidding Phase Services and Section B Construction Administration Services (Office) for a sum not to exceed \$88,500.00 (including \$6,000.00 in reimbursable direct costs).

Account No. 09020910-C0241

Mr. Krummel explained that the information provided by Mr. Burritt is in their packets. Mr. Alvord said that this is one of a number of installments; the big part of this will be the construction administrative services. Mr. Hempstead asked if there was a conflict of interest since they designed the project. Mr. Alvord said that it was not.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

3a. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to Econolite, Inc., a sole source provider, for the purchase of five (5) Econolite Solo Terra Video Detection Systems for a sum not to exceed \$22,600.00.

Account No. 0909 4021 5777 C0021

3b. 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.

Mr. Alvord requested approval for the next five systems. He said that this is the standard video detection for the City. Mr. Krummel said that this company is the sole source provider. He added that the Common Council is used to being provided with a "not to exceed" sum. Mr. Alvord said that the same thing was done a year and a half ago for software. When this project is completed there will be 88 City owned signals.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO READ "NOT TO EXCEED 90 SYSTEMS".**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

4. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to sign the Resolution for Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue at Metro North Railroad Bridge (RESOLUTION FOLLOWS).

RESOLUTION

Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue at Metro North Railroad Bridge

WHEREAS, the City of Norwalk, CT has published a legal notice display ad, mailed a news release to a number of officials and agencies, and mailed a formal letter to abutting property owners, announcing a public informational meeting on the proposed project for the "Reconstruction of Rowayton Avenue at Metro North Railroad Bridge No.4132R (ConnDOT Project No. 102-H065); and

WHEREAS, a public informational meeting was held on April 22, 2009 from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM in City Hall, at which residents and elected officials had the opportunity to voice their concerns; and

WHEREAS, the South Western Regional Planning Agency has endorsed this project; and

WHEREAS, the Norwalk, CT Common Council has considered the concerns of residents from the public informational meeting and finds that the proposed project, Reconstruction of Rowayton Avneue at Metro North Railroad Bridge No. 4132R (ConnDOT Project No. 102-H065) is 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.

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

Richard A. Moccia
Mayor of the City of Norwalk, CT

Mr. Alvord explained that the DOT requested that the resolution be contained in the body of the Common Council agenda using this format. Mr. Krummel said that there was a request for written comments at that meeting. Mr. Alvord said that he had not checked to see if written comments were received from the public. Mr. Krummel said that he would like an acknowledgement of the receipt of the written comments.

Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Krummel if there was anything discussed at that meeting that would prevent the Committee from voting on this item. Mr. Krummel said that he was uneasy about the sidewalks at the underpass. He said that when he asked Mr. Linnartz about installing railings, he thought that would be contrary to State practice. There were residents who had driveway issues, but they were settled.

Mr. Conroy said that early in the process there were supposed to be railings and splash panels, but the State forgot they were not allowed. Mr. Krummel said that no railing, no panel, leaves nothing between the pedestrians and the roadway. Mr. Conroy said that the width of the sidewalk, railings and splash guards were a big deal when this started in 1999. Mr. Alvord said that he will track down what has unfolded.

Mr. Alvord explained that this resolution gets the State to commit funding to the project.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

5. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute the First Amendment to the Agreement for Professional Engineering Services with URS Corporation AEC in connection with the Final Design of the Rehabilitation of the Perry Avenue Bridge over the Norwalk River, Bridge No. 04154 for the sum not to exceed \$245,600.00 (including \$14,600.00 in reimbursable direct costs).
Account No. 0909 040 40210 5777 CO392

Mr. Krummel reviewed this project and said that the back up is included in the packet. He said that he had problems with some of the numbers. Mr. Alvord explained that the project had been expanded to a three lane bridge. Ms. Lindstrom said that the City share should be added to the motion. Mr. Alvord said that has nothing to do with the consultant's contract.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she has been making an effort to include information about where funding is coming from. Mr. Alvord said that this is an amendment to the contract with the consultant; it is immaterial where the funds come from. Mr. Conroy said that in general, he agrees with Ms. Lindstrom, but is not sure it is needed in this instance. Mr. Krummel said that Ms. Lindstrom had a point.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. LINDSTROM)**

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

6. Approve proposed revisions to Chapter 95A, LITTERING AND ILLEGAL DUMPING, of Norwalk City code and forward to the Ordinance Committee of the Common Council.

Mr. Alvord explained that this revision removes specific amounts from the ordinance.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

7. Approve revisions to “RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING COLLECTION, TRANSPORTATION AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE.”

Mr. Hempstead asked about item 94-4-1B and said that people can't be prohibited from transporting items through the streets. Mr. Conroy noted the people have to have a license to carry a lot of things. Mr. Hempstead asked if licenses are being checked at the Transfer Station. Mr. Alvord said that there are 76 entities licensed with the City. He noted that enforcement is a challenge.

Mr. Hempstead said that City Carting has made a world of difference at the Transfer Station. Mr. Alvord said that there are going to be even more improvements. They are thinking about putting out Good Will drop off bins. He added that he believes that they will have 28-29 tons go through the Transfer Station during the year.

Under item 94-4-9B – Disposal Fees. Ms. Lindstrom questioned the wording.

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT TO REVISE THE WORDING**

*d. Norwalk resident who enter the Transfer Station and/or Yard Debris Site without the required sticker will be allowed to dump after having paid **a per trip non-sticker fee as established in the DPW Rate and Fee Schedule***

Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord if it was possible to place a sign at the Transfer Station entrance outlining the new policies. He also asked if there was a way to make it more convenient for residents to get their stickers. Mr. Conroy asked if Channel 12 would do a PSA.

Mr. Alvord said that they will try to give people the opportunity to register online; mostly for trucks and vans. There is no fee to register as a resident, but they have to pay after reaching three tons.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS AMENDED**

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

8. Approve revisions to DPW Rate and Fee Schedule and schedule a Public Hearing on same to be conducted at 7:30 PM Tuesday June 2, 2009 in Room 101, Norwalk City Hall.

Mr. Krummel requested that the changes be better identified.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

General Information Portion

1. Norwalk transfer station.

Mr. Alvord explained that the tonnage report does not include the month of April because they are running two software packages simultaneously. An overlap will continue through the month of May.

Mr. Alvord reviewed the March 2009 tonnage report that was included in the back up package. He explained that the transportation disposal fee is what the City pays to CRRRA. The tipping fee that is collected at the commercial upper scale is \$82.00 per ton.

Mr. Alvord reported that the roll up door has been replaced.

2. Resident comments from March 17 information on East Avenue project.

Mr. Alvord said that he included a letter from the State Historic Preservation Office in the back up packet. He said that he did not receive written comments from the people who attended the public information meeting. He said that the DOT did not receive any written comments either.

Ms. Lindstrom said that there were comments made during the meeting and people felt that they would have time, during the course of the project, to make comments. Ms. Lindstrom noted that there were at least 60 people at the meeting, but the DOT provided about 20 packets. She said that the DOT packet was specific to the bridge replacement, rather than the street. She added that there was a comment sheet in the packet for people to send in.

Ms. Lindstrom said that the bridge changes seemed to go over well with the people present; however, the main concern was about widening East Avenue. The vast majority of people do not want it widened and would be satisfied with an alternative plan that respects the neighborhood and improves traffic flow.

Mr. Alvord said that it would kill the State funding if the traffic flow was not improved. The traffic flow will not be improved without four lanes of traffic; the plan has been narrowed down as much as possible.

Ms. Lindstrom said that there have been a lot of discussions on finding ways to improve traffic flow since the 1950's without widening the road. She said that there were several alternate plans for under the East Avenue railroad bridge and the preferred plan was for three lanes, until the DPW wanted to widen the road to four lanes. Ms. Lindstrom said that this project was rammed down the throats of the public who did not have an opportunity to give ideas.

Mr. Krummel said that this is a very sensitive project; it is almost an eyesore in the neighborhood. He asked what could be done to make it more attractive. Mr. Krummel

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suggested designing a median with trees. He said that the project could benefit from the neighbor's input.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she asked about traffic studies at that meeting, but there was no real definitive information that says because traffic is this way, this is why they need four lanes. Ms. Lindstrom said that she hoped Mr. Linnartz could go to the neighborhood association meeting to answer questions about traffic studies.

Mr. Alvord explained that this is a utility and right of way map. He said that Mr. Sweeney took some notes at that meeting and shared them with the State for any corrections. Mr. Hempstead asked if the Committee could see the notes. Ms. Lindstrom said that the minutes are posted on the DOT website, but are not accurate. Mr. Alvord said that they were not intended to be minutes.

Ms. Lindstrom said that additional meetings are needed where residents have the opportunity to put out their ideas of what they would like to see evolve. Mr. Krummel agreed and said that there needs to be more public interaction for the East Avenue project.

3. Changes in DPW operations.

**** MR. HILLIARD MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR
THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING DPW OPERATIONS
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Committee and Mr. Alvord went into executive session at 9:30 p.m. The public and the secretary were excused and left the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services