

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 3, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: William Krummel, Chairman; Fred Bondi; Douglas Hempstead;
Laurel Lindstrom; Andrew Conroy (7:23 p.m.)

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Larry Ruttenberg

Public Hearing

Public hearing on proposed revisions to Department of Public Works Rates and Fees and possible elimination of “three tons free” policy at Transfer Station and Yard Debris Site. To be conducted at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Krummel opened the public hearing at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Larry Ruttenberg said that an increase to the price of the blue bins is long overdue. He said that he thinks that \$10.00 is very reasonable.

Mr. Krummel asked three times if there were any other people who wished to comment. There were no other members of the public who wished to comment.

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Public Participation Portion

1. Public input.

Mr. Ruttenberg said that he was here for an update on Buckingham Place.

Mr. Conroy joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

2. Project updates - See attached project status sheet.

The Committee reviewed the project updates.

Drainage/Sewer Extension:

Buckingham/Lockwood – Mr. Alvord reported that he received communication back from the DEP and all of the agencies who are required to respond are in support of the project.

Mary Austin Drainage – Mr. Alvord reported that the bid package has been issued. Penna may start on Olmstead Place in the next few weeks, depending upon the weather.

Calf Pasture Beach Road – the package will be going out shortly.

Keeler Brook Watershed Project – Mr. Alvord said that the culvert that goes below Rowayton Avenue is in design. He has \$1.5 million available.

Stormwater Management Plan – Mr. Alvord reported that he received the final report yesterday morning and has not had a chance to review the document. He noted that he did get an overview from the consultant and there is an executive summary with the document.

Roads:

Mr. Alvord said that he signed off on the 4R bid package. They have held off on the crack sealing depending upon what happens with the capital budget.

Drainage (continued)

Five Mile River - Mr. Conroy asked if there was any FEMA funding available for the Five Mile River project. Mr. Alvord said that there was nothing available. FEMA's position is that when someone buys or builds in a floodway, there are prohibited from funding.

Drainage System Map/GIS layer – Mr. Alvord said that GIS data is being gathered from various projects.

Bridges:

Old Tokeneke Bridge – removal – Mr. Alvord said that the Finance Department supported this project in the capital budget. Mayor Moccia contacted the Darien First Selectwoman, Yvonne Klein who will be happy to work with Norwalk. This project requires equal commitment from Norwalk and Darien.

West Rocks Bridge – Mr. Alvord received notice from the DOT dated January 29th informing him that the contractor started work on January 23rd. Mr. Alvord said that he would work on getting information out to the residents. Mr. Hempstead said that he wanted to be sure that they get one on one information out to the residents. He recommended holding informational meetings at West Rocks and All Saints schools.

Building Management:

Public Works Center – this item has gone out to bid.

PWC – Salt Shed Repairs – this project is being done in house, after the snow season.

Old Police Headquarters – Mr. Alvord explained that this went to Land Use and then will go to the Common Council

Traffic:

Traffic Signal Update – Mr. Alvord said that the last bid packages went out in February.

Strawberry Hill Traffic Calming – there was no update.

Roads (continued)

Pavement Management – Mr. Alvord reported that he signed off on the pavement bid package. He said that he has not heard if O&G was going to open their asphalt plant in Norwalk. He said that the City is out of asphalt money now. Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord if he put in for more money for pot hole repair. Mr. Alvord said that he did not. There are no funds available in the DPW budget. They would need a special appropriation. He said that he will put in a request for a special appropriation, but the budget does not look good. Mr. Alvord said that the budget was exceeded due to snow removal. He said that they are doing all they can to keep the costs down and still clear the public roads.

Mr. Conroy commented that over the last five years, the snow removal has improved tremendously. Mr. Bondi agreed. Ms. Lindstrom said that overall Norwalk did a good job. Mr. Alvord said that a lot of this was due to planning, organizing and the equipment. He said that they do a lot of pre-treatment and do not use any subcontractors.

Mr. Hempstead asked who plows the Police Station. Mr. Alvord said that the plows can't fit through the gate and there is no place to store the snow. Snow removal comes out of the Police budget.

East Avenue Improvements – Mr. Alvord said that there have been a series of meetings because they have to be in constant comment with the DOT.

Parking Authority:

SoNo Rail Road Station Improvements – Mr. Alvord reported that Mayor Moccia will be holding a press conference on Monday.

Mr. Bondi noted that the new parking fees went through without objections. Mr. Conroy asked Mr. Alvord if he had heard from the State about the parking fees at SoNo. He said that he didn't. He said that SWERPA asked them to talk with other communities because they see the SoNo railroad station as a model they want other communities to mimic.

Other:

GIS Master Plan – Mr. Alvord said that a Citywide GIS Committee was formed; Ms. DelVecchio is the Chair. They have already implemented a savings of \$6 – 7,000. They are looking at how they are going to do web based GIS for their desktops.

DOT Coordination – I-95 widening – This is the DOT, I-95 project where they are going to replace three bridges.

LDA Coordination (95/7;Waypointe; POKO; DiScala) – Mr. Krummel said that the City and the Redevelopment Agency will provide engineering assistance that is needed for the Waypointe project. Mr. Krummel said that it is paid for by the developer or the agency or a combination of the two. Mr. Conroy said that he believed that the developers pay for the engineers. Mr. Krummel said that when he asked Mr. Sheehan, he told him that the City and Agency are going to pay for engineering services. Mr. Hempstead said that is what he heard too.

Business Portion

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

Approve the Minutes of the Public Works Committee Meeting of Tuesday January 6, 2009.

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 4 –correct \$500,000 to \$565,000
Correct \$300,000 to \$340,000

Page 6 – third paragraph, last sentence should read: He suggested charging after one ton at the leaf disposal.

Page 7 – fifth paragraph, show should read snow; the last sentence should read...so he does not have to lay off people.

Add to the end of page seven:

Ms. Lindstorm said that she believed that another public hearing was required. Mr. Alvord said that he would check and schedule the public hearing if it was needed.

Mr. Alvord said that he checked with the Law Department and a public hearing was not needed.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. CONROY)**

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

2. Approve proposed revisions to Department of Public Works Rates and Fees.

Mr. Bondi noted that this was in the Master Plan that most of the Committee approved. He said that it states that the City should charge fees and that money should go back to the Department. He said that was already approved, but a lot of people were opposed. He said that the way to go was to do user fees in order to keep the budget s up. Mr. Alvord said that they could raise property taxes, but then everybody pays.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

3. Adopt policy on payment for residential tonnage self-delivered to the Transfer Station and Yard Debris Site and approve corresponding language for inclusion in Section 94-4.12 of Rules and Regulations Governing Collection, Transportation and Disposal of Solid Waste.

Mr. Alvord explained that he provided four different variations for review. Mr. Hempstead said that he was in favor of eliminating the free three tons that is given to anyone with commercial or combination plates. Ms. Lindstrom noted the difference between the amount residents were billed and the amounts they paid. Mr. Alvord said that there is a collection problem. He is proposing installing a credit card reader.

Mr. Alvord said that a lot of debris comes in by cars. The private carters go to Crescent Street. Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord to bring January 2008 and January 2009 tonnage at Crescent Street to the next meeting. Mr. Alvord said that garbage is down 20% across the State. It is believed to be due to the economy. Mr. Bondi said that the City lost \$1.5 million by not going to Meadow Street, and there is still garbage gong here. He said that he does not see any backups there. Mr. Hempstead said that it is very clean there. Ms. Lindstrom said that ship has sailed.

The Committee agreed on the following:

- a. **All vehicles bearing commercial and combination license plates shall be weighted prior to entering the Transfer Station Tipping Floor and/or the Yard Debris Facility and shall be charged at the current tip fee.**
- b. **Non-commercial pickup trucks, vans and cars with trailers shall be directed across the weighmaster's scale and weighed at the transfer Station and Yard Debris Facility. Such vehicles shall pay at the current tip fee rate. There shall be a minimum fee in an amount established in accordance with Norwalk code § 90-4. Approval of rates and fees**

Mr. Alvord recommended that the Committee take this language to the Common Council and go back with a proposed minimum fee. He said that this is a regulation and not an ordinance.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Hempstead said that the Department may want to consider having a separate sticker for getting into the Transfer Station. Mr. Alvord said that nobody is allowed in the Transfer Station without a sticker. Mr. Hempstead said that there were a lot of cars there without stickers. Mr. Alvord said that if someone goes there without a sticker, they are turned away. Mr. Hempstead said that the Transfer Station should not be treated differently from the Beach.

Mr. Hempstead asked if they should schedule a public hearing to discuss paying for Transfer Station stickers. Mr. Bondi said that this is similar to a beach sticker, which was knocked down. Mr. Hempstead said that they are different. Ms. Lindstrom said that since the vote for the Beach stickers, she has heard from people who are in support and think it is a fine idea.

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

4. Approve proposed revisions to Chapter 95, Streets and Sidewalks, of Norwalk code and forward to the Ordinance Committee of the Common Council for appropriate action.

Mr. Alvord said that the reason for the revision is that there are fines based on decades old fees. It is not good practice to have actual costs in the code.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

This item will go to the Ordinance Committee.

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

5. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Agreement with Westport Electric Co., Inc. for the installation of new wire and miscellaneous components associated with the Washington Street Historic Street Lighting for a sum not to exceed \$45,150.

Account Nos: 09-07-040-40210-0-5777-C0380 \$28,650

09-00-091-05701-C0009 16,500

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

6. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute the 13th Amendment to the Agreement with Tighe & Bond, Inc. for professional engineering services for the design of Road Improvements for the Reed Putnam Redevelopment Project for an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00

Account No. (Redevelopment Agency)

Mr. Alvord explained that this process was anticipated because they have a large amount of amendments. Currently they want to move the hotel, because the hotel wants to move. The funding comes through the Redevelopment Agency. Mr. Alvord said that the Committee will see more amendments because there will be more changes to the infrastructure.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

7. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to _____ for the purchase of two mast arms and one traffic span pole for the Route 1 at Belden Avenue traffic signal for a sum not to exceed \$____.__. (Bids due February 3, 2009)
Acct No. 09094021 5777 C0442

Mr. Alvord explained that they had a bidder, but asked the Committee to table the item and schedule a special meeting.

Mr. Alvord said that the bid package went out and he called all of the manufacturers. As a result, he got a bid from an electrical consultant, but that price was twice the amount it should have been. This afternoon he called all of the manufacturers and asked why they did not bid on this project. They said that the shipping cost was prohibitive.

Mr. Alvord learned that the City of New Haven ordered mast arms and span poles. He wants to speak with New Haven's purchasing department and seek permission to piggy

back on their order. Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Foley feels this is a good idea. He hopes to have the name of the firm and the amount by Tuesday.

Mr. Conroy said that once Mr. Alvord gets the information to the Chairman, the item could be added to the Common Council agenda. There is no reason to hold a special meeting. Mr. Alvord will provide back up to the Common Council. He said that he anticipates the cost will be about \$55,000 for the three items.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

8. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue Orders on Contract to Deering Construction, Inc. on Project No. 4R2007-1, Proposed 4R Pavement Management Program, for a sum not exceed \$25,378.00 for the purpose of removing accumulated debris and shoaling from the Norwalk River Local Protection Project. Account No. 0140 60 5777 (FEMA reimbursement received)

Mr. Alvord said that this was an oversight. The work was done and was reimbursed by FEMA as a result of the nor'easter in 2007. Since Deering was on the site, they were able to get a better price.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

General Information Portion

1. Norwalk transfer station.

Mr. Alvord said that he has all of the permits in hand. He said that he has a number of outstanding issues with CRRA; there were a number of things they were supposed to do before handing the facility back to the City. Mr. Alvord said that he told them that he will not pay them until the work has been completed, or he will deduct the cost from the December payment. The transfer station is working well, but there are a few organizational functions that need to be done.

2. SWAB/SWEROC update.

Mr. Alvord reported that there was no SWAB meeting, but there was a SWEROC meeting. People who stayed with SWAB are paying more than Norwalk. SWEROC eliminated all electrical recycling. He said that Norwalk has its own program. CRRA announced that on July 1, 2009, they will charge a tipping fee for people who stayed with SWEROC.

3. Closure of Norwalk landfill (Oystershell Park).

Mr. Alvord said that he has the closure certificate from the DEP for the landfill.

4. Pulse Point redesign and reconstruction.

Mr. Alvord said that this was for the Committee's information. The Transit District is working on redesigning the pulse point to make it more commuter friendly. There is going to be a driver's building. This project will go before the Land Use Committee for approval. It is being paid through a Federal grant that was obtained by Mr. Schulman. Mr. Alvord said that Mr. Schulman is looking for bus shelter options.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services