

**Draft**

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING  
JANUARY 6, 2009**

ATTENDANCE: William Krummel, Chair; Laurel Lindstrom;  
Douglas Hempstead (7:40 p.m.); Fred Bondi (7:40 p.m.);  
Kelly Straniti (7:40 p.m.)

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Deborah Russo, Royal Environmental Services

Mr. Krummel opened the meeting at 7:35 p.m. and noted that there was not a quorum present.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PORTION**

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Ms. Russo said that she was here to follow up to the last meeting.

**TRAFFIC CALMING**

Ms. Lindstrom said that there was nothing new to report.

Mr. Bondi, Mr. Hempstead and Ms. Straniti joined the meeting at 7:40 p.m. A quorum was now present.

**PROJECT UPDATE**

The Committee reviewed the project updates.

Bridges: Mr. Hempstead noticed that the State is starting to close the West Rocks bridge over the Merritt Parkway. He said that the State does a poor job notifying the neighbors and asked that with the blessing of the Chair they hold a public meeting to notify those neighbors. Mr. Alvord said that information is provided through the customer service site.

Building Management: Ms. Lindstrom asked if the Nathaniel Ely School would be closed when the asbestos work was being done. Mr. Alvord said that the work will be done when the school was closed.

Drainage/Sewer: Mr. Bondi asked if they started dredging on Olmstead Place. Mr. Alvord said that they have not started the drainage work on Olmstead Place because they could not get a contractor to start before the cold weather set in. He said that they will start the work in the spring.

Mr. Alvord said that there is an executive summary and cover sheet of the Stormwater Management Plan. He said that the mayors of three cities have been asked to sign, but the Mayor of New London is refusing to sign the cover sheet. No one knows why he is refusing to sign. The recommendation that came out of the study group is for new rates and fees.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the Culvert repair project at 144 Silvermine Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that project was a result of a 2007 nor'easter. He said that this was a higher priority than item #33 on the project list (hazard mitigation). The intention is to create the design in the spring and complete the job in the summer.

Ms. Lindstrom asked for an update on Calf Pasture. Mr. Alvord said that he has the permit from the DEP and submitted copies of the plans. He said that the delay was because the plans showed a coffer dam and as a result they had to meet with the DEP and explain that they are simply a berm.

Five Mile River: Mr. Alvord said that he can't do anything until he gets direction from the Conservation Commission. He said that the homes on the Five Mile River are in the middle of a floodway. If someone buys or builds a home in a known floodway, FEMA will not provide funding for repairs. Mr. Alvord said that he was no aware of flooding in the living areas of the homes up stream, but is aware of some erosion on McKendry Court.

Traffic: Mr. Alvord said that they submitted quite a few "shovel ready" projects. He noted that there is no criteria or plan in place.

Roads: Mr. Krummel said that people have complained to him about the storm drainage work on Nursery Street. He said that there is puddling on Red Oak and Flower. Mr. Alvord said that he spent a lot of time with the contractor to be sure the grading of the roads was right.

Mr. Alvord explained that project #35, Traffic Signal Upgrade is a City, system wide signal upgrade. This project will standardize the entire traffic signal system. He said that he would like to get every signal in the City on video detection.

Mr. Krummel asked if emergency vehicles are able to control traffic signals. Mr. Alvord said that the interrupter does not turn the lights fast enough for the emergency vehicles.

There was no discussion about sidewalks.

Water Pollution Control Authority: The Committee discussed the consumption based billing study. Mr. Hempstead asked if there would be a report available before the fee schedule goes in place. Mr. Alvord said that he met with one of the water companies this week; however, he is not getting any cooperation from both water companies.

Parking Authority: Mr. Alvord reported that the new parking fees go into effect on February 1, 2009. He added that he has not heard any complaints yet. Mr. Hempstead asked who plows the Parking Authority lots. Mr. Alvord said that Laz hires subcontractors to plow.

### **BUSINESS PORTION**

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

**APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2008**

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 1: add Drew Berndlmaier, DPW to staff attendance

Page 2: under Drainage & Sewers correct now to no

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS CORRECTED**

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

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH DW TRANSPORT AND LEASING INC., FOR PROJECT NO. 2709, TO PROVIDE TRANSPORT AND DISPOSAL OF YARD WASTE MATERIALS FOR A FY 2008-09 SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$25.50/TON FOR YARD WASTE, \$22.00/TON FOR LOGS AND STUMPS AND \$20.00/TON FOR LEAVES; PRICES TO ESCALATE BY THREE (3%) FOR EACH OF FY 2009-10 AND FY 2010-11**

**ACCOUNT NO: 014042 5299**

Mr. Alvord explained that this item was tabled from the last meeting so that he could provide the Committee with more details of the selection process. Mr. Alvord drew attention to the e-mail that informed him that the owner of Royal Environmental Services

had backed off from challenging awarding the contract to DW Transport and Leasing. Mr. Alvord gave a detailed description of the process for selecting a preferred proposal.

Mr. Hempstead said that the information was very helpful and valuable. He said that his questions were answered. Mr. Bondi and Ms. Lindstrom agreed.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RETURN AGAIN TO COMMITTEE FROM COMMON COUNCIL:

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

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CRW SYSTEMS, INC. TO PROVIDE PERMIT AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE, DATE CONVERSION, TRAINING, TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$181,400.00**

**ACCOUNT NO. 03 0000 2602**

Mr. Alvord explained the item. He said that this was returned to Committee at the last Common Council meeting. Mr. Alvord said that he put this on the agenda and asked Mr. Geake to give him more details as to why he objected to this item, but he has not responded. He said that he feels this should be brought up at the next Common Council meeting.

Ms. Straniti asked if the price was going to increase by \$31,000 since the original bid expired on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Alvord said that it would. He added that he would like to move ahead on this.

Mr. Alvord said that there were a lot of challenges with this. One of the issues was that this is expensive at \$150,000; however, Greenwich spent \$500,000 and Waterbury, for one department, spent \$300,000. Mr. Alvord said that there is not a clear understanding about the cost of this equipment.

Mr. Alvord said that Mayor Moccia, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Foley met because there were rumors that the City's procurement process was violated. It was determined that it was not. Ms. Lindstrom said that she believed that this could have gone forward sooner. Mr. Alvord said that he went through a year procurement process and there is not a \$25,000 program available that meets the needs of the City. He said that he understands that Mr. Geake was not involved in the process, but this went through the IT Committee twice.

Ms. Lindstrom said that this is Mr. Geake's profession, so she trusted his judgment. She said that she hoped to hear from him. Mr. Hempstead asked if the Common Council sent

this back with a directive. Mr. Alvord said that they did not. He said that the delay cost the City \$31,000.

Mr. Alvord said that they held the price for seven months. Mr. Hempstead asked if the IT Committee has to sign off on the additional \$31,000. Mr. Alvord said that he will talk to Ms. DelVecchio. He said that no one in IT felt there was anything wrong with the price. Ms. Lindstrom said that she did not realize there would be a loss of \$31,000.

Mr. Krummel said that it was implied that the person who strongly objected would provide information.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO FGB CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT NO. PM 2008-1, PROPOSED PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$55,000.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09094021 5777 C0021**

Mr. Alvord explained that this is the 2008 pavement program for Geneva Road and Nursery. There was a 36% increase in the cost of asphalt.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

**AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO AJ PENNA & SONS FOR PROJECT NO. DRG 2005-1 (CO FY 07-08) PROPOSED GENERAL DRAINAGE, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$71,500**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09034027 5777 C0138**

Mr. Alvord explained that this is driven by asphalt price adjustments that took place at the end of 2007.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION: THREE TONS FREE AT TRANSFER STATION AND YARD DEBRIS SITE

Mr. Alvord said that the corporation counsel said that the Common Council had to make a decision either to waive the fee or not. He said that this has been in place for over 32 years.

Mr. Bondi asked if they could lower the amount to one ton. Mr. Hempstead suggested not weighing leaves. Ms. Straniti asked how this would work once someone reached three tons. Mr. Alvord explained that an account would be set up and the person would get billed. If people come in by car, they do not go across the scale and are not charged.

Mr. Alvord said that charging is a chance to recapture \$300,000. He said that he is concerned that without that they will have to lay off staff. Mr. Bondi said that he feels it is important to charge a fee. He suggested charging nothing at the transfer station and charging after one ton at the leaf disposal.

Ms. Lindstrom asked Mr. Alvord what he would prefer. Mr. Alvord recommended eliminating free tonnage and collecting a fee on the spot from residents who do not come in by car or mini van. Commercial entities would establish an account.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she assumed that landscapers would go beyond the three ton limit. Mr. Alvord said that if they are a legitimate business, they are licensed and registered with the City and will go over three tons. The people who cheat are the people who do landscaping as a second business.

Ms. Lindstrom asked if the Committee will hold a public hearing on this. Mr. Alvord said that they would.

**\*\* MR. BONDI MOVED TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING AT 7:00 P.M. PRECEDING THE NEXT MEETING TO DISCUSS ELIMINATING THE FREE THREE TONS FOR NON-COMMERCIAL VEHICLES WITH ACTON TO FOLLOW THE PUBLIC HEARING**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION: DPW RATES AND FEES

Mr. Krummel explained that each item was reviewed at the last Committee meeting. He said that he thought the Common Council had a philosophy that residents would pay for the function. Ms. Straniti said that she feels they should hold off for one year on increasing fees because this is bad timing. Mr. Bondi said that Mr. and Mrs. Public are not really affected by this. Ms. Lindstrom said that at the last Common Council meeting they were asked if this Committee wanted to look at other fines and at this point there were no answers.

Ms. Lindstrom said at the Common Council meeting, it was suggested tabling this item to look at the fee schedule in more detail. It was brought up that if this item was tabled the fees would automatically go into effect, therefore everyone voted against the fee increase. Ms. Straniti said that three of them voted against it in Committee.

Ms. Straniti asked why they could not increase fines. Mr. Alvord explained that they are charging the maximum amount allowed by State law.

Mr. Krummel said that the people who benefit from the service should pay for the service. Ms. Straniti said that she wished the increases were done before and in smaller increments. She reiterated that she would like to see this held off for one year, once the economy is better.

Mr. Bondi said that puts the burden on all of the taxpayers rather than the user. He asked why all of the tax payers should pay for what one person uses. Ms. Straniti said that the fees were excessive. Mr. Bondi replied that is what it costs the City.

Mr. Alvord said that the road encroachment and driveway fees are drawn by the utility companies and the contractors. He said that 800 blue bins a year cost the City \$4,000. Mr. Alvord said that he is looking for every penny; there is no place else to cut. He said that the City is facing a \$3 million shortfall and by the end of March will be facing a \$4 million shortfall and people will have to be laid off. Mr. Alvord said that he has already spent 1/3 of the show budget on storms because they took place during time and a half. Mr. Alvord stressed that he is looking for every penny so he does not have to lay off 20 people.

Mr. Bondi said that Parks and Recreation has the same problem and they have to take \$400,000 out of their budget for next year.

Mr. Alvord said that there are services that residents get now and will not get if they do not have the staff in place. He said that he realizes that the average resident does not understand the budget. Mr. Bondi agreed that all of the benefits the residents get are very costly.

Ms. Straniti asked how much these fees would generate. Mr. Alvord said that if he adds up everything, the fees would generate an additional \$40,000. Mr. Krummel said that he would like to see this move forward. Ms. Lindstrom said that across the board, there are certain Councilmembers who are opposed to the fees.

Mr. Hempstead commented that unless someone has to replace their blue bin, no one would know how much they cost. Mr. Bondi said that he has never replaced his blue bin since 1991. Mr. Hempstead noted that one milk crate costs \$37.00.

- \*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO FORWARD THE FEE SCHEDULE TO THE COMMON COUNCIL AS PRESENTED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MS. STRANITI)**

**GENERAL INFORMATION PORTION**

**NORWALK TRANSFER STATION**

Mr. Alvord said that there are some disputes going on between CRRA and the seven communities. They sent release documents that are onerous. All seven communities have refused to sign.

Mr. Alvord reported that the transfer station is operating fine. He has an RFP for a contractor to build a battery/oil shelter. CRRA never cleaned the area, so they will not be paid for the month of December. The new sign has not gone up yet, because of the bad weather. Mr. Hempstead said that he was at the transfer station and agreed that it was working well.

**PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL BUDGET SUBMISSION FY 2009-2010**

Mr. Alvord said that the budget was submitted to the Finance Department and they are doing staff review this week. After that it will go to the Planning Commission.

Mr. Alvord said that he believed they could break down the old Police facility demolition into three parts: Remediation this year, demolition next year and then restoration the following year. Building management has responsibility for the building and then the land will revert to Parks and Rec.

Mr. Alvord said that he would like to continue with fleet management and standardization which has resulted in cost savings.

- \*\* MR. BONDI MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services