

Public Works Committee Actions

JANUARY 2, 2008

ATTENDANCE: Fred Bondi, Acting Chair; Douglas Hempstead; Laurel Lindstrom; Kelly Straniti

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

Mr. Bondi called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and called the Roll.

PUBLIC INPUT

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

APPROVALS/AUTHORIZATIONS

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2007

Correction – Page 4 – Ms. Cece should be Ms. Lauricella

** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. LINDSTROM)

DISCUSSION

PROJECTS

Mr. Alvord reported that all of the project have been updated and asked for comments from the Committee members. The Committee discussed the projects.

Mr. Alvord said that the capital budget request was submitted to the Finance department. The Committee discussed the capital budget requirements. Mr. Alvord said that they are looking at a dredging challenge at a cost of \$15 – 20 million.

The Committee discussed the paving projects for the coming year. Mr. Alvord said that there is no money left over from last year and they took money from next year to pave William Street. Bid documents will go out at the end of January.

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the citywide traffic maintenance plan, the safe route to school plan and the Strawberry Hill Avenue plan. Mr. Alvord said that they would not be moving ahead right now. He said that they absolutely want to do those projects, but with the flooding and redevelopment, they don't have the people to handle all of the work. Ms. Lindstrom suggested starting projects in increments.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE UPDATE – STORMWATER RELATED WORK

Mr. Alvord reported that they have approvals from the Conservation Commission and permits from the DEP for the Olmstead Place project. He also said that the Buckingham and Lockwood Lane projects are in a good timeframe to get the bid packages out.

Mr. Hempstead asked when the Perry Avenue bridge would open. Mr. Alvord said that it will not open for another month or two, depending upon the weather. He said that the contractor has been very cooperative.

Mr. Bondi asked about the parking lot at Calf Pasture Beach. Mr. Alvord said that there have been issues between DPW and Marquis.

UPDATE ON SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL EFFORTS

Mr. Alvord said that the proposals arrived on November 30th but have not yet been opened. The comparative analysis has been completed. Mr. Alvord said that depending upon how the tipping fees are set, they should be able to recover their costs.

UPDATE ON RECYCLING EFFORTS

Mr. Alvord reported that effective July 1, 2009, City Carting will take the recyclables to Stamford to sell them and share the revenues with the City. They will also save 20 miles per truck by going to Stamford.

Mr. Alvord said that City Carting has seven trucks and they are allowed to fill those trucks for use in Norwalk. It is illegal for those trucks to be driven out of state.

Between the mileage savings and the revenue sharing, this will save the tax payers \$150,000 per year.

Mr. Alvord noted that schools do not recycle. The Committee members said they were surprised.

OVERVIEW – 2008-2009 DPW CAPITAL BUDGET SUBMISSION

Mr. Alvord said that they were looking for guidance from the Committee and the Common Council.

The Committee members discussed the capital budget requirements. Mr. Bondi pointed out that the lights on the Wall Street Bridge were not replaced. Mr. Alvord said that the bridge was short and would not look like the one over the Saugatuck River in Westport. He said that there was no one to replace the flags and the lights when they were vandalized. They received constant complaints and people had to be pulled from other work to fix the flag poles.

Mr. Alvord said that he and Mr. Mocio met last week to discuss this issue and agreed on a plan, but neither department has anyone they can send to make repairs. Mr. Bondi offered to talk to the Lion's Club about adopting the Bridge if it was not a problem. Mr. Hempstead suggested approaching Poko Developers about maintaining the Bridge at tomorrow's Planning Committee meeting.

Mr. Bondi asked Mr. Alvord if he could provide them with an amount he could live with for the capital projects. Mr. Alvord said that any changes would not reduce their request by a lot. Mr. Bondi said that he did not want to overburden the taxpayers.

Ms. Lindstrom asked about the removal of the old Police Station. Mr. Alvord said that it was in the 5-year plan. There is, however, an alternative plan being pursued by Mr. Seligson.

The Committee discussed fleet replacement. Mr. Alvord said that if he could get a truck with a 75 ft. reach, it would significantly reduce their calls to Olmstead for tree removal.

Mr. Alvord said that he will meet with the Finance Department on January 9th.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord if he could provide reports from the Customer Service Center to see how it is doing. Mr. Alvord said that it has been very successful and they get good feedback from the neighborhood associations.

Mr. Hempstead said that he would like to see an overview to see if there are any reoccurring problems or requests. Ms. Lindstrom said that the neighborhood associations receive a printout of the complaint and resolution

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services