

**CITY OF NORWALK
HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
APRIL 22, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Deanna D'Amore at ddamore@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Nicolas Sacchinelli, Chair; Dominique Johnson; Thomas Keegan;
Diana Revolut; Lisa Shanahan

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health, Teresa Argondezzi Health
Educator, Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist; Michele DeLuca, Deputy
Director of Emergency Management; Brian Cunningham and
Susan Zecca, Norwalk Police Department; Al Bassett and Gino
Gatto, Norwalk Fire Department

I. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL

Mr. Sacchinelli called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and called the Roll as indicated above.

II. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Correct the spelling of Mr. Sacchinelli's name

Page 7: Motion should read – Ms. Johnson moved to authorize the Bow Tie Cinema as a new vaccine site

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS
CORRECTED**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Action Items:

Police Department

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A SIMULATED FIREARM EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH VIRTRA INC. FOR HARDWARE, SOFTWARE, DOCUMENTATION, INSTALLATION, TRAINING, MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT FOR AN INITIAL TERM OF 1 YEAR WITH 4 SUCCESSIVE 1 YEAR RENEWAL PERIODS. SOLE SOURCE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,000 ANNUALLY. ACCOUNT 030000 2660**

Officer Zecca reviewed the request and noted they are looking at enhancing training. By renting the system, they will have year round access and can run Officers through scenarios and provide feedback based on their response.

Mr. Keegan asked Officer Zecca if they thought about using equipment like this for community outreach “walk a mile in my shoes”. Officer Zecca said they can potentially look at that in the future.

Officer Cunningham added that this is a great tool to show others what the Officers go through and recreates stressful situations. Down the road, it can be used during the Citizen's Academy program.

Ms. Revolus asked if this system shows the Police the perspective from the citizens when they deal with Police Officers. Officer Cunningham said the system is designed to create situations where Officers deal with people who are going through some kind of episode. The options are endless and they can tailor it depending on the techniques used by the Officer. Mr. Revolus said she would like the Police to see what it is like to be a citizen and for the citizen to see what it is like to be a Police Officer.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO INTERACTION INSIGHT CORPORATION FOR THE SOLE SOURCE, UNDER GSA CONTRACT #GS 35F-0415V FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EVENTIDE NEXLOG 740 CALL RECORDER SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,007.34 FROM ACCOUNT # 09193610 5777 C 0615**

Officer Zecca reviewed the item. She said it has been vetted through the IT Department.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO POWER PHONE FOR SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE FOR THE AMOUNT NOT OT EXCEED \$58,000, ACCOUNT # 0993610 5777 C0615**

Officer Zecca reviewed the item and said this will dramatically enhance the service already in use. Ms. Johnson asked if this will help with wait time. Officer Zecca explained they strive for 911 calls to be answered within 10 seconds; this will dramatically help with quality control.

Ms. Revolus commented that clarifying prompts save time and expedites calls in a medical situation.

Officer Zecca said the system has been vetted by the Medical Director.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO FLEET AUTO SUPPLY, LLC FOR EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND UP-FIT FOR TWELVE POLICE UTILITY VEHICLES UNDER PROJECT # 3768 FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$180,000. ACCOUNT 09213010 5777 C0665**

Officer Zecca reviewed the item.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO SOLE BIDDER, SEA SUPPORT INC., UNDER BID #4095, FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REFURBISHED AND CERTIFIED TO “NEW “ CONDITION 25’ SAFE DEFENDER BOAT AND RAY MARINE ELECTRONICS, UNDER BID #4095, FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$207,000. ACCOUNT # S 36023-5738-G0001, 35309J-5738, AND 030000 2661**

Officer Zecca reviewed the item. She said they applied for a grant to purchase the boat. About 75% will be paid by Federal funds and the remaining 25% will be paid with Forfeiture Funds.

Ms. Johnson asked how the boat will be used. Officer Zecca explained that they have a year round Marine Unit. They conduct enforcement on the water and respond to emergency calls. The current main boat will become their secondary boat.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO SOLE BIDDER L& L ELECTRONICS, INC, UNDER BID #4096 FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF RAY MARINE ELECTRONICS, FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$38,000. ACCOUNT # 35309J-5738 AND 030000 2660**

Officer Zecca reviewed the item. She said this is a Port Security grant for electronics. There is a 25% match.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Health Department

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021 FOR THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT VACCINE EQUITY PARTNERSHIPS FUNDING (VEPF) PROGRAM**

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT VACCINE EQUITY PARTNERSHIPS FUNDING (VEPF) PROGRAM FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MAY 1, 2021 THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021

Ms. D'Amore reviewed the items. She said that the Health Department applied for funding and will hear tomorrow whether or not they will get the funding. She said the time period is quick and this funding is meant to get the vaccine into the community.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. SACCHINELLI MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INNER CITY CPAT AGREEMENT

Mr. Bassett explained that the City of Bridgeport has agreed to let the Norwalk Fire Department use their CPAT Center for its applicants. The respective attorneys are working on the agreement. He added that there may only be minimal logistical costs, but there is no cost for the use of the facility. Mr. Keegan commended the Fire Department for being proactive.

This item will be on Tuesday's Common Council agenda with the addition of appropriate language.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Health and Public Safety Committee
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Via Teleconference
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Emergency Management Update and Discussion

Ms. DeLuca updated the Committee members on the Food Distribution program. In May, the distribution site will be moved to Veteran's Park. The Public Safety program will take place on September 25th.

Fire Update and Discussion

Chief Gatto reviewed calls received during the month of March. He noted that two members of the Fire Department are out on long term leave. He reviewed the recruitment drive and said a Town Hall meeting was held last night. He said there were over 200 participants, and it was a very productive event. To date, they have received 852 applications. He reported on the diversity of the applicants. He noted that 120 Norwalk residents applied.

Mr. Sacchinelli asked if there were any plans in place for the 4th of July. Ms. DeLuca said Emergency Management has an event action plan for large events. She noted that the Fire Marshall is working on requiring a permit from anyone selling fireworks in the City of Norwalk.

Ms. Revolus said she was surprised by the types of fireworks that were sold last year. Chief Gatto said they were not sold legally. Ms. Shanahan said that Mr. Sawyer was on the Ordinance Committee call this week and said that only sparklers are legal. The Ordinance Committee is looking into the issue of fireworks.

Mr. Keegan explained that the fireworks being sold in gas stations/Walmart were made legal in 2000. Prior to that they were illegal. There is an epidemic of fireworks in the City and it is going to take a lot of action on everyone's part. This is a quality of life issue. Mr. Sacchinelli agreed to add Fireworks enforcement to next month's agenda. He added that he is concerned about fire remediation if there is an incident. Chief Gatto said they have plans in place and can ramp up quickly. Mr. Bassett said help is needed at the State level; however, State Senators and Representatives look at fireworks as an income stream.

Health Department Update and Discussion

Ms. D'Amore announced that April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. She said the Mayor read a proclamation honoring volunteers. She said that since April 2020, they have been vital to all Covid efforts. She described their efforts.

Ms. D'Amore thanked Mr. Iannaccone and Ms. Schlegel for their incredible work.

Ms. Teresa Argondezzi gave an update on Community health efforts and the programs they have been working on in addition to Covid initiatives. Ms. Revolus expressed her appreciation to Ms. Argondezzi.

Ms. D'Amore introduced Mr. Weeks. Mr. Weeks presented slides showing Covid updates from April 4th – April 17th. He said the biggest game changer is with the Covid variances. The UK variance is the largest. He said that 42% of Norwalk residents received the Covid vaccine.

Ms. Revolus asked about the recovery rate for Covid. Mr. Weeks said he was not familiar with that metric; it is a pretty variable term. Ms. Revolus reiterated her question. Mr. Weeks said he did not have that number and will look into it.

Ms. Johnson welcomed Mr. Weeks and said she was grateful to have him here. She said that she and her colleagues were anxious for data and how this epidemic is impacting different communities. She also expressed her thanks to the staff of the Health Department.

Police Update and Discussion

Ms. Zecca offered to give a demonstration to the Committee members when they get their virtual simulator. April 29th will be their first in-person Coffee with a Cop at Stew Leonard's from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Security Updates

The Committee members moved into Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. and the public was excused.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services