



DEPARTMENT OF
ENGINEERING

CITY OF NORWALK
Department of Engineering
125 East Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06851
www.norwalkct.gov

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; James Frayer; Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Bryan Meek; Lisa Shanahan

STAFF: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Thomas Szabo, Waste Program Manager; Darin Callahan, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Ralph Kolb, Wastewater Systems Manager

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comments 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's start time. Please email Monique Cipriano at to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Chairwoman Smyth called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Smyth called the Roll: Barbara Smyth James Frayer Bryan Meek
Nora Niedzielski-Eichner, Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were four (4) Committee members present constituting a quorum., Nora Niedzielski-Eichner arrived at 7:04 p.m. Darlene Young and Edwin Camacho were absent.

PUBLIC INPUT

PUBLIC INPUT (GUESTS AT COMMITTEE MEETINGS MAY SPEAK TO ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA. COMMENTS SHALL BE LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN THREE (3) MINUTES PER SPEAKER.)

Diane CeCe of Homestead Place spoke about item #2, data share agreement between the First District Water and WPCA. She is confused and concerned about the fact that there is an agreement being put together that allows First District Water to share private information about their customers with a third party and perhaps a fourth party, with the Water Pollution Control basically being an

autonomous Authority. She went through the statute that Attorney Callahan provided, Connecticut Statute 7-58 and cannot find any language that authorizes this action. The closest she could find is the segment that identifies the possibility of having the WPCA have the information from First District Water in order for First District Water to do the billing for the sewer usage. She stated she didn't see anything in the opposite direction in terms of sharing and/or billing. She has a question about the statute, the privacy about the information, and the brief paragraph doesn't identify all the confidentiality segments of this. Concerned if another party will have this information that is responsible for billing and work collection of the WPCA and she suspects that there is another agency or group that they use. It is her understanding that in the State of Connecticut, a utility bill that contains your name, address, and account number is a valid form of legal identification. Her concern is that they are asking First District Water to share those three (3) things for the purpose of billing. Wants to know if she is missing the point of the statute. She asked that someone respond to her offline. She says confidentiality is a little thin. She said if there is an intention to make things equitable by looking at water usage in being equated to sewer usage out, how do you account for water usage in the sewer system water through the WPCA. How do you account for water that comes into a property that actually never leaves it at all or water that comes through an irrigation system or something that stays within the property except for runoff. She would like to understand it all.

Chairwoman Smyth closed public input at 7:09p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 2023.

There was no report on this item.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**

****MS. SHANAHAN ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTANTION**

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ENTER INTO A DATA SHARING AGREEMENT WITH THE FIRST TAXING DISTRICT (THE "FTD") WHEREBY THE FTD WILL PROVIDE THE WPCA SUPPLY WATER CONSUMPTION DATA OF THE INDIVIDUAL CUSTOMERS OF THE FTD, INCLUDING TOTAL METERED GALLONS, SERVICE ADDRESS, OWNER'S NAME, ACCOUNT NUMBER, AND ACCOUNT TYPE.

Chairwoman Smyth stated that the sewer fee is based on water consumption which has been estimated and now they would like to be more accurate with the billing.

Ms. Valadares explained how the agreement works. First District Water will share the information with them about the water meter to avoid estimating some of the sewer fees that are charged. This would only apply to commercial businesses and not residential. They do charge a flat fee for all residential properties. Commercial properties are estimated. With access to the data, they would be able to charge the correct amount to the commercial businesses.

Attorney Callahan stated that the agreement should have been written as a confidentiality agreement. This agreement is so that the First District Water can share the meter data. He said they have all of the other data except account numbers, and they don't need those. He explained their program through the tax collector's office and gave background to the Committee. He said this is really just a Corporation Agreement that allows for the exchange of meter data information and the other function is to maintain confidentiality of that data.

A discussion ensued about the data, how it is being collected, what is being used and confidentiality issues. They already know which parcels are commercial and which ones are residential. They are only looking at the actual meter data in order to bill accordingly. Attorney Callahan gave a brief explanation. Based on the discussion, it was determined that more information is needed to clarify the language and include confidentiality. Chairwoman Smyth recommended that they table this item until the next meeting.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**

****CHAIRWOMAN SMYTH RECOMMENDED THAT THE ITEM IS
TABLED TO THE NEXT MEETING**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT, BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND JOHN TURNER CONSULTING, INC, RESULTING FROM PROJECT #4308 REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS PAVEMENT DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR PAVEMENT ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH THE PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM. THE AGREEMENT IS TO ESTABLISH A THREE (3) YEAR BASE PERIOD, WITH TWO (2) ONE-YEAR OPTIONS AND AN ANNUAL SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$250,000.00 PER YEAR.**

ACCOUNT NO.	09 23 4021 5777 C0021
	09 24 4021 5777 C0021
	09 25 4021 5777 C0021
	09 26 4021 5777 C0021
	09 27 4021 5777 C0021
	09 28 4021 5777 C0021

Ms. Valadares reported on this. She described the project which is used to reevaluate the city roads/paving forecast and assist with inspections. She explained the breakdown of the project. Mr. Berndlmaier gave a few specifics on how it works.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairwoman Smyth read Items 4A and 4B together.

- 4A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES LLC. FOR PURCHASING PROJECT 4310, PM2023-5 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM**

**NOT TO EXCEED \$6,331,657.50 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND THIS AGREEMENT
FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 13 4010 5796 APW10
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0503
03 00 00 2602**

**4B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE
ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES LLC. FOR
PURCHASING PROJECT 4310, PM2023-5 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT
PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$633,165.75.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 13 4010 5796 APW10
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0503
03 00 00 2602**

Ms. Valadares explained the pavement management program to the Committee. They received five (5) bid responses for the project.

Mr. Meek stated he is going to vote no and would like Public Works to take back the line striping on paved roads since TMP is not doing it. He is concerned accidents are going to happen. It has been a month and a half since Bayne was paved and still no line striping.

A question was raised about protective equipment and worker safety for the contractors and the City's role in enforcing them. The city does not enforce such safety requirements. They are in the bid packet that all contractors must abide by. OSHA enforces those laws. If a contractor is seen not being safe while working, those concerns can be sent to the Department of Public Works. The Committee talked about the lowest responsible bidder and purchasing documentation of contractors already working in the city.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

****MOTION PASSED FOUR (4) TO ONE (1)**

**5. TECHNICAL CORRECTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF AUGUST
8, 2023, ITEM VII.B.9, TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO
EXECUTE A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE WOODS MEN'S AND BOY'S
CLOTHING CONTRACT DATED JULY 23, 2021, FOR PROJECT NO. 4087 FOR A
SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$25,000 FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023/24 WITH AN OPTION TO
EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR EACH.**

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 21 5276

There was no report on this item.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

- **TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING**

Mr. Torre reported on the tree removals and pruning.

- **MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – JULY 2023**

Mr. Szabo stated the MSW report has been steady. There have been some slight increases, less than 10 tons for both recycling and trash. Book recycling bins have filled up again and seem to be popular.

- **FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – JULY 2023**

Mr. Szabo stated that the Rowayton Community Center had 5,100. pounds, Transfer Station 5,700 pounds and Cranberry Park had 2,550 pounds for this period. Cranberry Park continues to increase.

The Recycle Pop-Up Event is a mobile redemption center for bottles, cans or glass deposits, that have the 5-cent deposit. The next event will take place on Saturday, September 16, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 98 South Main Street.

- **CURRENT / UPCOMING PROJECTS STATUS**

1. **CONSTRUCTION**

- DRG2019-1 Dreamy Hollow Storm Drainage Improvements
- PM2021-1 Pavement Management Program
- PM2023-1 Pavement Management Program
- PM2023-2 Permanent Roadway Repairs & Surface Restoration
- RD2022-1 Curbs and Sidewalks at Various Locations
- RD2022-2 Curbs and Sidewalks for Senga and Morton Areas
- RD2023-1 Curbs and Sidewalks for Spring Hill Avenue Area
- DRG2020-1 On-Call Drainage
- RNP2022-3 Freese Park Railing Rehabilitation
- State of CT DOT Projects at Various Locations
- RA2022-2 467 West Avenue Utility Infrastructure Upgrade
- DRG2023-1 Chatham Drive and Cossitt Road Storm Drainage
- STR2023-1 Emergency Wall Street Retaining Wall and Sidewalk Abatement
- BR2022-1 Bonny Brook Road & Cannon Street

2. **ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT**

- PM2023-4 Paving @ Various Locations
- PM2023-5 Pavement Management Program

3. **DESIGN**

- Project 102-366 West Cedar Street Over Five Mile River
- Storm Drainage Evaluation at Selected Locations
- DRG2022-1 Lockwood Lane and Heather Lane Storm Drainage
- Veterans Park Visitor Dock Replacement

- RD2023-2 Undergrounding of Elizabeth Street Overhead Utilities
- BR2023-1 Bridge Preservation Projects at Various Locations

Mr. Meehan, Principal Engineer, reported on the current project status. He gave the Committee a breakdown of each project and said everything is ongoing and on task. A discussion ensued about other project issues in Norwalk.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Shanahan moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:16p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023**
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD