

CITY OF NORWALK
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**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
September 5, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: John Igneri, Chair; Thomas Livingston; Eloisa Melendez; Richard Bonenfant; Michael Corsello; Faye Bowman (7:12pm)

STAFF: Bruce Chimento, Director; Lisa Burns, Principal Engineer; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer

Mr. Igneri called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input this evening.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 2017.

****MR. IGNERI MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. LIVINGSTON SECONDED
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A SUPPLEMENTAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AECOM (FORMERLY URS CORPORATION), FOR EXTRA PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES REQUIRED DURING CONSTRUCTION, FOR THE REHABILITATION OF THE PERRY AVENUE BRIDGE OVER THE NORWALK RIVER PROJECT, CONNDOT PROJECT NO. 102-319, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$78,500.00. (FUNDING 80% FEDERAL, 20% CITY).

Account No: 09 17 4021 5777 C0392
09 18 4021 5777 C0392
09 16 4021 5799 C0392

Mr. Bonenfant wanted to know the status of the Perry Avenue Bridge. He said that this project has been ongoing for over ten years.

Ms. Burns answered that the Perry Avenue Bridge would be completed by April 2018. She said that they have an agreement with AECOM, who are the design engineer and also the resident engineer construction inspector for the project. She said that AECOM incurred additional cost on the job. She explained that the project is running longer than anticipated primarily due to the change in the bridge rail system that was initially designed for the project. She said that by the time the project went out to bid and was awarded, Federal Highway deemed that the bridge rail system no longer met the new crash test standards. She continued explaining that they had to go back and redesign the rail which caused the project delay and Perry Avenue, right now, had to be changed to a one way direction traffic pattern which should be resolved by the first week of October.

Mr. Livingston asked if any of this issue relates to the claim that there was a mistake in the design.

Ms. Burns replied that AECOM did have an error in the design for the support of the excavation system. She said that they had the wrong quantities in the bid documents because they did not calculate the quantities of sheeting or soil nailing correctly. She said that there are no extra design costs for their error but there will be extra construction costs. She said that this item is only for the design services related to the extended time. She explained that the load rating criteria was changed and the methodology of how the State accepts load ratings was changed so the design engineer incurred more time in order to meet those standards. She said that they wouldn't be reimbursed for the 80% if they didn't make those changes. Ms. Burns stated that this project originally began in 2006. She said that there were some additional shop drawings on the project for example the new bridge rail had to be reviewed, they had to develop a maintenance protection plan for traffic plan #3 and had to implement a one way on Perry Avenue from June through September for safety.

Mr. Chimento said that the State had already approved the plans and then the Federal Highway changed the standards so we had to make the changes.

Mr. Corsello asked if this delay is due to the changes.

Ms. Burns explained the steps they had to take for the railing. She said that they have really been pushing PJF Construction, the contractor on the job, to get things done. She said that they had a lot of trouble with the relocation of utilities for this job because Eversource Gas had no welders. Mr. Chimento was able to get Eversource to come through with welders so they can complete the utilities but are still waiting for the railing. She said that they wanted to open two lanes before school began however the buses are doing fine with just one lane.

Mr. Corsello said that it seemed like the additional work that is necessary is because the requirements of the design changed. He wanted to know if that was something AECOM could have anticipated.

Ms. Burns replied no because it was all unanticipated things and the State had already agreed to their 80% share, so the State is in agreement with the changes.

Mr. Corsello asked if this was a legitimate cost.

Ms. Burns replied absolutely.

Mr. Livingston asked where they stand with that claim or if a claim was made.

Ms. Burns replied that the State is reimbursing that amount and they worked through that issue collectively so it would be a reimbursable cost and the City will still have to pay the 20%.

****MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3a. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH A.M. RIZZO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR PROJECT TRF 2017-1 TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$1,124,150.31.

Account No: 09 03 4120 5777 C0232

09 04 4120 5777 C0232

09 05 4021 5777 C0232

09 08 4021 5777 C0232

09 09 4021 5777 C0232

09 12 4021 5777 C0232

09 13 4021 5777 C0232

09 14 4021 5777 C0232

09 16 4021 5777 C0232

3b. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH A.M. RIZZO ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC. FOR PROJECT TRF 2017-1 TRAFFIC SIGNAL IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$112,415.03.

Account No: 09 03 4120 5777 C0232

09 04 4120 5777 C0232

09 05 4021 5777 C0232

09 08 4021 5777 C0232

09 09 4021 5777 C0232

09 12 4021 5777 C0232

09 13 4021 5777 C0232

09 14 4021 5777 C0232

09 16 4021 5777 C0232

Mr. Livingston asked for the location of the traffic lights.

Ms. Burns replied that the traffic light locations are at the intersections of Fox Run at Red Coat; Ward at Freese Court; Osborne at Van Zant and Van Zant at Fire House. She said that it cleans out 9 capital accounts. She said that the design was in-house and the second low bidder was L. Holzner.

Mr. Livingston stated that he noticed the engineers estimates were a bit lower than the lowest bid and wanted to understand why the difference in pricing.

Mr. Chimento answered that the estimates were completed a while ago.

Ms. Burns stated that the design was in-house which could have had older information when putting the unit pricing.

Mr. Livingston asked if they paid anyone to complete the design.

Ms. Burns answered no, the design was completed in-house by Paul Sotnik and Fran Wilk.

Mr. Chimento gave a brief explanation on how designs go back and forth with the State for approvals and bids cannot go out until the State approves.

Mr. Bonenfant asked about the project and what needs to happen.

Ms. Burns replied that there are four locations and in the backup all of those things listed have to happen. She stated that each location has to have every item.

Ms. Melendez asked about the complaint at Ward Street.

Mr. Chimento answered that they asked for signs and for lights because they were old. He said that they also asked for special notification signs which they put up and after putting up the fourth sign they weren't going to put up anymore. He said that people were stealing the signs so they are not putting up anymore.

Ms. Bowman asked how often new traffic lights are put up.

Ms. Burns stated that the City owns 84 lights. She said that some are done through the State projects. She said that she is unsure about the lifespan of the lights.

Mr. Chimento said that he will have Fred Eshraghi present at one of the meetings to explain how the traffic lights work.

Ms. Bowman asked if it is an every year thing.

Ms. Burns replied no, it would be at least a 20 to 30 year replacement. She said that the technology may change, like the controller cabinet due to the computer, but the light may still be in working condition.

Ms. Bowman asked if they rotate so many lights each year.

Ms. Burns replied no.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if she said that there are 84 lights at 84 locations.

Mr. Chimento corrected him stating there are 84 intersections. He said that they do not use the trip lines anymore in the roads or the loops. He said that they use the small white tubes at the intersections, which are cameras that watch the traffic that's coming through at certain times and that changes the variance. He said that each box is approximately \$30,000. each.

Mr. Igneri asked about the white tubes and if they are set to count the number of cars backed up before the light changes.

Mr. Chimento answered yes, the newer lights will have the tube.

Ms. Bowman stated that the traffic light at the end of St. Paul's Terrace does not work unless a car across the street is coming out of the Webster Lot.

Ms. Burns stated that some intersections are timed and some are traffic responsive and some work in a grouping. She said that she would put in a service request for that traffic signal at Webster Lot and St. Paul's Terrace.

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC FOR PROJECT PM 2017-1, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$1,000,000.00.

Account No: 09 18 4021 5777

Mr. Chimento stated that item 4 needed to be changed to "Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Amendment with The Grasso Companies, LLC for Project PM 2017-1, Pavement Management Program, for a sum not to exceed \$1,000,000.00".

Mr. Igneri stated change for the record.

Mr. Livingston stated that he would like The Grasso Companies, LLC to be subject to the same terms and conditions as stated in contract PM 2017-1.

Mr. Igneri stated that this contract is based on unit pricing and going out to bid may cause an increase in the prices.

Mr. Chimento stated that Public Works would be able to complete more streets with this amendment instead of going out to bid and not being able to complete the streets this year.

Mr. Livingston asked if The Grasso Companies, LLC were still in compliance.

Mr. Chimento answered that Michael Wrinn of Planning and Zoning stated that they are in compliance with their office. He went on to say that their work has been satisfactory, they did a

good job on the City Hall Parking Lot. He said that they have not received any negative feedback. He said that there was a minor delay on the punch list but things are on schedule.

Mr. Corsello asked if it was customary to add streets. He said that it seems like it would be considered a new project.

Mr. Chimento answered that it is done every year.

Ms. Melendez asked if the street names on the list would be completed by 2018.

Mr. Berndlmaier said that there may be some exceptions and/or there may be some grouped by neighborhood. He said that they try to do the streets grouped by neighborhood at the same time.

Mr. Corsello asked if they anticipate that they are going to do these streets, then why not include in original contract.

Mr. Berndlmaier answered that the funds were not available at the time the project went out to bid. He said that on July 1st new funds become available for the new fiscal year so they add to the existing contract.

Mr. Chimento said that they cannot enter into a contract with anticipated funds.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if the person who won the contract could automatically assume that they would get more funds for the additional streets.

Mr. Chimento responded that it is not an entitlement and it's not guaranteed.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if the contractor had to be ahead of schedule in order to get more work.

Mr. Chimento answered that it would certainly help.

Mr. Berndlmaier said that all of the bidders understand that it is a possibility that there may be more streets added to the contract which in turn could lead to more money as well.

Mr. Livingston asked if the Mayor imposed a spending freeze, how is it possible to increase the contract to pave more streets.

Mr. Chimento answered that those funds are not discretionary funding.

Ms. Bowman asked if the item in question already went out to bid.

Mr. Bonenfant said yes it had went out to bid.

Mr. Igneri stated that if they were to put it out again that it would take a while before it got approved and the streets wouldn't get paved this year.

Mr. Berndlmaier said that they would put out a new contract for all of 2018 in January or February.

Mr. Bowman wanted to know what contractor was using the big machine on Fairfield Avenue and Flax Hill Road.

Mr. Berndlmaier answered that it is called Hot-In-Place Recycling followed by Microsurfacing. He said that it is something new which is preventative maintenance at a supposed lower cost. He continued to say that there are only certain streets that fall within the parameters of what is recommended for that type of resurfacing. He said that the streets they completed fell within those parameters so they did those to revamp and prolong those streets duration before they would have to be repaved again.

Ms. Bowman asked about the price difference.

Mr. Berndlmaier responded that they expect it to be half the cost it would be to pave the streets.

Ms. Burns said that they have to factor in the longevity and wearability.

Mr. Livingston asked if they were happy with the results so far.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated that they are happy with the final product. He said that microsurfacing is expected to last seven to ten years and they will have to wait and see.

Mr. Bonenfant asked if it is thinner on the surface and if it would withstand the snow plows and such.

Mr. Chimento said that they have been done in New Canaan and Fairfield.

Mr. Berndlmaier stated that they have monitored those towns and even visited the sites.

****MR.IGNERI MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

Ms. Burns stated that the Public Works Open House will be held on September 30, 2017. She said that salt came in 10 dollars cheaper a ton this year.

Mr. Igneri asked if there were a lot of salt left over from last year.

Mr. Chimento replied approximately 3,000 tons of salt left over from last year. He said that they like to begin the season with about 8,000 tons of salt.

Mr. Bonenfant wanted to know if they have to do anything to the left over salt like smash it apart.

Mr. Chimento answered no.

Ms. Burns said that they do not purchase the brown salt anymore because the left over salt would get liquid on the bottom.

A. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – MAY; JUNE; JULY 2017

Mr. Chimento stated that they are doing rather well. He asked if the committee was interested in receiving a tour of a single stream recycling facility in Stamford.

Mr. Igneri stated that the whole committee should attend. He asked if the rate of contamination is higher with single stream recycling.

Mr. Chimento said that he could arrange a tour for the committee. He replied no the contamination is not higher.

Ms. Burns stated that they pretty much take everything. She said that they haven't received any complaints from their contractor taking Norwalk's contaminated stuff to the site.

Mr. Chimento continued stating that the recycling budget is where it should be and informed the committee that the reports are included in the packet for their review.

B. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT – JUNE; JULY; AUGUST 2017

Mr. Chimento stated that during the months of June and July there were over 1,000 calls and over 835 pertained to Public Works exclusively.

Mr. Corsello gave a compliment stating that he knows someone who called Customer Service to inform them that their refuse wasn't picked up while the rest of their street was and Customer Service took care of the situation right away. He said that they were really impressed.

Mr. Chimento stated that the Parking Authority is conducting a program that allows for expired meters at random to have an extra twenty minutes on the meters. He said that if someone's meter expired, the Parking Authority would issue what looks like a ticket stating that they were given an extra twenty minutes. He said that people appreciate this effort and are writing notes to customer service.

C. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Covewood/Wilson Ave DOT Report

Mr. Chimento report on this. He said that the report is included in the packet for the committees review. He said that they are looking into trying to solve some of those issues on Covewood/Wilson Avenue.

Mr. Livingston asked if Public Works would pay for that.

Mr. Chimento replied yes. He said that someone had phoned Senator Bob Duff and he sent him a copy of the report. He said that there is a resident that is complaining about Winfield and Saugatuck intersection stating that it is dangerous and he would like a traffic light. Mr. Chimento said that it is a State road and it isn't much he could do about that without the resources.

Mr. Corsello stated that Covewood's intersection is much more dangerous.

Mr. Chimento agreed stating that a stop sign on Wilson Avenue is warranted.

Mr. Livingston asked about footpaths.

Mr. Chimento stated that it would be on the agenda. He said the footpaths would be from Covewood down to Wilson Avenue.

Mr. Bonenfant asked about Highland Avenue intersection.

Mr. Chimento responded that it is a work in progress.

Ms. Bowman stated that the residents from the condos on West Avenue and Martin Luther King Jr. Drive would like to come to a meeting to discuss the traffic in that area. She said that the complaint is that they cannot see the cars coming from around the corner and it is difficult to cross the street.

Mr. Bonenfant added that there was a resident that attended the Health, Welfare & Public Safety meeting and explained that people can't see coming around that corner and it is really difficult to cross that street.

Ms. Bowman said that the residents would like to speak to the committee about it and would like to put it on the next agenda. She said that she is not sure if the solution would be a raised crosswalk.

Mr. Chimento summed up the concern stating that the cars are coming around the corner too fast and people can't see the cars coming around when they want to cross the street.

Mr. Bonenfant said yes that is it and then there are cars coming around the corner and they know that a red light is coming up so they speed through it.

Ms. Burns said that it may not be an appropriate location to have a raised crosswalk and perhaps the residents could attend a separate meeting instead of a regular committee meeting to discuss their concerns. She said it could be a late timing issue at that intersection.

Mr. Chimento said that Ms. Bowman could have them contact the office for a meeting to discuss this issue.

Mr. Igneri asked about Covewood. He wanted to know if they have a schedule for that project.

Mr. Chimento answered no, not at this time.

Ms. Burns said that the work has to be done by District 3 DOT.

Mr. Chimento said that they have asked for help with this and DPW has agreed to assist.

Mr. Livingston asked if they would be doing the footpaths.

Mr. Chimento replied that DPW will do the footpaths.

2. 2017 DEEP Municipal Transfer Station Second Quarter Report

There were no further discussions regarding correspondence.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 3, 2017 in Room 225.

Mr. Igneri stated that the next meeting may be a light meeting so they may move that meeting and the November meeting to a different date.

Ms. Burns stated that Eversource may need an easement for the high towers that are going underground and may need to get on the next agenda. She said that there are 3 easements.

Mr. Igneri stated that if need be a special meeting can be called.

Mr. Livingston asked if the Public Works Department has to do anything special when there are upcoming storms.

Ms. Burns answered that they have an up-to-date, very well coordinated emergency management team. She said that they continuously update preparedness and feels very confident that they will be prepared.

Mr. Chimento said that they were all alerted on it yesterday and may have a meeting next week. He said that they won't know much until Thursday.

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Cipriano
Executive Assistant
Public Works Department