



CITY OF NORWALK
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**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
JUNE 6, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Barbara Smyth, Chairwoman; Darlene Young Nora Niedzielski-Eichner; Bryan Meek; Lisa Shanahan (7:06p.m.)

STAFF: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Chris Torre, Superintendent of Operations; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Daniel Stanton, Senior Civil Engineer; Wilber Giron, Permit Engineer; Aaron Ho, Assistant Engineer; Thomas Szabo, Waste Services Manager; Greg Pacelli, Transportation Planner

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

ROLL CALL

Chairwoman Smyth called the Roll: Barbara Smyth Darlene Young Nora Niedzielski-Eichner
Bryan Meek Lisa Shanahan (7:06p.m.)

At Roll Call there were four (4) Committee members present and so there was a quorum present. Lisa Shanahan (7:06 p.m.) arrived after roll call. Edwin Camacho was 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 Lauricella of 21 Little Fox Lane. She stated that she would like to speak on a few things on the agenda and looks forward to hearing more about them. Items 9a and 9b related to the approval for NewGen. She feels it is important to have a consultant at times to assist in doing deeper dives, she understands that they now have a new Waste Management Coordinator and Recycling Coordinator, Thomas Szabo. She looked into the company and was concerned that NewGen doesn't appear to have any or much New England or Northeastern experience. She mentioned there are regulations they would need to know about as well as the many partnerships already in place across the state. She is concerned how a company in Florida could feel they could hit the ground running. She asked if they would be tasked to do actual waste audits or characterization or will they just be crunching numbers. She was impressed by some of the things she read about them. She is very interested to know if they will do waste characterizations or will Mr. Szabo have the ability to do that. She said they must take look at each waste stream because each waste stream has its own unique problems and challenges and also opportunities. She found it interesting that the food scrap numbers at Cranberry Park are almost by percentage according to the hauler, roughly the same amount as Rowayton. She is glad that there is a food scrap program, but she feels this program has not gone deep enough and widely enough as far as telling people about how to set things aside, donate, and/or have their own backyard compost. She said she will write to Chairwoman Smyth, Ms. Valadares, and Mr. Szabo regarding the location of the bins at Cranberry Park. She is concerned that restaurants may be dumping at the site and would like to rethink the bin locations at Cranberry Park so only Norwalk pays for Norwalk's food scrap.

Chairwoman Smyth closed public input at 7:08p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2023.

There was no report on this item.

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

****MS. SHANAHAN ABSTAINED**

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

Chairwoman Smyth read items 2a and 2b together.

2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC. FOR PROJECT PM2023-4 PAVING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$609,415.20 WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND THIS AGREEMENT FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021**

2B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH THE GRASSO COMPANIES, LLC. FOR PROJECT PM2023-4 PAVING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$60,941.52.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021**

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. She stated that the funds are from a state grant, and she explained that process and requirements to the Committee. They have put some roads on the bid while still following their paving forecast.

Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner asked about the paving locations.

Mr. Berndlmaier responded Old Rock Road and the Princess Pine areas. Those locations were chosen because they didn't need advanced preparation. It is an area that they can mill, pave and curb.

Ms. Valadares stated that the three-year forecast of roads to be paved is now online. Highland Avenue will be paved during the summer.

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

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

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

3. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE 1ST AMENDMENT TO THE MARCH 14, 2023, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND BURNS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., FOR PROJECT PM2023-1, PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 20 4021 5777 C0021
 09 22 4021 5777 C0021
 09 23 4021 5777 C0021
 09 24 4021 5777 C0021
 09 24 4021 5777 C0503
 09 18 6030 5777 C0588
 09 22 6030 5777 C0588
 09 23 6030 5777 C0588
 03 00 00 2602
 13 4010 5796 APW10

Mr. Meehan reported on this. He explained the project to the Committee. It is an existing project that they are adding additional roads to. Unit prices are the same as the original bid price.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

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

4. **AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO FLT GEOSYSTEMS FOR THE UPGRADE TO THE SURVEY EQUIPMENT FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28, 952.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 03 00 00 2602

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. She stated that they complete some surveys in-house and their current equipment is more than 5 years old. They would like to upgrade said equipment. They will trade in the old equipment for newer equipment.

Mr. Meek asked about the kind of surveys that are done in-house.

Ms. Valadares answered that they do a lot of surveys however, they do not have an in-house surveyor. They still manage to utilize the equipment for a lot of things. Checking property line elevations, grading and also training the junior engineers on how to use it. They can complete surveyor work that does not require a license. Those types of surveys are done in-house.

Mr. Meek stated that they are surveying the same land over and over again without recording it on GIS. He would like to know what would be done differently.

Ms. Valadares stated that when they go out to do the grades and drawings, they have the capacity to turn the surveys into their AutoCAD system and then are able to GIS most of the information needed. She explained how it works.

Mr. Ho added that most of the surveys that they do is topographic considering they don't have a licensed land surveyor in house. For many of their projects, they require some sort of design which is often not too complicated for grading or drainage. That is primarily what the equipment is used for. The topographic information they have in their GIS system is often insufficient for creating those designs.

Mr. Torre added that the junior engineers also set benchmarks for them when they are doing catch basins for part of the paving program. They help them set the right grade for roads that will be paved.

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

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

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

Chairwoman Smyth read items 5a and 5b together.

5A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ROCCO IADAROLA GENERAL CONTRACTING COMPANY FOR PROJECT TMP2023-1 DECORATIVE CROSSWALKS AND TRAFFIC CALMING SURFACES AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00.

ACCOUNT NO.	09 23 4120 5777 C0441
	09 22 4120 5777 C0581
	09 23 4120 5777 C0581
	09 20 4120 5777 C0649
	09 21 4120 5777 C0649
	09 22 4120 5777 C0649
	09 23 4120 5777 C0649
	09 22 3750 5777 C0777
	09 23 3750 5777 C0777
	09 23 4120 5777 C0823
	09 23 4120 5777 C0824

5B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY AND PARKING, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT WITH ROCCO IADAROLA GENERAL CONTRACTING COMPANY FOR PROJECT TMP2023-1 DECORATIVE CROSSWALKS AND TRAFFIC CALMING SURFACES AT VARIOUS INTERSECTIONS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.00.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 23 4120 5777 C0441
09 22 4120 5777 C0581
09 23 4120 5777 C0581
09 20 4120 5777 C0649
09 21 4120 5777 C0649
09 22 4120 5777 C0649
09 23 4120 5777 C0649
09 22 3750 5777 C0777
09 23 3750 5777 C0777
09 23 4120 5777 C0823
09 23 4120 5777 C0824**

Mr. Pacelli reported on this. He gave a little background on the project. It will consist of installation of preformed thermoplastic materials that are imprinted or impressed into asphalt and concrete to enhance safety and aesthetic appeal in streetscape projects. They enhance visibility for roadway users, motorists, cyclists, or pedestrians. They utilize traffic calming measures and create a safer and more defined pedestrian space as well. The materials are very durable and engineered specifically for crosswalk projects and other streetscape traffic related projects. They are very low maintenance.

Mr. Meek asked if citizens from Norwalk could do some of those decorative crosswalks.

A discussion ensued about the product and the project. It was said that this project is built for durability and much stronger than epoxy or paint. Citizens would not be able to do something like that on their own in the city's right-of-way. All six (6) of the trafficscapes are included in this project as well. The traffic calming measures that these would provide are the reflective material that when well-lit it is visibly noticeable at night and the roadway is much more defined because of the colors which is a different look between the asphalt and the crosswalk itself. This would be on newer paved crosswalks.

Ms. Young asked about the West Avenue crosswalk and if that would be one of the locations.

Mr. Pacelli answered no. The area which Ms. Young is referring to has an RFP going out for both sides of the island specifically for that location.

A discussion ensued about the crosswalk and how dangerous it is for pedestrians.

****MS. NIEDZIELSKI-EICHNER MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. MEEK OPPOSED
MOTION PASSED FOUR (4) TO ONE (1)

6. **AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO EMERY WINSLOW SCALE COMPANY FOR THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF A 70' TRUCK SCALE FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$143,655.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 22 4021 5777 C0798

Chairwoman Smyth stated that this item was approved in the capital budget.

Mr. Meek wanted to know how much revenue they are collecting from leaf dumping and when is the payback for this scale replacement. He said he has not been weighed, with a commercial truck, in 20 years down there.

A discussion ensued about the legal use of the scale, how it would be used and who can use it. Mr. Torre answered the question about revenue. The city doesn't make any money from leaf dumping. The tipping fees just got raised to what they are paying. The current scale is undersized, and the new scale will hold the full trailer and tractor. They continued to discuss the raising of tipping fees, past and future and how they can improve efforts with the new scale.

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

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

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

Chairwoman Smyth read items 7a and 7b together.

- 7A. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE THE 1ST AMENDMENT TO THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND BURNS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., FOR PROJECT PM 2023-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS AND SURFACE RESTORATION, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 03 00 00 2602

- 7B. **AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023, AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND BURNS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC., FOR PROJECT PM 2023-2 PERMANENT ROADWAY REPAIRS AND SURFACE RESTORATION, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 03 00 00 2602

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. A discussion ensued and she explained the contract to the Committee. A restoration fee is charged to contractors that work in the city's right-of-way. A question was asked about Burns Construction and if they had this contract last year and the answer was no. Every patch that needs to be completed is now on their GIS system.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. MEEK OPPOSED**

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

Chairwoman Smyth read items 8a and 8b together.

- 8A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PROJECT DRG2023-1 CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$864,300.00.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
13 4010 5796 APW05
09 24 4021 5777 C0440**

- 8B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH FGB CONSTRUCTION COMPANY FOR PROJECT DRG2023-1 CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$86,430.00. (10% OF BID AMOUNT).**

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 22 4021 5777 C0440
13 4010 5796 APW05
09 24 4021 5777 C0440**

Mr. Meehan reported on this item. He said this area is prone to flooding and is due for paving soon. They would like to resolve much of the flooding issues that they can. They hope to alleviate some of the flooding issues, but it will not eliminate everything. It will seriously reduce it.

Ms. Shanahan asked about how deep they would drain and dig and if underground wires might be something they would add to that neighborhood. She said it is hard to add streetlights in that neighborhood.

Ms. Valadares responded that it is a small area, possibly 12 inches no more than 24 inches. She said most of the spikes are on properties and they are now moving them to the right-of-way. They will create the outfall and add a group of catch basins right before the outfall. They are upgrading a little bit of the downstream of the pipes and the outfall to help with the flow thus alleviating a lot of the flooding. They want to fix the flooding before they begin paving in that area. There is no funding for underground utilities at this time.

Ms. Shanahan suggested that they coordinate with TMP for some possible street lighting in that area.

Mr. Meek asked about the line item for permanent paving.

Ms. Valadares explained how it will work. A discussion ensued about the line items of the project. Once the trenches are completed, they will provide permanent paving which is paid on a separate line item. Waiting for draining issues to cease before they put that road on the paving forecast. They discussed the size of the project and the drainage area issues.

****MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE ITEM
**MR. MEEK OPPOSED
MOTION PASSED FOUR (4) TO ONE (1)

Chairwoman Smyth read items 9a and 9b together.

- 9A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND NEWGEN STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS, LLC, FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE CONSULTING SERVICES- PROJECT #4277 FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$146,770.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 13 4010 5796 APW11

- 9B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH NEWGEN STRATEGIES AND SOLUTIONS, LLC, FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE CONSULTING SERVICES- PROJECT #4277 FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$14,677.00.**

ACCOUNT NO. 13 4010 5796 APW11

Ms. Valadares reported on this item. They engaged a consultant company to assist with their solid waste management and recycling program. They issued an RFQ on RFP, three (3) companies responded. They interviewed two (2) companies and decided on NewGEN Strategies for the design plan. They have provided design work for companies all over the country. The team that will work with them are very familiar with State agencies and all the permitting. They have a good design approach to the needs of the city. Ms. Valadares stated that it was an RFP, request for qualification-request for proposal. The account is an ARPA account.

Chairwoman Smyth added that Ms. Lauricella met with Ms. Valadares and herself about this. She expressed that this is environmentally good for the community.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Mr. Sotnik reported on this item. He said for the Spring cycle of tree planting they have 250 trees that have either been planted or ordered to be planted in the next week or so. They have a handful of trees that people have requested would be added. They have done work over at the Norwalk Green for Earth Day, Rowayton Elementary School for Arbor Day, the First, Third and Fourth Street neighborhood, Gregory Boulevard, Ludlow Manor, Staples Court, Soundview Avenue, Cliff Street, 261 Ely Avenue Children's Learning Center at Roodner Court, Merrill Road, Highbrook Road, 188 Richards Avenue, Norwalk Community College, West Cedar Street, East Avenue, Hillandale Manor, Woodchuck Lane, Court and Extension, Bayberry Lane, River Drive, Washington Street, East Rocks Road and West End Road. They have a large group listed for the fall related to the construction projects and sidewalk projects. They will also be doing work with the Norwalk Housing Authority.

B. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – APRIL 2023

Ms. Valadares introduced Mr. Szabo to the Committee.

Mr. Szabo reported on this item. He said the report is standard with no surprises. Weights and fees are on trend. Curbside municipal waste and recycling continues to be less than previous years. Recycling revenues are down, and nationwide recycling is down as well.

C. FOOD SCRAP DROP-OFF REPORT – APRIL 2023

Mr. Szabo reported on this item. He said with a little more advertising and social media they have received better numbers on their monthly weight totals. Cranberry Park and the Transfer Station had better numbers than Rowayton this month. They will continue to monitor these sites and if they continue to go up, they may consider a fourth site.

D. 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 SENG 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
- BLDG2022-1 PAVING BEN FRANKLIN FACILITY PARKING LOT

2. ADVERTISED FOR BIDS / PENDING CONTRACT

- RA2022-2 467 WEST AVENUE UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE
- DRG2023-1 CHATHAM DRIVE AND COSSITT ROAD STORM DRAINAGE
- PM2023-4 PAVING @ VARIOUS LOCATIONS

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
- EMERGENCY WALL STREET RETAINING WALL ABATEMENT

The Senior Civil Engineers each reported on their current project status and answered all questions asked by the Committee.

ADJOURNMENT: Ms. Niedzielski-Eichner moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:25p.m.

NEXT MEETING: **TUESDAY, JULY 4, 2023 (CANCELLED)**
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. LOCATION TBD