

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
May 7, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: John Igneri, Chairman; Thomas Livingston; Eloisa Melendez; Darlene Young; Michael Corsello; Doug Hempstead; George Tsiranides (7:11p.m.)

STAFF: Anthony Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works; Lisa Burns, Principal Engineer; Michael Yeosock, Assistant Director of TMP

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019.

There was no discussion on this item.

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

****MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MR. CORSELLO ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS**

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A POLE ATTACHMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY (D/B/A FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS), AND ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE PURPOSE OF GOVERNING USE OF THE CITY'S MUNICIPAL GAIN RIGHTS ON FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS' UTILITY POLES FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.

Account No. 09 14 4021 5777 C0232

Mr. Livingston asked why it is called gain rights.

Mr. Yeosock responded that on every utility pole it is supposed to be a one (1) foot area for municipal utilities and that is the municipality's rights so that is why they call it gain rights.

Ms. Burns added that it is municipal gain space.

Mr. Livingston asked if there was going to be a bunch of sensors on the poles.

Mr. Yeosock said that some would be for the Parking Authority and the others would be for fiber optic traffic communications. He said that the parking sensors gives data back on occupancy of parking stalls, the fibers are the communication.

Mr. Livingston asked if the public uses this or is it internal data only.

Mr. Yeosock answered it could be available to the public. He said there are various applications that can be used by the public at a later date but not initially. He said currently there are sensors in the Washington Street Area and there will be some in the Wall Street Area soon.

Mr. Igneri asked if they are just cameras.

Mr. Yeosock responded that they are pucks or discs in the road so that when someone parks there it sends the data like a loop detector for a traffic signal.

Mr. Carr added that they are called pucks and are in lieu of the traffic loops.

Mr. Corsello asked if they monitor but not record.

Mr. Yeosock responded yes they record the occupancy information about the parked cars and how long they have been there. They only record the presence of a car no other identifying information about the car.

Ms. Young asked recording the information for whom and for what purpose does it serve.

Mr. Yeosock said to know if there are parking spaces especially for places that are usually occupied and it would be able to determine the revenue that will come in and various things like that.

Mr. Igneri said that could be used by park mobile for the same thing so if there is a car parked in the same spot for two (2) plus hours, a call can be made to issue a ticket.

Mr. Yeosock explained that it wouldn't be used for that purpose. He said that if someone came in from out of town they would be able to know where a parking space was available through the web application.

Mr. Corsello stated it would be for the parking gap when you look for available parking it would show what is available.

Ms. Young asked if something else was going to be attached to the pole.

Mr. Yeosock responded that it is already attached when they extended the fiber optic communication between the traffic signals so to keep them in sync. He said they are taking over some of the signals on Route 1.

Ms. Young asked for the cost of each pole and wanted to know if the sum is definitely not to exceed \$10,000.00.

Mr. Yeosock responded approximately \$50 per pole and yes it will not exceed the \$10,000 which would take a while before it is expended.

Mr. Livingston asked when it would be available.

Mr. Yeosock responded that they do not have a date as of yet but they are working on it.

****MR.IGNERI MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE THIRD TAXING DISTRICT FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES RELATED TO EAST AVENUE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION UTILITY RELOCATION (PROJECT #102-297) FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$115,000.00.**

Account No. 09 12 4021 5777 C0471

Ms. Burns explained that the City has been exploring underground utilities on East Avenue as part of the East Avenue Road Reconstruction project that has been on the books since the late 90's. The City continues to manage the design of the project. 100% paid for by the City and the State pays 100% for the construction. It will be completed in conjunction with the Walk Bridge Program and at the same time as the East Avenue Bridge is reconstructed. The State does not cover any of the betterment costs. The road on East Avenue is going to be widened from Myrtle Street down to Winfield Street and then Van Zant Street. The Project to widen the road and have wire sidewalks would require the utility poles to be moved back from their current position. The poles are unsightly and there is not a lot of opportunities for street trees. She said they have heard from the different listening sessions they had with the public and learned underground utilities would be nice to have in East Norwalk. They are currently getting a list of the other utilities that are on the pole, meaning the different fiber companies and the City would have to move its fiber off the pole and go underground. The Third Taxing District (TTD) is the electric company in East Norwalk from approximately Olmstead Place down to Calf Pasture Beach and over to

the Westport Line and Stroffolino Bridge and this would be very new to them. Eversource is more on the Northern part of the City for electric service with underground utilities. South Norwalk Electric and Water have

underground utilities all the time. She said a lot of the projects the City has done included underground utilities. The City approached TTD to see if they were open to it and they wanted to know where they would fit. The City is at 90% design for road reconstruction and they need to reimburse TTD for their consultant (Joseph A. Cristino of Cristino Associates) to look at giving them a cost estimate and a possible location of where they would be in the road compared to the Alltice which is optimum/cablevision.

Mr. Livingston asked if they would go down the center of the road or the sidewalk.

Ms. Burns responded it depends what is there.

Mr. Livingston asked if that is what they are trying to decide on now.

Ms. Burns responded yes. She said they know where all the utilities are on East Avenue and they have all been surveyed and mapped. Due to the road getting wider they probably have more room on the sidewalk then they would have to coordinate where the utilities rise back up on the pole so all the underground utilities have to rise back somewhere and everyone cannot rise up on the same pole. She explained that there shouldn't be more than two (2) utilities on a pole, maybe three (3). The buildings would have to be served underground. The Walk Bridge is undergrounding utilities from Fort Point Street to Winfield Street because the road is getting lowered and to build a bridge they cannot be in the way. The City's portion would be picking it up from Fort Point to Myrtle Street. She explained to the Committee what utilities are on those streets.

Mr. Livingston asked if this was for betterment.

Ms. Burns responded yes and said that the Committee had already approved capital funding for the betterments under the East Avenue Road Reconstruction Project. There is 2 ½ million dollars for betterment including non-standard items. There is a landscape architect on the project. She said they will get a credit back from whatever differential cost for moving the poles and then they pay the betterment costs.

Mr. Corsello asked if TTD received the estimate for the engineering services and the City is going to reimburse them.

Ms. Burns responded yes. TTD wants to enter directly into the agreement with their engineer, complete the scope and then TTD and the City would have an agreement to reimburse them for that cost.

Mr. Corsello asked if there were a precedent for this. He asked if this had ever happened between the Second Taxing District and any other taxing district.

Ms. Burns responded yes. The most recent the City has completed was the Washington Village Project, the road was raised and all the utilities were put underground.

Mr. Hempstead asked why that project is stopping at Myrtle Street when they are supposed to go to the bridge anyway.

Ms. Burns responded that is the project limit for 102-297, the State Project goes from Myrtle to Van Zant. They have had utility coordination meetings and they are getting proposals for everyone to go all the way to the bridge anyway if they could afford it even though it is outside the project limits with the State.

Mr. Hempstead asked about the lighting and/or if it would just be pole replacement.

Ms. Burns responded that the East Avenue Design Advisory should answer that questions. She said that TTD maintains the lighting but with Eversource, the City maintains the historic lights. The City did ask TTD for the kind of arrangement they wanted because they do not have specialty lighting in the district.

Mr. Carr added that one of their concerns was about maintenance. TTD would like to maintain control over their standards.

Ms. Burns said that everyone wants to see decorative street lighting whether that is through the City or not it would still have to be worked out. Also, there is still the logistics of who maintains it and all of those things are on the table.

Mr. Hempstead asked once everything is done with the widening of the road, will the City have the ability to push for decorative lighting.

Ms. Burns responded that it would be included in the project.

Mr. Carr said that TTD may not want it but it seems that they are willing to explore underground but could result in empty conduits. The utilities would either be on one (1) side of the road or on the sidewalk, the sanitary sewer usually runs in the middle of the road.

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

- 4. SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING OF NECESSITY FOR THE ABANDONMENT/DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF EAST AVENUE AT THE SOUTH END OF THE GREEN TO INCORPORATE THE TRAFFIC ISLAND INTO THE GREEN PROPERTY OWNED BY THE FIRST TAXING DISTRICT. THE PUBLIC HEARING OF NECESSITY SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE NECESSITY OF THE PROPOSED ABANDONMENT AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID APPLICATION FOR ABANDONMENT THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 4, PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. IN**

**ROOM 225, 2ND FLOOR IN NORWALK CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE,
NORWALK, CT.**

Mr. Hempstead asked for the reason for this action.

Ms. Burns replied that they are still finalizing the mapping. She began to walk the Committee through the process. 50 Washington Park is a designated park that is being worked on now. Evarito's Mexican Kitchen & Bar would like to have outdoor dining but that area is a park so they can't technically have it for that purpose. In order to use that space for outdoor dining, the City would be required to provide the equivalent amount of park land. The Redevelopment Agency has requested this action. It was identified that the First Taxing District has this park, Klondike Park (displayed a map showing the piece of property that the First Taxing District owns) on Wall Street. In order for the First Taxing District to give up the Klondike Park space in exchange for the outdoor dining piece, they want the City to give them part of a street.

The Committee began to discuss why they should do this. As the Committee tried to understand what was happening, it was learned that in order to give Evarito's outdoor dining, the City has to acquire the same amount of park land which they have identified to be owned by the First Taxing District on Wall Street, Klondike Park, and in exchange for that, the First Taxing District wants part of a street located by the Green in East Norwalk. Many Committee Members asked to whom are they giving up the park land to and it seemed to be Evarito's Mexican Kitchen & Bar which would be leased from the City. The Corporation Counsel has asked the Public Works Committee to place this item on their agenda. Many of the Committee Members were not in favor of a public hearing because there was not enough information given for the reasons of the street abandonment and its intent. The Committee learned that the First Taxing District had approved the action to release the park land referred to as Klondike Park to the City in exchange for part of the Green in East Norwalk back in February. Most of the confusion stemmed from three (3) different parcels and their relationship to each other. The area by the Green in East Norwalk was once a roundabout and a question was asked if swapping this parcel for Klondike Park would negate that area ever going back to a roundabout but no one could give a definitive answer. It was made clear that the only action taken place is the authorization to have a public hearing for the abandonment of a portion of East Avenue. The Committee didn't seem to understand the reasoning for the street abandonment and felt there was not enough information to make an informed decision. It was stated that there was some difficulty replacing the bridge some time ago. Obtaining the park land on Klondike Park, even if they took out the 50 Washington piece, would probably be in the City's best interest. The City cannot maintain that bridge without permission from the First Taxing District to cross the parcel which was problematic during bridge construction. There are issues with the repairs. The Committee was unable to come to an agreement and decided that there was more information needed for them and the public. The Chairman made a motion to table the item to the next meeting.

****MR.IGNERI MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM UNTIL THE NEXT
MEETING**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Information / Discussion

A. Discussion

1. Flooding/Drainage Activities

a. Stormwater Public Listening/Town Hall Session

- May 28, 2019 at 6:00pm in City Hall, Community Room

Mr. Carr reported on this. He stated that since the last meeting there have been a big initiative to hire a consultant for various locations around the City that have experienced flooding no matter how small or big, all areas will be treated fairly. They have met with the Consultant handling the dredging contract to dredge at least five (5) locations. The Consultant is Jacobs Engineering. There will be an opportunity for the public to attend a Public Informational Listening Session to voice their opinions about flooding and any personal experience they may want to share. The Consultant will then explain what is happening with the dredging project. They will compile the information received from the public information session and pass it on to the successful consultant that will be selected by the City and brought before this Committee on June 4, 2019. They have received 14 proposals in response from the RFQ on Friday and shortlisted to four (4) consultants. Interviews will be scheduled for May 17, 2019. The Public Informational Listening Session will be held on May 28, 2019 in the Community Room. It will be posted on social media, newspaper, and the website. This is for the dredging project and also for the future drainage study.

b. Request for Qualifications Storm Drainage System Evaluation

The RFQ's were due last Friday. They received 14 proposals and shortlisted to four (4) and will conduct interviews on May 17, 2019.

Mr. Tsiranides asked for the timeframe for the drainage project to begin.

Mr. Carr said on June 4th they will seek approval from the Committee. Once they get approval they will need to develop a scope of work with the consultant. That usually takes a few weeks to develop. The drainage study may take several months to prepare so probably early fall before they receive a report.

c. Dredging Contract/Permitting

Jacobs Engineering is handling the dredging contract and the permitting. The initial submittal of the permit applications will be before the Conservation Commission on May 14, 2019 and then on May 28, 2019 they are anticipating the approval from the Conservation Commission. There are five (5) locations that will be cleaned out (Friendly Pond, Lloyd Road, Tea Kettle, Keeler, Ponus

and Hunter's Lane). DPW Staff is preparing the dredging contract and it is going out to bid this week and should be on the June 4th Public Works Committee agenda for approval. This contract will be an on-call service situation so when issues are identified they can go out to those locations. There will be heavy pipe cleaning as well as part of that contract. The dredging may begin in the Summer.

There are five (5) areas identified now but it is not limited to just those five (5) areas. These areas have been identified as inland/wetlands. Friendly Pond was dredged in 2008.

d. County Street Update

County Street was flagged with an issue at the last meeting. The Public Works Team investigated County Street and to date have cleaned 23,500 feet of corrugated pipe and removed 131 tons of debris. All of this was accomplished through in house costs and they are still going. The pond behind the homes where there were flooding have since receded. The water level was reduced from one (1) to two (2) feet in vertical elevation and the water line receded approximately 30 to 40 feet from the edges of the affected properties. A lot of the flooding issues can be remedied with basic maintenance such as cleaning inlets and outlets and dredging channels. The Committee were shown pictures of the dredging efforts and explained how the work was done. There hasn't been any feedback after the recent rains.

e. Williams Street Update

There is a home with severe flooding at the corner of Lyncrest and Williams Street. At 22 Lyncrest, there is a private pipe that connects to the City's system, the hydraulic surcharge and the pressure was so great that it backed up into the private system and blew that pipe apart in the backyard and caused a sink hole and flooding. They found the pipe is an adverse grade, meaning it goes uphill, and probably not at sufficient capacity. Public Works in-house surveyor went to that location and retrieved all the appropriate pipe inverts and came up with a solution to rerun piping across Williams Street. A.J. Penna & Son Construction was hired, through a WPCA contract, to relocate a water main in order to get the pipe in. The cost is approximately \$80,000.00 to repair. A.J. Penna has been working out there for about five (5) days now. An eight (8) inch water main had to be relocated. There will be two (2) new catch basins to replace the old ones and putting in a 24 inch RCP pipe in between but leaving the existing 24 inch pipe there. The Committee were shown pictures of the pipe. There was a claim submitted that went through the homeowner's insurance. The City's adjuster (CIRMA) would negotiate with the homeowner's insurance company should there be any City liability for the claim. A map of the areas that the City will dredge will be prepared. The Committee thought it would be useful to explain this to the public at the Public Informational Listening Session.

2. Rowayton Pond Dam Update

Except for permitting from DEP, the rehabilitation of the Rowayton Pond Dam is coming to an end. A few years ago, the City found out that they own the dam. It was inspected and found that there were repairs needed in effort to keep it maintained. Pictures were shown to the Committee. The Dam is located on Roton Avenue and McKinley by Rowayton School. The Public Works Staff repaired the spillway that had cracking. Somehow the water was going around and undermining creating a

different channel so Public Works Staff went out and completed all the masonry repairs, rebuilt the spillway wall, removed trees, performed some channel restoration, rebuilt the footpath across the top of the dam. There is a structure that has a valve (downstream) to drain the pond that had not been opened probably ever since the 80's when the dam had been constructed. When the valve was exercised, it did not seed

back properly causing a slow drip. Two (2) weeks ago they hired divers and they were able to plug the pipe and then the valve repairs were completed. The State requested that the City complete those repairs. If the City chose not to complete those repairs to the Dam, all of the surrounding homeowners would have had to get inland water flood insurance because the Dam had the probability of overflowing into those homes. The thought was to drain the Dam, fix the valve and then allow it to fill up again but then received a letter stating they have to identify all of the different type of fish, harbor the fish until the work is done then put them back in the pond. The majority of the work was completed in-house engineering staff and DPW maintenance workers. The Dam now has no trees in it. They just need to complete the survey.

3. Highland/Wilson Sidewalk Status

Mr. Carr reported on this. The original plan approved by ConnDot included the removal of four (4) trees, three (3) Bradford Pear Trees and one (1) Bartlett Pear Tree. Subsequently, once the trees were flagged for removal, there were residents that were unhappy and protested the removal. Under the City Ordinance there has to be a public hearing since the trees were under protest. It was determined that the three (3) Bradford Pear Trees could be potentially saved. They got an arborist opinion and it was determined that three (3) out of four (4) could be saved but there was an issue with the fourth tree and for safety reasons could not be saved. However, they will replant a fourth tree in its place with a species that is ideal for that area. There is a public hearing scheduled for May 15th at 6:00p.m. at the Rowayton Community Center to discuss the trees. The Tree Warden will have three (3) days to determine whether the trees stay. It is 10 days for anyone to appeal that decision. The City believes it is in the best interest of public safety and an environmental responsibility to at least attempt to save the trees. The Contractor will begin work pending the determination of the public hearing.

B. Customer Service Report April 2019

There was no discussion on this item.

- C. Monthly Solid Waste Report – March 2019
1. 2019 Bulky Collection Report
 2. 2019 Municipal Transfer Station – 1st Quarter Report

There was no discussion on these items.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 4, 2019
Public Works Committee Meeting
7:00 P.M. Room 225, Norwalk City Hall

****MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:35 p.m.