

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
March 5, 2019**

ATTENDANCE: John Igneri, Chairman; Thomas Livingston; George Tsiranides; Eloisa Melendez; Darlene Young; Michael Corsello

STAFF: Lisa Burns, Acting Director of Public Works; Vanessa Valadares, Acting Assistant Principal Engineer; Michael Yeosock, TMP

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

Chairman Igneri moved to Suspend the Rules to remove Item 4 and replace a new Item 4 that reads:

Authorize the Mayor, Harry w. Rilling, to execute a fifth Amendment to the June 5, 2017 ~~Contract~~ *an Agreement* with Tighe and Bond, Inc., to provide professional engineering services relative to the Norwalk Levee, for an amount not to exceed \$201,100.00, for Construction Observation Services of both the mall (GGP Escrow) and miscellaneous DPW Capital Projects.

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019.**

There was no discussion on this item.

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

2. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTIN, INC. (VHB) FOR PAVEMENT ENGINEERING AND CONSULTING SERVICE 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 19 4021 5777 C0021

Ms. Young asked about the project amount totaling a million dollars and if that was the cap with no overages and without a contingency being placed on the project.

Ms. Burns responded yes subject to funding availability depending on subsequent capital years. She stated that there is a scope of services related to the project and she began to explain how that process works. Ms. Burns explained that there are services available to them as well if they were to look at possible alternatives. She said that technology changes all the time and they may want to upgrade based on those changes that occur within a five (5) year period so they rely on those services to assist with making the evaluation.

Mr. Livingston asked if that process could be done in-house.

Ms. Burns responded that it is a broad brush of different services so it would be difficult. She said they are looking at some things that may augment those services.

Ms. Young asked about the list for street paving and if it is the same and if that information was generated from the list.

Ms. Burns responded primarily. She said they take into account everything that is happening on the City streets. She gave an example of a street being on the list, and knowing the water or gas company is coming to do some work on that street so they would pass on that street until the work is completed. She said that they give them the base and they overlay on the different variables that they are aware of.

Mr. Igneri interjected that the streets are coded for paving.

Ms. Young asked if this is for the new fiscal year.

Ms. Burns replied yes.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if they have used VHB in the past.

Ms. Burns responded that they have used VHB's services quite often.

Mr. Livingston asked how much has been spent to VHB thus far.

Ms. Burns responded that she will provide that information to the Committee.

Mr. Corsello asked if this had anything to do with not having a junior engineer.

Ms. Burns responded no.

****MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED THE ITEM**

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE PROJECT AUTHORIZATION LETTER FOR STATE PROJECT 102-347 TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE PHASE 3.

Mr. Yeosock explained that this is the project authorization letter, next to the final step needed prior to going out to bid on this project. He said this has been in the design phase for the last few years. He said they have a good construction estimate and a fee schedule based on the estimate.

Mr. Igneri asked about the kinds of upgrades that would take place.

Mr. Yeosock responded that they would be putting up eight (8) signals; three (3) on New Canaan Avenue, two (2) on Route 1 (Park/Wilton), two (2) on Strawberry Hill and one (1) on East Avenue.

Mr. Livingston asked if they would be new signals or just upgraded signals and why they need to do this.

Mr. Yeosock said they would be replacing existing signals with new signals. He said they are 30 years old and part of the congestion and signals would be upgraded with synchronization. They have completed about 40 signals over the years and is almost done with getting all the main signals upgraded.

Mr. Corsello asked if the \$2.8 million dollars was non-reimbursable.

Mr. Yeosock explained that there is \$2.8 million in the grant and another \$480,000. He said the total cost is estimated at almost \$4 million to complete, including the contingency and there is \$1.1 million the City has available under the Transportation Management Plan.

Mr. Corsello asked if it will cost the City \$1.1 million.

Mr. Yeosock said probably less because there is almost \$500,000 in contingency.

Mr. Livingston stated that it reads 20% for the City.

Mr. Yeosock responded that some of the projects are funded 100% with federal funds, there were some additional monies for sidewalk improvement with an 80/20 match. He said there are two (2) funding sources with this grant, CMAC funds which is 100% no City match funds with that and STA Enhancement funds with an 80/20 match which is really the sidewalk work.

Mr. Corsello asked if the State is mandating that the City complete this work.

Mr. Yeosock responded no, they applied for this project.

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

- 4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TIGHE AND BOND, INC., TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE NORWALK LEVEE, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$201,100.00, FOR CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SERVICES OF BOTH THE MALL (GGP ESCROW) AND MISCELLANEOUS DPW CAPITAL PROJECTS.**

**ACCOUNT NO. 100002365
09 19 4021 5777 C0021
09 19 4021 5777 C0318
09 19 4027 5777 C0425
09 18 4027 5777 C0440
09 18 4021 5777 C0021
09 20 4021 5777 C0021
09 13 4062 5777 C0361
09 14 4062 5777 C0361
09 15 4062 5777 C0361
09 17 4062 5777 C0361
09 18 4062 5777 C0361
09 19 4062 5777 C0361
09 15 4027 5777 C0440
09 17 4027 5777 C0440
09 13 4027 5777 C0425
09 16 4027 5777 C0425
09 13 4031 5777 C0514**

Ms. Burns reported on this item. She said that when the Washington Village Road Reconstruction Project and the Mall came about there was an escrow account set up with Spinnaker to deal with construction inspection and the Mall pays for their construction inspection for all of the outside improvements and CDM Smith was on board with that because the one (1) inspector was covering both inspections. Then when the Washington Village project ended, it became difficult for CDM Smith to keep an inspector available without the other project going so they requested Tighe and Bond who provides the paving inspections to provide the Mall inspection work and so then they provided a proposal which was approved a couple of meetings ago. This is 100% reimbursed by the Mall. They have been short staffed and they have taken on an ambitious amount of capital projects this year totaling \$45 million dollars of construction and design which does not include the Walk Bridge that they are managing. She said it is an unprecedented amount of work that they are completing on behalf of other agencies and are basically performing in-house engineering consulting. There is a list of all of their projects in the packet and they have 11 staff managing all of those projects including but not limited to the Walk Bridge and the

Aquarium. There is also a map included in the packet that depicts all of the State Projects they are managing as well that is not included in the \$45 million. She said they have to assign staff to cover and coordinate those projects.

Mr. Corsello stated that he is beginning to realize more and more all of the hidden costs and not so hidden costs associated with the Walk Bridge to the City.

Mr. Igneri said that they are requesting reimbursement from the State for some of the Walk Bridge costs.

Ms. Burns said that they mentioned this to the Mayor and the new Chief of Economic & Community Development (Jessica Casey) but they are somewhat limited to what they can provide. She said they will revisit that. She also stated that the Walk Bridge project is slowing down due to some permitting issues right now. She said that there is \$600 million dollars of Walk Bridge construction going on actively. Ms. Burns said that some of the staff were moved due to the reorganization and they have been talking about alternatives to make up for that staff change without hitting the general fund so they would like to create a position to be funded out of the capital funds for the construction inspection. She said they have consulted with Corporation Counsel and Personnel and it was suggested to pay for it out of capital funds. She continued stating they have asked Tighe and Bond again to provide a scope to cover them from now to the end of July until they hire someone.

Mr. Corsello asked if that person would be a junior engineer.

Ms. Burns replied probably not a junior engineer because they have had so much trouble recruiting a junior engineer and they really need a construction inspector so that is not at the same level.

Mr. Corsello asked if the construction inspector would be able to inspect the asphalt and everything else.

Ms. Burns replied yes. They could hire someone with benefits for the same price and they would be able to do more than just paving inspections.

Mr. Igneri said they are hiring VHB for pavement management program and Tighe and Bond with the same account number, could those inspections be done with one contractor.

Ms. Burns replied no. She explained that the contract with VHB is a different service than the construction inspections with Tighe and Bond.

Ms. Valadares explained why it is best to have two (2) different companies so there is no conflict of interest.

Mr. Corsello asked if those contracts have been negotiated with Tighe & Bond.

Ms. Burns responded yes and referred them to the scope.

Mr. Corsello asked if they are still going to pursue a junior engineer.

Ms. Burns responded yes.

Mr. Corsello asked if anyone spoken with Personnel to adjust the terms because he is wondering if what was offered previously reflects what the current market is.

Ms. Burns said that there is a big difference in benefits now.

Mr. Corsello asked if the Chairman could write Personnel asking them to take another look at the terms that are being offered for a junior engineer because it is costing the City a lot of money.

Ms. Burns said they have had flexibility to offer more than the base which hasn't been the City's practice.

A conversation continued about hiring a junior engineer. They talked about offers that they have made recently. There were two (2) separate occasions that a person had accepted then turned it down. There is an offer out there right now.

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

****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT PM2019-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,538,688.50.

5B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS, TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH DEERING CONSTRUCTION, INC. FOR PROJECT PM2019-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$453,868.85.

**ACCOUNT NO. 09 18 4021 5777 C0021
09 19 4021 5777 C0021
09 19 4027 5777 C0302
09 18 4021 5777 C0503
09 17 4021 5777 C0515
09 19 6030 5777 C0472
09 19 6310 5777 C0186
09 19 6310 5777 C0092
09 19 6310 5777 C0132
09 12 4021 5777 C0504
09 16 4021 5777 C0232
03 00 00 2602
01 41 50 5298**

Mr. Corsello said that he noticed that the second bidder is over \$1 million more than the lowest bidder and that is quite a disparity. He said he recalled previous discussions that contractors tend to bid jobs low and then there is a great deal of extras before the project is over.

Ms. Burns said they have added a lot of scope for work for other departments. It is not just paving this year. She went over the added projects with the Committee from other departments. They include the Main and Webster Parking Lot, Transfer Station Parking Lot, Lockwood Mathews Mansion Parking Lot, Recreation and Parks Parking Lot at South Smith Street divided into three (3) sections, Yankee Doodle Garage, Oak Hills Cart Path and replacing the Lockwood Mathews Mansion water line are all being paid out of capital accounts from their respective department budget. Ms. Burns explained the process. She stated that they will be able to manage within the budget. She stated all of the other projects Deering Construction is working on within the City (Ryan Park, Concrete, Curbs and Sidewalks, 50 Washington and the pavement management program.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency was assisting with the costs with the 50 Washington Street project.

Ms. Burns answered that the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency developed the design with Eric Rains and they put the project documents together for them. The Norwalk Redevelopment Agency is paying for the project and they are managing the project and conducting construction inspection.

Ms. Melendez asked when Deering Construction was last awarded.

Ms. Burns answered 2016.

Ms. Melendez then inquired about the street paving list and said that she understands that if some streets are not completed they may get pushed onto the new list and if they knew how many streets didn't get paved in the past year that may go on this year's list to be paved.

Ms. Burns replied that she will get back to her with that information. She said that sometimes streets will get postponed so they would do an amendment to the list. She said that if the project is in the contractor's scope they still are expected to complete that project. She explained that they like to bid in the winter to get better pricing.

Ms. Young asked for a timeframe for this project.

Ms. Valadares replied by the end of June 2020.

****MR.IGNERI MOVED ITEM 5A & 5B**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. DISCUSSION

1. STATUS OF THE CONSERVATION PERMITTING AND DREDGING FOR FLOODED AREAS.

Ms. Burns reported on this. She said that they came up with a master list after the October 2nd storm of all the impacted areas in the City. Jacob's Engineering was hired back in November to assist them with augmenting resources and obtaining the necessary conservation permits for dredging in five (5) areas, Hunter's Lane/Ponus; Keeler Area, Tea Kettle Road, Friendly Pond and Lloyd Road. Those five (5) areas have been identified that dredging watercourses could help alleviate flooding issues in those locations. This project should be completed within the next two (2) months to get those permits from conservation while concurrently putting out a contract for dredging so permits are ready and a dredging contractor on board.

Mr. Tsiranides asked if it is possible to have that completed by the summer.

Ms. Burns responded yes. She said the contract would be for on-call dredging, leaving it open in case other areas are identified for dredging they could just call on the contractor. She said in regards to the Rowayton Pond, it needs a new valve because it is leaking. She explained that there is a valve in the pond that is used for dredging and it is leaking so they need to replace it.

2. CURRENT DOT AND MUNICIPAL PROJECTS

The Committee began to discuss F.D. Rich Adult Entertainment. Ms. Burns explained that there is an existing building next to Washington Village that they are going to retro fit into a Dave and Busters kind of place with a bar, bowling, and games.

Mr. Livingston asked about the Safe Routes to School because he thought that project was completed.

Ms. Burns replied that they are still closing out the project. There are reimbursements that have to be completed.

Mr. Corsello said that someone should communicate all of these projects and accomplishments to the Mayor and the Press because this is good publicity for the City and the Department.

Mr. Tsiranides asked about the State Projects and if DPW is just overseeing the projects.

Ms. Burns said they are doing more than just overseeing. She said they review and ensure they are meeting City standards.

3. CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SHORT AND LONG TERM PLAN

Mr. Tsiranides asked if they hire a construction inspector and a junior engineer will that alleviate some stress of the work load.

Mr. Corsello answered no because right now Tighe and Bond are doing the work, hiring someone will reduce the costs.

Ms. Burns said they would most likely come back to the Committee to request the position at the next meeting. She thanked the Committee for all the nice words they have said about the staff.

4. COMPARISON OF FY2018/2019 VERSUS FY2019/2020 OPERATING BUDGET

Ms. Burns wanted to inform the Committee of the budget comparison. She informed the Committee that due to the reorganization last year's budget approval was for \$18,192,000 making it \$4 million less from this year's budget. This year they moved the \$4 million for the reorganization.

Mr. Igneri said so there isn't less dollars to complete projects.

Ms. Burns responded except for one (1) position that was not anticipated getting moved because it wasn't on the reorganization chart.

Mr. Igneri asked if they still have all the funding to do all of the projects.

Ms. Burns responded yes, the funding is in the capital budget.

Mr. Corsello asked because of the reorganization, public works budget is \$4 million less and if so why.

Ms. Burns replied yes because positions were moved to different units like traffic and customer service.

Mr. Corsello stated so it is not an actual savings to tax payers.

Ms. Burns said no it has just been moved.

Mr. Corsello asked if Recreation and Parks still have their own budget.

Ms. Burns replied yes.

B. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT FEBRUARY 2019

There was no discussion on this item.

C. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – JANUARY 2019

There was no discussion on this item.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, April 2, 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 7:55 p.m.