

CITY OF NORWALK
Norwalk City Hall
125 East Avenue, PO Box 5125
Room 225
Norwalk, CT 06856-5125
P: 203-854-7791 / F: 203-857-0143

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

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

STAFF: Paul Sotnik, Acting Assistant Principal Engineer

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was no public input at this time.

PUBLIC HEARING

PUBLIC HEARING OF NECESSITY FOR THE ABANDONMENT/DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET BEGINNING AT THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-15-0) AND HEADING WEST TO THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 350 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-39-0) AS DEPICTED ON A MAP PREPARED BY RYAN AND FAULDS LAND SURVEYORS, A REDNISS & MEAD COMPANY ENTITLED "PROPERTY SURVEY ABANDONMENT MAP OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT," DATED OCTOBER 4, 2018, AT A SCALE OF 1" = 20' ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INDICATING SAID PORTION OF STEVENS STREET TO BE ABANDONED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE EXISTING CITY PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE AND 350 WEST AVENUE. 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 MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019 AT 6:30 P.M. IN ROOM 225, 2ND FLOOR IN NORWALK CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT. (6:30 P.M.)

Mr. Igneri reported on this.

Mr. Corsello asked why they are scheduling another public hearing for this.

Mr. Igneri responded that the public hearing is for the freeholder's report. He called the public hearing to a close at approximately 6:32p.m. and officially opened the agenda with New Business.

NEW BUSINESS

1. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018.

There was no discussion on this item.

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

2. APPROVE THE NECESSITY FOR THE ABANDONMENT /DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET BEGINNING AT THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-15-0) AND HEADING WEST TO THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 350 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-39-0) AS DEPICTED ON A MAP PREPARED BY RYAN AND FAULDS LAND SURVEYORS, A REDNISS & MEAD COMPANY ENTITLED "PROPERTY SURVEY ABANDONMENT MAP OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT," DATED OCTOBER 4, 2018, AT A SCALE OF 1" = 20' ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INDICATING SAID PORTION OF STEVENS STREET TO BE ABANDONED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE EXISTING CITY PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE AND 350 WEST AVENUE AND APPOINT FREEHOLDERS.

Mr. Igneri reported on this. He gave Ms. Young a brief summary on the item. He asked if anyone had any comments or concerns.

Mr. Corsello said the only comment he has is if they would be able to streamline this process because it appears to be a long process. He said the Committee should consider streamlining this process.

Mr. Hempstead responded that it could not be streamlined because freeholders is in the Charter.

Mr. Igneri said that the freeholders is a proof of independent people looking at the issue and agreeing with it usually.

Mr. Hempstead added that they assess the value.

Mr. Corsello asked if there was any way it could be streamlined without a Charter revision.

Mr. Igneri replied no, not without a charter revision.

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

3. **SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO HEAR THE FREEHOLDER'S REPORT AND ANY PUBLIC COMMENT ON SAID REPORT FOR THE ABANDONMENT/DISCONTINUANCE OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET BEGINNING AT THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-15-0) AND HEADING WEST TO THE WESTERLY BOUNDARY OF THE CITY PROPERTY LOCATED AT 350 WEST AVENUE (TAX LOT 1-8-39-0) AS DEPICTED ON A MAP PREPARED BY RYAN AND FAULDS LAND SURVEYORS, A REDNISS & MEAD COMPANY ENTITLED "PROPERTY SURVEY ABANDONMENT MAP OF A PORTION OF STEVENS STREET, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT," DATED OCTOBER 4, 2018, AT A SCALE OF 1" = 20' ON FILE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INDICATING SAID PORTION OF STEVENS STREET TO BE ABANDONED AND INCORPORATED INTO THE EXISTING CITY PROPERTIES LOCATED AT 340 WEST AVENUE AND 350 WEST AVENUE. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE ACCEPTANCE OF SUCH REPORT, DETERMINE IF THE FREEHOLDER'S REPORT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CITY AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID REPORT THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 225, 2ND FLOOR IN NORWALK CITY HALL, 125 EAST AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.**

There was no report on this item.

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

4. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE FOURTH AMENDMENT TO THE JUNE 5, 2017 CONTRACT WITH TIGHE AND BOND, INC. TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATIVE TO THE NORWALK LEVEE, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$193,050, FOR CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION SERVICES FOR PROJECT NO. PM2019-1 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.**

Account No. 09 19 4021 5777 C0021

Mr. Igneri reported on this item. He stated that this item is necessary due to the fact that they are short on engineers and they are hiring this group to monitor the services. He asked Mr. Sotnik to go into more detail.

Mr. Sotnik stated that they have decided to have Tighe and Bond propose this work again this year because of the shortage of a Public Works Chief and a Junior Engineer that would normally do the inspection services. He said Tighe and Bond has offered to give Public Works a discount on the inspection services and they have also offered to provide the same inspector they had last year which provided some efficiencies and they are used to Public Works processes and inspector reports.

Mr. Corsello asked if this would normally be done in house if they had a full staff.

Mr. Igneri replied yes with a full staff.

Mr. Corsello continued so for lack of an engineer, they are entering into a contract with an outside entity to do one (1) project for \$193,000. and if this could wait.

Mr. Sotnik responded it is for the paving inspections that they complete out in the field every year and they are providing backup services for that. They are checking the thicknesses of the asphalt and the mixes and temperatures as well to make sure they are putting it down properly. He said without having someone out in the field to do these inspections, they seriously could potentially compromise the quality of the work.

Mr. Livingston asked if they had a search going now for the Junior Engineer position.

Mr. Sotnik responded yes.

Mr. Livingston said if you hire someone would you be able to terminate the contract at any point.

Mr. Sotnik responded that he would have to read the entire contract again but he believes it could be terminated.

Mr. Corsello asked when the inspections were going to occur.

Mr. Sotnik answered the Spring.

Mr. Corsello asked if they hire a Junior Engineer prior to the Spring, could the inspections be completed by a Junior Engineer.

Mr. Igneri answered potentially. He added that they have had difficulty finding a Junior Engineer. He said they have made offers, but they fell through.

Mr. Sotnik said they have completed four (4) rounds of interviews.

Ms. Melendez wanted to know how long have they been searching for a Junior Engineer.

Mr. Sotnik responded the interviews began in August and since then they have had several rounds of interviews. He said some were not qualified and the others that were did not want to take the position because of the pay.

Mr. Igneri said Mr. Chimento was still Director when this process began.

Mr. Corsello said if services are not going to be rendered until Spring, what is the urgency to enter into this agreement for Spring inspections. He said if they are fortunate enough to hire a Junior Engineer prior to that time then that obviates the need to enter into this \$200,000 contract for a single inspection.

Mr. Igneri responded that if the weather goes milder they may be able to start work sooner.

Mr. Sotnik said they are going to put the contract out to bid by the end of January or early February. He said if they get everything lined up they could begin in early Spring.

Mr. Corsello asked when they would potentially get a Junior Engineer.

Mr. Sotnik said they are actively looking for a Junior Engineer and have been unable to find someone that meets the qualifications. He said as the end of the college semester comes along, they may be in a better position to get a college graduate around March.

Ms. Young asked if there was an out clause in the contract if you were to find someone.

Mr. Sotnik said he would have to check. He said that the particular inspector that they would be using for the inspections could potentially be used elsewhere and that is the reason to get this done as soon as possible.

Mr. Igneri said there is also a period of the new engineer would have to learn about some of the projects first.

Mr. Corsello stated that if there is a way around this, they should be optimistic. He said he doesn't see the need to do this right away because if they are going to pay \$193,000 for one (1) project and redouble the efforts and find a Junior Engineer which would be a substantial savings.

Mr. Sotnik explained how this was done last year when Mr. Donohue retired and they were short staffed. He said if they could find someone, they would hire someone tomorrow. He said the last applicant used them as a negotiating technique with his current employer and they got to the point where they finally gave him a deadline and then he declined the offer. He said that they would like to line applicants up that are

graduating to begin the process. He said that there are not a lot of applicants that could do this type of work with the pay that is being offered.

Mr. Livingston said that he wants to be sure they will not be obligated to pay the \$193,000 if they hire a Junior Engineer.

Mr. Sotnik said he didn't see anything in the contract but he believes it is based on an hourly rate for services with a \$5 an hour discount from what it was last year.

Mr. Livingston said if that is the case he would be alright with that as long as they are not obligated.

Mr. Corsello said well that is what we don't know, it is based on an hourly rate but at what point is it terminable.

The Committee asked Mr. Sotnik to confirm that they will not be obligated should they find a Junior Engineer and terminate Tighe & Bond's contract. Mr. Igneri asked the Committee to keep in mind that they are short staffed and could really use these services.

Mr. Corsello stated that it is foolish to keep doing this especially since they had to do this last year.

Mr. Sotnik said that with all of the other work they have going on, they would be able to rotate the person that is hired to a different project and have the person that is trained in the paving continue to do that.

Mr. Corsello asked if that was written in the contract.

Mr. Sotnik said they would have the same person to continue to do the paving work which they were hired for. He said the new person would be put on another project. Mr. Sotnik said he will get the answers regarding the termination clause for tomorrow night.

Mr. Corsello said if the new person can do this then hopefully they would be able to do other projects as well and this wouldn't be needed.

Mr. Igneri said they would try to limit the use of that and look into it with more details.

Mr. Corsello said he would not be able to support this until they find out more information about the termination clause.

A motion was made to table this item to the next meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

****MR. IGNERI TALBED THE ITEM TO THE NEXT MEETING**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

INFORMATION / DISCUSSION

A. DISCUSSION

1. SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION (TRANSFER) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000 TO FUND A PROPOSED SIDEWALK PROJECT ALONG WILSON AVENUE (FROM COVEWOOD TO HIGHLAND).

Mr. Igneri reported on this item. He stated that there was a capital appropriation started for Cudlipp Street to acquire and take some property and put in a road and that capital appropriation was five (5) to six (6) years ago and those funds were never used. He said and now there is another sidewalk on Wilson Avenue from Covewood to Highland and they would like to transfer those funds from the Cudlipp project into the Wilson Avenue project. He said this is for informational purposes only.

Mr. Hempstead asked if those are the sidewalks they have been hearing about for so long.

Mr. Corsello asked if there was a special capital appropriation.

Mr. Igneri responded yes it is five (5) years old and the funds have not been used so the capital is just sitting there.

Mr. Corsello said he knows the location it is a tough place but there are a lot of tough places around the City then asked why is it going to Wilson Avenue.

Mr. Igneri said it is part of the Safe Routes to Schools.

Mr. Corsello said he received several calls about ice gathering around bus stops (Cranberry Road) due to drainage issues. He said a special appropriation is for things that are urgent in the City, is this the most urgent situation in the City.

Mr. Igneri said this is more urgent than Cudlipp and it is a dangerous corner.

Mr. Corsello asked but is it the most dangerous and most urgent.

Mr. Igneri said that the State and Public Works consider this very dangerous. He said they had the State come in and try to slow down traffic. He said they were supposed to put in shrubs and trees and then a sidewalk was proposed by the State and Senator Duff.

Mr. Corsello said that he is unsure if this is in fact the most dangerous need in the City and asked if any studies were conducted. He said that he continuously sees pedestrians getting hit on Main Avenue, broken sidewalks all over South Norwalk.

Mr. Igneri reiterated that the State deemed it a fairly dangerous corner and so they proposed that location.

Mr. Hempstead asked if this was just for discussion because the item has to go over to BET.

Mr. Igneri responded yes.

Mr. Hempstead asked if there is a list of sidewalks and/or footpaths that have been identified as being in the worst condition.

Mr. Sotnik responded that Mr. Yeosock has been looking at this and has a set of plans that are ready to go. He said Mr. Yeosock has been working with the State on this issue and they agree that it is fairly dangerous and wanted to take care of it with those funds. He said it has been approved for permitting from District 3 DOT, plans are ready and just need to transfer the funds.

Mr. Hempstead asked overall is there a priority list like the paving list for this.

Mr. Sotnik said he is unsure if there is a list similar to the PCI list, he would have to find out. He said that there was an issue with this one and since it is in that area they right near where they just completed Safe Routes to School and since it is close to a school they wanted to take care of it.

Mr. Hempstead said that there should be some sort of a priority list establishing the top 10 sidewalk priorities.

Mr. Corsello said and if it is a special appropriation it should be an urgent need.

Ms. Young said if you want to look at the schools as a priority then there may be other Safe Routes to Schools that may be in a more urgent state. She said there has to be a priority list.

Mr. Corsello reiterated that he received a call about ice gathering at a bus stop on Cranberry Road.

Mr. Igneri asked if the call was made to Customer Service.

Mr. Corsello said he told the resident to call Customer Service.

Mr. Sotnik said that the Main Avenue sidewalks and the conditions in that area is one of the locations that they applied for a LOCIP Grant.

Ms. Melendez asked about the process.

Mr. Sotnik said they applied for the grants with the support of the Mayor. He said the Bike Walk Commission and a group of people that have asked for certain projects

looked at them and they were qualifying projects so they made the applications. He said if approved it is selected by WESTCOG, then it would move to the next round of screening with the State and then go back and forth with plans getting done and then go to construction.

Ms. Melendez asked if it would be part of the grant rather than the State just doing it and maintaining it, does it have to be through a grant.

Mr. Sotnik said that was the problem, the State was not doing anything and so the City pursued the funding and looked to see if they could come up with some grants instead of using capital budget funds.

Ms. Melendez said that she also gets complaints about the dangerous intersection at Stew Leonard's. She asked if there is a proposed number of how much it would cost.

Mr. Sotnik said there is an estimate and he would have to look that up.

Mr. Hempstead stated that the State said there is a crosswalk at George Avenue. He said they looked to put in another crosswalk but the answer was no.

B. CUSTOMER SERVICE REPORT DECEMBER 2018

There was no report on this item.

C. MONTHLY SOLID WASTE REPORT – NOVEMBER 2018

1. 2018 Bulky Collection Report

There was no report on this item.

Upcoming Projects

Next Meeting: Monday, February 5, 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 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Monique Cipriano
Executive Assistant

January 7, 2019
Public Works Committee
Page 9 of 10

