

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 7, 2008**

ATTENDANCE: William Krummel, Chair; Douglas Hempstead; Laurel Lindstrom;
Kelly Straniti

STAFF: Hal Alvord, Director

OTHERS: Jack Burritt, Redevelopment Agency; Diane Cece; David Park;
Larry Rутtenberg; Diane Lauricella; Dave Patello; Bruce Scalafani

**PUBLIC HEARING Public Hearing on the Report of Freeholders for the
abandonment of that portion of Crescent Street as depicted on the *Compilation
Survey For Crescent Street Roadway Abandonment Prepared for 95/7 Ventures LLC
and the City of Norwalk and the State of Connecticut Reed Putnam Project* dated
January 28, 2008, prepared by William W. Seymour & Associates, P.C.; and to hear
all parties interested in relation to the acceptance of such report. To be conducted
at 7:30 PM.**

Mr. Krummel opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. and reviewed the procedures for participation in the public hearing. He said that Larry Rутtenberg, Kevin Poruban and Joanne Romano served as Freeholders.

Mr. Burritt said that he wanted to address the questions that were raised at the September meeting. There were a few questions regarding timing of the project and the scheduling of the abandonment of the southern leg of Crescent Street.

The salient question raised by the users of Crescent Street was that there would be a condition in the Freeholders report that the improvements would be done before the abandonment. Mr. Burritt said that they want to be sure that the people who want to use the small section of Crescent Street will not be precluded from doing so. Mr. Krummel read the following from the Freeholder's Report dated September 22, 2008:

This area will be subject to a General Utility Easement, an Access Easement for the State of Connecticut, and a Temporary Easement to the City of Norwalk. The Temporary Easement will allow the continued use of that portion of Crescent Street from West Avenue to a point just south of Interstate Route 95. This Temporary Easement will expire at such time when the improvements to the portion of Crescent Street from Butler Street to Science Road have been completed and 95/7 Ventures LLC completes North Putnam Avenue.

Mr. Burritt said that this portion of the Report is intended to address everyone's requests.

Mr. Krummel opened the public hearing for comments on the Freeholder's Report.

Mr. Krummel asked three times if anyone wished to comment. Hearing none, the public hearing was closed at 7:45 p.m.

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Krummel called the regular portion of the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

1. **PUBLIC INPUT.**

Mr. Krummel requested that speakers limit their comments to three minutes.

Mr. Larry Ruttenberg, Buckingham Place thanked Mr. Krummel for allowing him to serve as a Freeholder. He said that he was here for his monthly update on the flooding situation on Buckingham Place and Lockwood Lane.

Ms. Diane Lauricella, Citizen, talked about item 6 –Norwalk Transfer Station. She encouraged the staff and Committee to hold a public hearing if there are any changes to the Crescent Street transfer station and that those comments to be included for consideration. She hoped that the Common Council will now how they are going to vote on the night that they take the vote and that they will not wait for staff to give them a report. She asked them to do their own due diligence.

Mr. Dave Patello, Kristen Lane said that their goal is to make that a public road. He said that there were three other residents from Kristen Lane present, but they did not wish to comment.

Mr. Bruce Scalafani said that he talked to Mr. Burritt and asked for clarification on the retaining wall. Mr. Burritt said that he spoke with Mr. Linnartz, in DPW about this today. There is a retaining wall on the plans and an additional fence will be of various heights to retain the height of six feet. Mr. Burritt said that he believed that Mr. Scalafani is looking for assurance that there will be a fence.

Mr. Krummel asked three times if anyone in the public wanted to make a comment on the agenda. Hearing none he concluded the public portion of the agenda.

2. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKS
COMMITTEE MEETING OF TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 2, 2008.**

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Correct spelling of Ruttenberg throughout

Page 2: 6th paragraph, second sentence: Mr. Burritt said that the funds are coming from the State Grant to improve the north section of Crescent Street that is being abandoned.

Page 4: southbound and northbound should be south section and north section

Page 6: second paragraph, last sentence should read: As soon as the reclaiming is done, the paving will begin

Sixth paragraph should read – it is inexpensive to place a screen barrier in the compactor area.

Last paragraph, first sentence – bailor should be baler.

Second sentence – Mr. Alvord said that the City was not going to have one at Crescent Street.

Page 7: 10th paragraph. Mr. Alvord said that they believe that the high bacteria readings at the outfall may be due to a buildup coming from the River.

** **MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS
CORRECTED**

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

** **MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE FOLLOWING:**

3. **Approve the Report of Freeholders for the abandonment of that
portion of Crescent Street as depicted on the *Compilation Survey For
Crescent Street Roadway Abandonment Prepared for 95/7 Ventures LLC
and the City of Norwalk and the State of Connecticut Reed Putnam
Project dated January 28, 2008, prepared by William W. Seymour &
Associates, P.C.***

Mr. Krummel thanked the Freeholders for their work.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. LINDSTROM MOVED THE FOLLOWING**

4. Approve the following resolution:

Whereas, The United States Secretary of Transportation, through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is authorized to make funds available for programs deemed high priority projects as enacted through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), and;

Whereas, The West Avenue Corridor Transportation Improvement Project has been identified as such a high priority project, and;

Whereas, Federal funding in the amount of \$2.0 million has been earmarked for the design and construction of the West Avenue Corridor Transportation Improvement Project, and;

Whereas, The available amount of federal funds allocated for high priority projects from this authorization has been approximately \$1.8 million, and;

Whereas, The City of Norwalk share of the project cost is twenty percent (20%) or approximately \$450,000, and;

Whereas, The City of Norwalk agrees to maintain the West Avenue Corridor Transportation Improvements, and;

Whereas, The State requires a resolution from the Common Council indicating its endorsement and financial commitment to provide the local share of the total cost of the project as well as a maintenance commitment.

Now therefore be it resolved:

- 1. That the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, is authorized to sign any and all documents from the Connecticut Department of Transportation related to the planning, design and/or construction of the West Avenue Corridor Transportation Improvements, and to take all other measures reasonably related thereto, and;**
- 2. That the City of Norwalk shall fund its local share of the project, and;**
- 3. That the City of Norwalk shall commit to maintaining the improvements.**

Account No. 09030910-5777-C0277

Mr. Alvord explained that this is in sync with the other two projects and will take into consideration the Waypoint project. The 24 signals as part of Phase I are not included in this project. The signals will not have to be moved once Waypoint begins. Other improvements will be done to West Avenue as part of the Waypoint project.

Mr. Krummel pointed out that the traffic signals at Belden Avenue and Brunnel Blvd. are replacements. He also noted that there are traffic lights at almost every intersection on West Avenue. Mr. Alvord said that is for traffic calming. The lights will be synchronized based on traffic studies in the area. The lights will be synchronized to facilitate the flow of traffic for the length of West Avenue at the posted speed limit.

Mr. Alvord explained that new the video detection system is more sensitive to traffic than the current loop system. Mr. Krummel asked about the cost to maintain the video detection system. Mr. Alvord said that it will be easier for staff to maintain the cabinets because they are digital.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Hempstead suggested taking the agenda out of order to accommodate the members of the public.

11. REQUEST TO MAKE KRISTEN LANE A CITY STREET.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the road was up to City specifications. Mr. Alvord said that the road was not bad. He said that in the back up materials there is an e-mail petition from the residents. He said that he discussed this with the Law Department and they will provide a letter with their recommendations. An engineer investigation will be done and a report submitted.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the City would remove the speed bumps. Mr. Alvord noted that this is a quiet street. The speed bumps will not be removed by the City unless they were going to re-pave the street. If the street is accepted by the City, the property owners will be required to give easements to the City. A title search will have to be conducted by the Law Department, which he suggests that the property owners pay for.

Ms. Straniti asked why the residents wanted to go from a private road to a city road. Mr. Patello said that they do not see the benefits of remaining a private road, so they wanted to explore their options. Mr. Alvord explained that even if the City does accept the street, they will not receive City trash pick up because they do not have public sewers. The road is not built to City specifications because of the radius of the curve.

Mr. Krummel asked if all of the residents signed the petition. He was told that they did. Mr. Alvord explained to Mr. Patello that they are in the fifth taxing district and would remain there if the City accepts the street. There will be no differences if the street is accepted.

Mr. Krummel asked about a timeline. Mr. Alvord said that this will not happen during this calendar year because he first has to get legal advice from the Law Department. He has one more street to pave, and once that is completed, an inspector will be freed up. He said that he will not have a recommendation for the November meeting.

8. STORMWATER-RELATED WORK – SEE ATTACHED PROJECT STATUS SHEET.

Mr. Alvord reviewed the DPW schedule of stormwater related work as of September 30, 2008. He explained that he has people in the field locating manholes for the pipe cleaning project. He said that the investigation of the drainage system has been completed. Mr. Alvord said that the DEP will deal with the bacteria issue as quickly as possible. They received calls from Duff and Perrone. Mr. Alvord said that the bid packages for the Olmstead, Noah's Lane and Meadowbrook projects are due on October 23, 2008. The start date will depend upon when the Law Department can get the contract out, but believes they can start Olmstead Place project before the first week in November and finish by Thanksgiving, depending upon the weather.

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED THE FOLLOWING**

5. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an amendment to the INTER-COMMUNITY AGREEMENT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHWEST CONNECTICUT REGIONAL RECYCLING OPERATING COMMITTEE (SWEROC) that will allow the City to receive recycling rebates.

Mr. Alvord explained that the State passed a law that effective January 1, 2009 mandating recycling electronics. There is the likelihood that a rebate will go on while the City is still a member of SWEROC. An amendment to the contract is required in order to take advantage of that amendment. The contract requires legislative action by all 18 participating towns.

On July 1, 2009, residents will be able to add plastics #3 – 7 to plastics #1 and 2. The City gets paid \$17.50 for every ton of recyclables.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO CONSIDER ADDING AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED THE FOLLOWING:**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CRW SYSTEMS, INC. TO PROVIDE PERMIT AND PROJECT ADMINISTRATION SOFTWARE, DATA

**CONVERSION, TRAINING, TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND
IMPLEMENTATION FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.
ACCOUNT NO. 03 0000 2602**

Ms. Cece said that she was opposed to suspending the rules to add an item to the agenda except in the case of an utmost emergency.

Mr. Alvord explained that the City's software has become obsolete and is not an easy system to use. They had been looking for off the shelf permit packages and received six proposals. They short listed three; one dropped out and they interviewed two. After the interviews they selected CRW Systems, Inc. The system has relative ease of use which will allow them to train any number of people in the department.

Ms. Lindstrom asked where the funding was coming from. Mr. Alvord said that it is from the permit account. As of October 6, 2008, the balance in the account is \$391,000.

Ms. Lindstrom asked why this item was not on the original agenda. Mr. Alvord said that they did not receive the final information by the time the agenda went out on Thursday. He said that he brings these items up under the suspension of the rules so that they save a month.

Mr. Hempstead asked if the Finance Department was ok with this. Mr. Alvord replied that they were; this is part of the reason for those funds. Mr. Hempstead asked Mr. Alvord what he is doing with the unexpended funds in the account. Mr. Alvord said that technically those are revolving funds; they never have unexpended funds. Mr. Hempstead said that he does not want to see the department come up short. Mr. Krummel asked if the funding was in place to buy the software. Mr. Alvord said that it was.

Ms. Lindstrom said that she would like the chance to review information before voting. Mr. Krummel said that it is important for the Committee to consider this; this type of item should have been in the package before it was mailed. He added that he believes they can move forward on this since there is money in the account.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. NORWALK TRANSFER STATION.

Mr. Alvord said that they had three significant milestones since the last meeting. He did a site visit and asked CRRA to address certain items. Everything on the list has been completed. However, the permit transfer application is in progress. He said that he does not anticipate any issues.

Mr. Alvord reported that he met with the Operations Director at CRRA and talked about cleaning the transfer station before turning back to the City. He said that he is confident

that will be done, despite the fact that the company responsible for cleaning the transfer station is not reliable. Mr. Krummel said that it is good to see the sign at the transfer station stating that only vehicles with Beach stickers are allowed to use the facility.

Mr. Hempstead asked when the section of Crescent Street will be widened. Mr. Alvord said that will not happen for a while. Mr. Hempstead pointed out that it is in dire need of pot hole repair.

Mr. Krummel said that although it is not on the agenda, he is concerned about private carting operations. Mr. Alvord said that the City trucks account for less than ¼ of the tipping floor. Mr. Krummel asked where the other trucks go. Mr. Alvord said that they go wherever they want. He said that he believes that they will not have to pay a tipping fee in Stamford after January 1st. They could also go to Meadow Street. Currently, Meadow Street is permitted to take MSW; however, there will be no restrictions after January 1st.

7. PROJECT UPDATES - SEE ATTACHED PROJECT STATUS SHEET.

Bridges

The retaining walls at the Silvermine River were completed. There are still a few signs that have to be removed.

Drainage

Ms. Lindstrom said that Zoning has an extension request from Stew Leonard's. She said that if there is going to be an addition to Stew's it would be nice to put something to make drainage better. She asked Mr. Alvord if DPW has reviewed the plans. He said that he expects to do so before it goes to a public hearing.

There is supposed to be a first draft of the Stormwater Authority Management Plan. The executive summary for the three communities will be ready in January. He said that his personal observation is that some of the people in the communities want to shy away from what they believe their constituents won't like. One of the problems is that only one joint report will be submitted, which can be an issue because of the different approaches to doing business.

Mr. Krummel asked about the status of Beacon and Willow Streets. Mr. Alvord said that he went to the end of Beacon Street and there is a deep ravine in the backyard. The storm they were talking about was a nor'easter that took place in April. He said that this is the first time he has had a report on those properties. Mr. Hempstead said that he remembers when this issue came up 20 years ago.

Traffic

Mr. Alvord said that there has been no progress. Ms. Lindstrom said that a survey went out to parents to find out how many children walk to school. The results show that very few children walk to school.

Drainage (continued)

Mr. Hempstead said that he wanted to go back to discuss drainage. He requested that the \$500,000 for water course maintenance be put on next month's agenda. He asked about the Smith Street retaining wall. He said that he is frustrated that it is closed. Mr. Alvord said that the DiScala project has not moved forward. He said that this area is not a high priority area; the asphalt plant closed down this summer. Now the DPW trucks have to go to Stamford. He said that the City owns the retaining wall, but there have been discussions about making it the responsibility of the developer.

Traffic (continued)

Mr. Lindstrom asked why some traffic signals are delayed. Mr. Alvord said that the delays are with the DOT.

Roads

Ms. Straniti asked about Nursery Street. Mr. Alvord said that there is talk about doing the entire street, so they are holding off. The only potential issue will be conservation issues. He said that he wants this done before the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Alvord reported that Mr. DiCesare is trying to expand on the East Avenue improvement concept.

Water Pollution Control

Ms. Lindstrom said that she read about the CL&P sewage spill into the River. Mr. Alvord said that it was taken care of immediately. It is now in the hands of the DEP. Mr. Krummel asked if there have been any reports of odor from the treatment plant. Mr. Alvord said that there have been no complaints.

Parking Authority

Mr. Krummel said that he has heard a number of complaints about the bridge opening from the SoNo merchants. They said that it has caused tremendous traffic jams. Mr. Alvord said that the DOT gave a lot of advance notice, and the Mayor did an announcement on the reverse 911 system. The problem is that people did not pay attention.

A shuttle bus started yesterday and they had five passengers. The usage will build up once word gets out. The shuttle from the Maritime garage to the South Norwalk train station runs on a regular schedule.

Stormwater

Mr. Alvord said that the Army Corps of Engineers will not finance any recognizance study.

10. STATUS OF CL&P

Mr. Alvord reported that CL&P is doing work in the substations. The final paving will not happen until next spring. The major work has been done except for the corner of Main Street and Union Avenue.

Mr. Hempstead said that in the back up materials is a letter that Mr. Alvord found from 31 years ago where they were talking about re-routing route 123.

11. TRAFFIC CALMING

There was no report this evening.

12. DPUC RULING ON AT&T VRAD BOXES

Mr. Alvord reported that those tan boxes that AT&T is hanging on poles are fiber optics so that they can sell cable service. They have been sending notices to the DPW with drawings. If there are any concerns, they will respond. He said that they have been working with the department.

13. NORWALK RECEIPT OF ITS LEADERSHIP AWARD FOR 2008

Mr. Alvord said that this item was for information. The DPW received this award. He said that the two finalists were Stamford and Norwalk and Norwalk won.

14. MEETING WITH CT DOT REGARDING ROUTE 136

Mr. Alvord said that during the summer they discussed quality of life issues. Mr. Hempstead suggested sending a letter to the state asking them to clean up Meadow Street. He said that he pulled a map that showed that Meadow Street was a state road, but maintained locally.

Mr. Alvord said that he is asking the State for a copy of the agreement, but the only thing found were meeting minutes from 1977. The State will entertain a request by the City to return 123 to the State once it meets State specifications.

Mr. Hempstead said that Mr. Collins may be able to recall who was at that meeting, since he was Mayor at the time. He said that at one point there was consideration of reconfiguring 123. The problem is that the City made a mistake when it built Hanford Place, which runs from Water Street to South Main Street.

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:00

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services

