

Minutes of the Public Works Committee meeting on February 22, 2010.

Present

R. Joy, Jr.
N. Veccharelli
P. Vetro
D. German

Also Present

B. Kolwicz, PW Director
L. Streit, Recording Sect'y.
Steve Specter

Joy called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Public Concerns

Steven Specter, 68 Housatonic Avenue with a business at 84 Broad Street, wanted to discuss the municipal parking lot downtown. He stated that all of the spaces are filled by 7:30 a.m. He found that about 50 of those spaces were filled by commuters for the train. He contacted the Police Department and Public Works and went on Channel 12 news and the commuters were cleared out within 2 weeks. He further discussed improving the parking lot and stated that signage is not there and spots are not delineated. He reviewed that there is one way traffic flow and asked about directional signage. About a week or two ago he was told that there was a proposal for recapping the lot and stated that if there are funds for this he would like it to be done right as this is a very important asset to downtown. He would like it fixed for Milford, customers and businesses. A 2" recap is not the answer and asked if there is a game plan. He thinks there should be signage; you would never know the lot was there from downtown. There are four posts in the middle of the parking lot from Light the Night that the City is paying the UI bill and the presentation is terrible. There are no receptacles and on the weekends people drink and there are bottles everywhere. There is no landscaping. He reviewed the topography map and the City owns the entrance on Factory Lane, the sidewalk and shrub area. The area is never taken care of and the presentation is awful. He feels this is a jewel for the downtown area and he would like the work done the right way. He proceeded to review the property boundaries for what is owned by the City versus private companies and that the City plows the entire area.

Vetro stated that the signage is being taken care of. Bruce stated that the green (P)arking signs were done with the Chamber of Commerce and a private consultant and they didn't want municipal signs. Specter stated that the largest sign has been knocked over and feels Public Works does a great job in the city and feels this lot is taken for granted and if there is money now in the budget; he would like it to be the best it could be.

Bruce stated that they no longer cap parking lots. They will mill and repave with 2" of asphalt. Signage has been changed 6 times. The hours have been changed 3 times and finally Chief Flaherty said it would not be done any more. It was confirmed that there is a 2 hour limit presently. Bruce stated that the sidewalks on Factory Lane are the responsibility of the property owner. Specter stated that the sidewalk was the City's responsibility. Bruce stated that it was Archie Moore's sidewalk and that he was present when they were put in; Archie Moore's had two parking spots and they removed them to put in the sidewalks. The lighting was discussed and this was put in based on Light the Night's recommendations due to cars being broken into. Bruce will look into the lighting and stated that the receptacles were removed due to abuse with

bottles and people bringing in bulk waste. 40 Broad Street was discussed. There were 9 spaces that were privately owned and businesses put dumpsters there. They were removed and parking was put in. (A backhoe was needed to empty the dumpsters). The islands in the parking lot were removed – people wanted to adopt the spots but no one did and they were not maintained so they were removed and spaces were gained which is what the businesses wanted. Bruce reviewed the plowing on the plans. Armory Lane is owned by the City. The plows enter by Armory Square, by Citrus and go around to 40 Broad Street. Specter asked if there could be an island or directional signage for safety purposes; one way signs on the light pole. People come in by Harrison's and take a left and that's the wrong way. Bruce will look into this.

Bruce stated that he is unsure as to the plans for the spring as they don't have asphalt prices yet. They plan on milling and paving the entire parking lot. Specter asked who has jurisdiction over the parking lot. Bruce stated that Public Works does. Specter asked if Public Works could put signs in verses the Chamber or the Merchants Assoc. Bruce stated that he has no problem with directional signs. Specter stated that he would like one way directional signage; not in the road; but where it is visible at eyelevel. He applauds Public Works and the Police Department for an excellent job done. German asked about a time frame for this. Bruce stated hopefully this year but he does not know pricing yet and Town Aid funds need to be reviewed.

Director's Report

Storm Report – YTD costs are \$162,500.53. There are no more funds for this. There are transfers pending for salt and sand in the amount of \$16,000.00 and bills are coming in for contractors in the amount of \$25,000.00. It was discussed that treated salt is more expensive and it has to be stored differently. German asked what benefits there are. Bruce stated that he doesn't see benefits. The State uses this and the roads are all white and it runs off into streams, etc. It is a problem for vehicles brakes, under carriage, etc. This is not mandated yet but is proposed. Sand gives traction and treated salt does not.

Budget – funds ran out for asphalt. Material was received from the state and this will run out soon. The budget for maintenance – janitorial supplies only has \$4,000.00 left until June. Equipment only has \$24,000.00 left. There is only \$34,000.00 left in overtime and there is still bulk pick up to do. There is only \$4,500.00 in overtime for building left. \$11,000.00 left for garage and \$220,000.00 for Sanitation. There are shortfalls. Vetro asked about LOSIP funding. Bruce stated that it is on schedule and will be received. Town Aid is different. This is for \$130,000.00 and the first installment has been received and the second is usually received in January. This has not been received yet and may not be until April or not at all.

Award – Last year Public Works won the Creative Solutions Award for Safety. UCONN entered this in the National Program and Milford won Honorable Mention. The safety program is where everyone works in teams and it has been very successful. This has been implemented since 1994.

Concerns

Vetro reported that the residents on Edgefield Avenue were very pleased with the resolution.

Joy asked about having 2 street sweepers and asked if there were two employees that are qualified to drive these. Bruce stated that there are. The second street sweeper will be in at the end of the month. There is no special license required to operate these.

Veccharelli asked about the guardrail on Pond Street and stated that it saved a car at the last storm. One of the poles broke from this. Bruce stated that he will look into this.

The Town Dock was discussed.

Sawmill Road area was discussed. There was a \$52,000.00 study done for this area and \$500,000.00 for the project. The Mayor met with Gayle Slossberg, Rosa DeLauro and Paul Davis to help with funding.

Veccharelli discussed the Milford Boat Ramp and stated that in the winter months commuters can use this lot (Milford Residents). This was an Ordinance passed last year. Bruce stated that Ray Swift has asked for signs and they are being made.

Bruce stated that in Devon 2 more lamp posts were knocked down as well as a bus shelter.

The KLEEN ENERGY SYSTEMS explosion was discussed. Bruce toured this site last year.

The next meeting will be on 3/29/10 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit