

Minutes of the Public Works Committee on March 21, 2011.

Present

B. Joy, Jr.
P. Vetro
B. Bier
D. German
N. Veccharelli

Also Present

B. Kolwicz, PW Director
L. Streit, Recording Secretary
Carol Card, 13 Fairview Street
Joe Adkins, 14 Fairview Street

Joy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Concern

Ms. Card and Mr. Adkins concerns were with garbage pick up. They wanted to know why garbage men don't work a full day. Bruce stated that it was part of their contract since 1969; there are 4 work days Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. They are paid 8 hours plus 2 hours of overtime. This is an incentive plan; when the job is finished employees can go home. It was asked if bulk pick up was overtime. Bruce stated that it was and it was done on Wednesdays.

Card stated that garbage cans are thrown and there is garbage in the street and yards; cans/bins get smashed; the men are always in a hurry and feels that the quality needs to be better. Bruce stated that two positions have been cut already and the budget process has just begun. Bruce asked if Card and Adkins have ever called in to complain. They stated that they had. Bruce asked if anyone came out to see them. They stated that no one had; they called once and were told that the garbage cans were too heavy. Bruce stated that there is an ordinance which states that the garbage cans must be covered and can not exceed a certain weight. Mr. Adkins stated that he has lived in Milford for 40 years. Bruce stated that 50 years ago garbage men came into peoples back yards and took the cans; this was when the population was 13,000 people. This is a thankless job; in the difficult winter months and the heat and maggots in the summer. Ms. Card stated that the quality of work is not good. Bruce asked when the last time they called. They stated that they did not know. Bruce stated that he would send the Foreman out to speak with them. He further stated that Milford has a pretty good refuse collection system and a lot of towns have gone to private pick up. Ms. Card stated that cans are not put back on the curb, but left in the street. Bruce stated that he would like this resolved and would send the Foreman out to speak with them. Mr. Adkins stated that his neighbor won't buy cans anymore because they get ruined so he only puts out bags. Bruce stated that garbage is not supposed to be picked up unless it is in cans and the contract has been fought for 20 years to have 8 hour days, 5 days per week. A discussion followed regarding tree limbs and Bruce stated that if they are large, Public Works will come pick them up if called. Mr. Adkins stated that there is a big tree on his street and it drops a lot of limbs and Public Works has been called on this. Bruce stated that the will look into this.

A discussion followed regarding snow plowing. Mr. Adkins stated that the Church at the top of his street dumps snow from their property onto the street. Bruce asked that they call Public

Works when this happens. Bruce stated that there is an article in the newspaper once per year regarding the ordinance – rules for a snowstorm.

Staff Report

Old Gate Lane Project – will be coming before the Board of Aldermen. The State is letting Public Works finish the road. Permission was granted to take fill material and sell the sheet piling; a buyer is being sought. The plan is for the project to be finished by the end of the year.

Single Stream Recycling – Bruce went to a meeting for this. The literature is being developed; stickers for the bins, handouts for schools and homeowners. The vendor will put the stickers on the bins and distribute both the literature and the bins. Trucks went out to bid and were ordered today. The vendor bid will go out at the end of the month. All towns will be going with the same program. A discussion followed on educating the public. \$39,600.00 has been budgeted for education; \$974,000.00 was budgeted for trucks and \$986,000.00 for carts.

The St. Patrick's Day Parade went well and was well attended. Joy stated that Public Works did a great job in clean up.

Calls are starting to come in regarding the ball fields. It is still snowing/raining. The tennis nets have been put up at Eisenhower Park. People cut the locks to enter the park. Broadie's Place has not been completed. The bridge at Eisenhower Park went out to bid. This is for the back section by the lodge. Deighton Construction is to do the work. This is a \$240,000.00 project. A discussion followed regarding volunteers and cleaning out the area as well as moving the dog run.

The boardwalk at Walnut Beach is winding down and is a little over schedule. It has been inspected by the State. There has been some graffiti and this has been attempted to be cleaned up.

German asked about park benches and if people could donate them. Bruce stated that this is through the Recreation Department and donations are typically for an area that is already finished.

Ms. Card asked about bus shelters on Bridgeport Avenue stating a car hit it and the cars insurance should cover this. Bruce stated that it has in fact been hit 3 times and 11 lamp posts have gone down.

\$292,758.76 has been spent to date for snow this year. The storm supply has been used and there is still sand and mix available. Some Town Aid funds have been used; this helps defray the costs. Public Works is looking for 2 plow trucks in June. Three trucks are going down; an 83 Kodiak and two 88 International Harvesters. It was discussed that Public Works has good mechanics that have been able to keep the trucks going this long and Public Works makes a lot of parts that can no longer be obtained for the trucks.

The company that makes the asphalt machine came from Germany and was impressed with its use and how clean it was. The city paid \$136,000.00 for this machine 7 years ago.

Concerns

Veccharelli stated that there are 3 or 4 potholes on Lafayette Street. Bruce stated that he will look into this. He then asked if there would be any cutting of trees on William Street. Bruce stated that he was aware of this and it was found that this was not city property.

German stated that he called about potholes by East Shore as well as some trees that were not picked up. Bruce stated that this has all been taken care of and noted that 9,000 trees were picked up. German questioned that city lights were upgraded. Bruce stated that this was true, the UI came in and updated with new bulbs that are more energy efficient. German asked about the fence at Fowler. Bruce stated that this is a whole project; concrete blocks started to disintegrate and this repair is almost complete and then the fence will be repaired.

Vetro asked about the end of Carmen Road into the marsh; kids have made trails there and cleared out an area and sewer caps are exposed. Bruce stated that he will look into this as well as notify the Inland Wetlands Agency office.

The next regular meeting will be on 4/26/11.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit