

## Minutes of the Public Works Committee on May 28, 2008.

### **Present**

P. Vetro, Chairman  
B. Bier  
B. Nunno  
N. Veccharelli, Jr.  
R. Vitali

### **Also Present**

B. Kolwicz, PW Director  
L. Streit, Recording Secretary

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

### **Budget**

The Public Works budget was cut \$200,000.00. After some discussion, it was deemed to cut the July 2008 bulk pick up. It was discussed that people put out trash weeks early; the rule is that trash can be put out the weekend before the pickup date. People are getting ticketed for putting out trash early. Bruce reported that transfers are being requested and will be presented at the next Board of Alderman meeting. There are no funds for lubricants; there have been no funds since February in Auto supply upkeep and Equipment supply upkeep. There are no funds in fuel, licenses and permit fees and tires. Bruce submitted the budget with a zero increase from last year. The Finance Board and the Mayor cut that budget and the Aldermen cut that even further. A discussion followed that 5 years spending history is looked at and an average is taken to determine what will be needed. As of right now oil changes and lubricants can not be done. Historically these accounts have had problems. Nunno stated that all departments were cut; \$2million was cut from the Board of Education and \$1million was restored. Bruce stated that with the cuts the Department can not provide the services that were being provided. Every year there is not enough funding in custodial supplies and more was cut. Public Works has never had an inflated budget and there just isn't any money. \$20,000.00 was cut out of overtime last year and \$10,000.00 this year; this has to be equalized with the bargaining unit. There were 5 calls this weekend for emergencies. There is also leaf pick up; the average overtime per man is 100 or so hours. Transfers are needed in order to fund services through the end of this year. Vetro stated that the Board of Aldermen is not involved in the Mayor's and Board of Finance meetings and it is different at the Board of Aldermen Public Hearings and more information would be helpful. Veccharelli stated that questions were asked and answered and cuts were made. Nunno stated that every decision was agonized over. Bier stated that the budget can't be continually cut without consequences. Vitale stated that there should have been more communication. Nunno stated that it was a reasonable cut and fair to everyone. Bruce stated that the transfers are needed for the shortage in cell phone accounts in Highway and Parks and this includes the Mayor's phone; electrical service charges for traffic lights; repairs to equipment and vehicles; waste removal caused by construction; cost of chemicals caused by abatement odors; communication costs in Wastewater.

### **Citizen Concerns**

Veccharelli stated that it is his understanding that at Underhill Park (Zimmerman Park) lights were installed to try to combat vandalism and in fact more youth are hanging out here later due to the lights and he asked if lights could be shut off or could there be more police patrol. Bruce

stated that the lights were the results of a petition to the Mayor's Office due to vandalism. In the past signs were replaced at this park 12 times and since the lights were installed things have improved. Bruce referred Veccharelli to the Mayor's Office due to the petition.

Veccharelli asked about when sewers are sucked out and some debris is left, does it get removed. Bruce stated that typically a crew will go back and pick it up.

Veccharelli stated that he has received complaints that since the cost of energy is very expensive and parks are lit up and some of them are not being used. He asked about a plan and maybe a switchboard control. Bruce stated that he received a letter of complaint on Washington Field and he sent the night foreman out. There are digital timers and if it rains they are shut off at 7:00 p.m. When games are over, the night foreman shuts them off. He makes his rounds throughout the night. They discussed a switch being put on the outside but once they are off they have to stay off and then the situation is regarding who has a key, etc. Eventually, it is hoped that they will be able to be controlled from Public Works. Veccharelli suggested a study/plan. Bruce stated that this was done last year by MUSCO and is still being worked on; but this was only for Washington Field. Veccharelli stated that a larger comprehensive study for all fields should be done as it is a complex issue and he is in favor of improvement. Bruce briefly reviewed the night foreman's routine.

Bier asked about refurbishing of basketball and tennis courts and where funds come from for this. Bruce stated that there are some athletic accounts, bonding. Both Public Works and the Recreation Department are going to try to do.

Veccharelli asked about the Caswell Cove area noting that the Mayor has been referring to this as a park when it is just access. He asked who mows this. Bruce stated that Public Works does. Veccharelli stated that the Devon boat ramp is closing down and Caswell Cove was to have public access and a public boat ramp agreement to a walkway, etc. and this is to be maintained by the Condo. Association. Bruce stated that this was never the case. The Condos. were to construct it and did the gazebo and boardwalk twice. The City received the pavilion and boardwalk; the parking was always there. Due to so many mishaps over 12 years or more, it was decided that it was for passive recreation. Nunno stated that the boat ramp could be beautiful if it was graded down and the State could help with these costs. With the closing of the boat ramp in Devon, this should be accessible. Bruce stated that the State is shutting down their boat ramp not the City's. This was explored; there are no docks/slips. Veccharelli stated that this is the only access to the Housatonic River now for the public and it needs mowing; limiting the size of boats to use it could be looked at and making it a little safer. Bruce stated that this was looked at with Planning and Zoning. Nunno stated that the pavilions at Walnut Beach and Fowler are great but the gazebo here was a mistake and if creative, help could be received from the State and Harbor Commission. Veccharelli asked if mafia blocks were still needed here. Bruce stated that they were put there because people were putting car parts, etc. there. Veccharelli stated that there is no purpose for them now and that area may be needed for parking and he asked if they could be removed. Bruce stated that they could be but he felt that would be premature. Veccharelli asked if this area could be monitored and maybe a committee formed to make it work with the Aldermen, Bruce, Police Department and the Condo. Association. Nunno stated that he would like to see what is involved to grade it and get an Engineer down there and look for State for funding. The Aldermen are to look in Planning & Zoning files for Caswell cove to review the agreement.

Vitale received complaints regarding the Duck Pond's deteriorating wall. Bruce stated that this is to be dredged and rebuilt and there is a committee working on it.

Nunno asked about Memorial Tower, there is a bird problem? Bruce stated that Public Works went out there and there is a lot of debris, birds are coming in under the door. Nunno stated that the sign at the Library looks great but he saw kids sitting on top of the sign and was concerned with it breaking and asked if there could be a deterrent of some kind. Bruce stated that they had brick up and it was taken down by the Architect. Nunno thanked Bruce for digging up the field at Westshore Middle School; it looks amazing. Bruce stated that they could no longer do this due to a union issue with the Board of Education.

Vetro asked about potholes at Pond Point Road and Lance Lane. Bruce will look into this.

Bruce reported that the beach sand on Gulf Beach was moved and underneath the groin there are mafia blocks and they are looking to rebuild it. Nunno asked if 6 or 8 rocks on the jetty from Milford Yacht Club could be incorporated in this to fill in gaps for safety. Bruce stated that that is part of a Federal Channel and has to go to the Harbor Master and they can request that.

Walnut Beach had a few problems; there are too many keys around and bathrooms are being left open.

Bruce stated that he is concerned with what asphalt costs will be. Intervale Parkway is just about complete. Bridgehouse area is curbed around the esplanade and came out nice.

Devon Revitalization was discussed and 30 easements are needed.

Bier asked about city recycling barrels at fairs and festivals and if this will include public buildings. Bruce stated that it would and that schools have a hard time recycling. Bier asked if there could be improvement. Bruce stated that colored bags have been discussed.

Vetro asked about Hazardous Waste. Bruce stated that Household Hazardous Waste will take place on 10/4/08 at Public Works which will be a satellite to New Haven. Milford is its largest user.

The next regular meeting will be on 6/24/08 at 7:00 p.m.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit