

Minutes of the Public Works Committee on November 25, 2008.

Present

P. Vetro, Chairman
N. Veccharelli, Jr.
B. Nunno

Also Present

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

Issues Addressed

Nunno asked about the refuse can at Seaside Avenue as it has not been emptied. Bruce stated that this has had repeated abuse, people put so much debris in it that it is too heavy to empty. It is emptied more often in the summer but off season it is emptied with the regular garbage pick up. Nunno questioned why there could not be work shifts that include weekends without there being overtime: shifts that are scheduled Tues. through Saturday as an example. Nunno referenced the Town of Westport as doing this. He further stated that on Sunday and Mondays the fields garbage cans are overflowing. Bruce stated that these cans are picked up on regular garbage days and people abuse this service; people break into the buildings, crush garbage cans, etc. Also, employees have to be supervised when working so it would not just be employees and the union is involved and bargaining units and this is not just something that can be implemented. Veccharelli stated that there is a problem with garbage on the weekends in a lot of areas and the Recreation Department gives permits to areas for use on the weekends and charging more for garbage disposal was something that was discussed. Could this be something addressed during contract negotiations; maybe some people would want a Monday and Tuesday off versus Saturday and Sunday. Different rotations could be offered and employees could bid on shifts. Bruce stated that people work 4 day work weeks now and Memorial Day through Labor Day these areas have pick up on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. If there were to be pick up on the weekends this would be an increased cost. Nunno suggested that when there are new hires when someone retires, a new position be created that includes weekends. Bruce stated that there are labor contracts and collective bargaining units and these can not just be changed. Nunno stated that there is a need for weekend garbage pick up at public places. Bruce stated that dumpsters at city buildings have had to be locked because people put construction debris, etc. in them and there was a Sunday pick up at one time and it didn't yield necessary.

Nunno asked about the white tarp on the green. Bruce stated that it is a turf blanket to aid in the growth of grass and is working well.

Director's Report

- Leaf collection continues.
- Sand and salt is on hand and the dome is filled. There are 9 trucks with sanders ready to go.
- The drainage problem on the Post Road by Linen's and Things – this was worked on with the State. It had to be cleaned out and trash gates will be installed by Friday. The neighbors were spoken to about this problem and their input. Public Works will watch this area for a while; it will flow if it is clean.

- The Parson's Complex stairs – limestone caps have been installed and this project should be finished by the end of this week or next week.
- The trees on the green have been strung with lights for Friday – the Festival of Lights and it looks nice.
- Signage – no skateboarding signs are being put around Parson's.
- Columbia Drive had a ponding problem that was 4-5" deep and this has been taken care of.
- Roof repairs for Fannie Beach and Tri Beach buildings have gone out to bid and work should begin soon.
- As part of the Capital Budget the roofs for the garages are to be done. They will need trusses on the roof (50' span) as well as power work to be done.
- Payloader – the loader came in.
- The sewer project at West Avenue across the Post Road to Erna Avenue was reviewed. Pictures were distributed of the corroded steel pipe; it was just crumbling (it is 24 years old). A discussion followed regarding the sewers and piping.
- There will be a meeting on Monday regarding the garbage contract and this was discussed. There is no minimum commitment as part of the contract. The cost of transportation is not included in the cost. The newspaper article regarding this was incorrect. The contract had been being worked on for 2 years. The current contract ends on 12/31/08 and Public Works is looking to have a 5 year contract.

The next meeting will be on 12/16/08.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit