

Minutes of the Public Works Committee of June 29, 2015.

Present

B. Anderson
B. Bier
D. German
F. Smith
P. Vetro

Also Present

C. Saley, PW Director
L. Streit, Secretary

Ann Berman, 77 Pelham St.
Janet McAllister,
197 Maplewood Avenue

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

Berman wanted to discuss the recycling program and noted that German, Anderson and Chris visited some recycling facilities. An adhoc recycling committee has been meeting with Kristen Brown since before Christmas and she is convinced that this is the way to go. This program will make Milford more sustainable and save \$1,500,000.00. She is very excited, this will cut down on pollution; less garbage burned, less carbon. She stated that this is a mind changer and thanked the committee for being part of the process. Anderson thanked her for her input and support.

German stated that this program will save money while reducing trash. Residents will purchase bags at \$1.25 - \$2.00 each. Bags must be purchased in order for trash to be picked up. This will cut garbage in half. If people are spending money on the bags, they will put less into the bags and put more in recycling or reusing stuff. The revenue from the bags will go to the city as well. Grocery stores will not make money on them. This program will reduce taxes; there will be an offset with the cost of the bags. The average cost per year is \$88.00 per household on average. Sample bags were shown. This has been being worked on for 2 years and eventually all of CT will be using this program. There are some grants available now for printing of the bags. There is no real investment; if it fails then it can be converted back to the existing system. Not one town has converted back. Worcester has used this program for 30 years. North Attleboro and Dartmouth in MA use the program and N. Attleboro is a similar town to Milford.

Smith stated that there is an education component to the program as well. Anderson stated that 4 Operators and 4 trucks do 1,000 stops per day in North Attleboro. Vetro questioned if people would then throw more in the recycle bins that is not appropriate to recycle rather than pay for the bags. Vetro also questioned that the bags are plastic and how long they could be out in the winter. Chris stated that they would have to be put out in the morning verses the night before. Bier asked about a timeframe to implement something like this. German stated that it would take 3 months to implement and a company in MA would implement the program and bags would be purchased through them. Chris stated that the bags cost \$.25 to \$.30 per unit.

Smith stated that **Janice McAllister** is part of the Walnut Beach Association and wanted to discuss the invasive species along the board walk. McAllister stated that Japanese Knotweed is growing over the board walk. She has been working with Steve Johnson and is looking to mitigate this. Steve Johnson is to solicit grants to mitigate and replace the invasives with native

vegetation. Janet stated that she is new to Milford; she moved here last fall and stated that it is a great city. She is from Manchester. The coastal resources are very attractive. She works in Agriculture and is familiar with vegetation. This is a 200 – 250' area from the pier, eastward. Public Works did some cutting and spraying and it is on the run a little bit, but there are a lot of underground stems. This needs to be weakened and Round Up used to knock it back. This can take more than one year and it needs to be replanted once the invasives are removed and then needs to be maintained. The Walnut Beach Association is invested in the area and wrote to Steve Johnson describing the situation. She thanked the commission for their consideration and partnership and noted that this can be an educational opportunity for the community. She works in Administration with the US Dept. of Agriculture grant program, is familiar with grants and can assist with grant writing. Grants usually require in kind or a matching funds from the City. Smith stated that a meeting can be scheduled with Steve Johnson, Chris and the Mayor. Chris stated that there is a \$700,000.00 grant with Milone and McBroom and 10 towns involved and Milford should get one of those projects. Residents need to be educated about our resources and the need to replant with sea grass. Chris stated that Milone and McBroom are the design team and are looking at several towns and looking at the 4 best programs and Steve Johnson is involved with this.

Minutes

A motion was made by Vetro, seconded by Smith to accept the minutes of the previous meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Director's Report

Summer is here and it is the end of the fiscal year and is very challenging. People are taking any vacation time left for the fiscal year.

Milling and paving is in process.

The Welcome to Milford sign over the railroad trestle is being worked on; it is vinyl on metal. Anderson showed a picture of vinyl on the bridge behind the Library; it has been vandalized and torn off. Chris stated that there is a lot of vandalism and graffiti down town. He has tried to power wash and is now painting over; it is a constant struggle.

The Energy Incentive Program has begun at Parson's. This is very challenging due to the size and break up of rooms.

Chris has been at the Transfer Station every Saturday for 4/5 weeks and there is a lot of trash and feels that checking residency really needs to be enforced. Fairfield charges \$94.00/ton for trash. Chris feels residents should be charged for anything above and beyond personal trash and suggested \$20.00 per year and \$5.00 per visit and this is what Fairfield charges. There is a lot of abuse of use.

Waste Water - Housatonic nitrogen results are 145lbs. per week and the state mandate is 307 and is doing well. Beaverbrook is 94lbs. per day and they are adjusting the credit system to

incentivize. Ed Kozlowski is the Acting Superintendent of Waste Water and Chris feels the salary is too low. The qualifications for this position were discussed.

The Board of Aldermen meeting is on Monday and Chris is looking for authorization to do performance contracts for energy. They are more efficient but a return will not be seen for 7 years; however it is substantial.

Chris is looking to use City equipment on private property - parking areas - and to charge a fee. Also, to clean private beaches and charge a fee. Anderson asked about a rate schedule. Chris stated that there is not one yet but that he is not looking to compete with private contractors.

Chris will be looking for an ordinance change from \$5.00 to \$10.00 for non resident parking and to discuss enforcement for street parking. Ticketed slots were discussed as an option. Walnut Beach is very busy and cars park all over. Vetro suggested staggering garbage pick up at the beaches and discussed staff working Saturday and Sunday with Monday and Tuesday off.

Chris stated that contract negotiations are coming up and the first step is beginning.

Municipal lease purchase was discussed. A front loader costs \$270,000.00 and scales can be put on it. This would eliminate getting in and out of trucks and would be safer. He is looking to consolidate through attrition. Attleboro has 7 employees verses Milford's 31. Attleboro has a population of 27,000 verses Milford's 51,000. A front loader is a one man machine and would have a 7 year payback. Public Works has an aging fleet and spent \$600,000.00 on equipment repair/maintenance. Public Works has trucks that are over 20 years old.

Concerns:

German stated that New Haven Avenue by Settlers Woods is cut every 4 weeks and leaves a huge mess and clogs the catch basin. Chris stated that he will look into this. German asked about street cleaning. Chris stated that this is ongoing and he is waiting for a hydraulic part and hopes to have 2 trucks out for this. A 5:00am – 1:30pm shift is now authorized for safety.

The next regular meeting will convene at the call of the Chair.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit