Minutes of the Public Works Committee on January 27, 2020.

**Present Also Present**

J. Golden, Chair C. Saley, PW Director

E. Beatty, Vice Chair S. Johnson, Asst. Director

A. Giannattasio L. Streit, Secretary

P. Vetro

R. Vitali

W. Willis

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

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Vetro, seconded by Giannattasio to approve the minutes of 10/28/19 as presented and carried unanimously.

**Director’s Report**

* There have been some icy conditions. There was a rain storm over the weekend and the Red Bush Lane area had some flooding issues. Some funding has just been received for drainage.
* Bids went out for the Bay View Beach project; over 20 companies were at the pre-bid meeting.
* Tree work is being done. Christmas trees are being picked up; lights have been taken down.
* Sewer lines are being worked on. Giannattasio asked about Block Grant funds and if there was a deadline for the Bay View Beach project. Chris stated that it has been extended to 01/2022. However, the goal is to get it done as soon as possible.
* Some emergency repair work needs to be done and a request for funds will be coming before the Board of Aldermen. Giannattasio asked what the funds would be used for. Chris stated that it would be for drainage in the City; Red Bush is one of these projects. He is looking for language that can be enforced to prevent residents from dumping and putting debris in areas. This has caused a great deal of flooding in areas. A discussion followed regarding the area of Red Bush Lane and Plan B Restaurant and the cost. Raising the road would cost approximately $80,000.00 and curbing would cost approximately $40,000.00. Funding available/reserve account was discussed. All bonding was approved. Vetro asked about the Capital Improvement request list. Chris stated that 2 trash trucks have been requested. It costs $78 per ton for recyclables and $63.58 per ton for disposal to the burn plant (Municipal Solid Waste). It was discussed that getting rid of plastic bags has had a huge impact. Giannattasio asked if recyclables are still going to Oak Ridge in Shelton. Chris stated that they are as well as cardboard. Giannattasio stated that Marcus Paper pays for cardboard and asked if this is possible to be done for the City. Giannattasio will find out how much this is and it was noted that the material must be clean and dry to be purchased. Giannattasio asked if the trucking is outsourced for the burn plant. Chris stated that Mickolyzck Trucking won the bid which is a one year contract with the right to renew up to 4 years at a cost of $300 per load; between $80,000 - $120,000 per year. It was noted that Enviro costs $330,000/year.

**Concerns**

* Golden stated that there are resident concerns with trees on Gulf Street that were cut down. Chris stated that if residents would like a tree; they can get one planted as a replacement. A discussion followed regarding it has to be the right tree for the right place; it can’t be put in the snow shelf or under wires. A truck got stuck under the bridge at River Street/Daniel Street. Chris stated that there is signage there and does not know what else can be done. A discussion followed; Vetro discussed a laser motion detector where if trucks are too tall an alarm or light would go off. Golden asked if the bridge on Wheeler’s Farm Road was DOT. Chris stated that it is and it is a 2 year project. Golden asked if Public Works is prepared for snow. Chris stated that there are not enough men and not enough trucks and if there is any snow over 12-15” it will be a problem. There are 21 plow routes. There were 24 trucks when Chris started 5/6 years ago and there are 15 trucks now. Therefore, contractors are brought in. Burns Construction and Mickolyczk Trucking are used for this. 2 trucks per year should be purchased; this is a very big concern. The budgeting process was discussed; Steve Johnson reviewed an older inventory report. Giannattasio asked what the priorities are and that this needs to be transparent at the Board of Aldermen meetings. Chris stated that if 10 trucks are requested and 5 are approved, he does what he can. Plowing and trash collection are the biggest concern. Trucks cost between $185,000 - $200,000 per truck. Vetro asked if the new chemical used to pre-treat the roads was more costly or less. Chris stated that it is less costly.
* Vitali stated that a barrier or bollard is needed at Founder’s Walk. He has seen cars try to drive down there. Vitali stated that a large flower pot would work as well. Chris will look into this. Vitali stated that at the golf course, water is going over the holding tank and he questioned how this impacts the Health Department; infectious material. Chris stated that he spoke to Deepa last year and he will follow up with this. Vitali stated that the management company is concerned.
* Beatty asked about the sirens going off at the beaches recently. Steve stated that it was maintenance and testing. There was a heavy storm on 12/30/19 that was not forecasted. More alerts were put out to more cars based on the wind and tides and signals/warnings were sent. They are looking to fine tune the system and don’t want people to ignore them. Beatty asked about Orchard Hills speed bump; the radar is in and lines are painted but it is not active. Chris will follow up with this. Beatty asked about the dog park at Eisenhower Park; a sod area. Chris stated that the area was fenced off and people cut the fence; he will look into this. Beatty asked about a process for the Board to report. Chris asked that issues be texted to him. Steve stated that project based software is being installed where ipads could be used and a lot could be done in the field.
* Giannattasio asked for an update on the North Street Convention Center. Chris stated that the goal is for this to go out to bid. Giannattasio asked if DEEP approval was needed to recycle the Splash Park water. Chris stated that the DOT is trying to figure out the pump system. Giannattasio stated that 17 Ingersol Road would like trees cut that are on City property; they drop nuts. Steve will look into this.
* Vetro asked about Merwin Avenue. Chris stated that he has been in contact with the people and working on this.
* Willis asked about 98 West Avenue; they are concerned with ice. Chris stated that the area has been salted and he would like to go out to see it with Willis. The area has been cleaned out.
* Chris discussed staffing and accountability and that he is trying to streamline to be most efficient and have units with leaders.
* Meetings will be held on the last Monday of the month; the next meeting will be on 2/24/2020.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. was made by Vetro and seconded by Giannattasio.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit