Minute of the Public Works Committee on March 29, 2021

**Present Also Present**

E. Beatty C. Saley, PW Director

T. Giannattasio S. Johnson, Assistant Director of PW

J. Golden J. Rosen, Mayor’s Assistant

W. Willis L. Streit, Recording Secretary

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Giannattasio, seconded by Willis to approve the minutes of the February meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**Director’s Report**

* The plow trucks are being repaired in preparation for putting them away for the end of the season.
* Pickle Ball and Basketball courts are being prepped as well as Howard Court in Point Beach. New bathrooms are being done at French Drive.
* There is still a lot of tree work being done. Ballfields are being prepped for the season.
* The final street paving list is being worked on.
* There have been a lot of COVID issues with quarantining.
* Earth Day Tree Initiative will take place at Eisenhower Park on 4/24/2021. The Mayor’s Office, Steve Johnson and Jeremy Grant have been working on this. This is a tree planting initiative being launched with 500 trees being given away. This will be on a first come first serve basis. Registration is required. Instructions will be included regarding care and planting of the tree.
* Still working on trees from the August storm; over 400 trees were damaged. A vast amount of tree trunks and woodchips are being stored. FEMA approved New Haven County for reimbursements. Guidelines and policies are anticipated. Issues of safety are being prioritized.
* The Microgrid program is underway. Schneider Electric is a partner, and this will be completed by the end of April. Testing in February detected electrical problems; a failing cable caused some arcing and this led to an exhaustive effort to reconnect. There will be a planned power outage to rectify this on Wednesday as well as a future date. A formal request for an extension will be submitted due to this issue.
* The Morningside revetment project is anticipated to go out to bid next week. The CDBG Milford Point Road elevation and boardwalk project will go out to bid next. An extension of one more year is being requested for completion and monitoring.

**Concerns**

* Giannattasio asked about the trees and that the FEMA grant was accepted by the Board of Aldermen and asked if the Contractors are backed up. Steve stated that they are and FEMA needed to review and update information; this should be clarified with FEMA by next week. Giannattasio asked about the Tree Crew and if they go out daily. Steve stated that they do and there are 2 tree bucket trucks with chippers. The Tree Crew works as a team with 4 people and some supplemental people, and some Loader Operators as needed. They are looking to leverage Contractors as well. Giannattasio asked about the Chamber Building. Chris stated that a quick evaluation showed some asbestos tile in the basement; the electrical was cleaned up as well as some trim work and a new A/C unit and the bathroom is being redone. Giannattasio asked about use of the building. Justin stated that the priority is rehabbing the building now. No decision has been made as far as use. Giannattasio asked if this would be a Board of Aldermen decision or internal. Justin stated that it depends on the use of it; if it would be City use or if a lease was needed. He will follow up with this.
* Golden reported that the Outrigger Club in Milford has restarted, and everyone is welcome. This starts at Gulf Beach. On Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.
* Chris reported that the Marie Street project; the sea wall is being fixed as well as the steps to the water. Parson’s Auditorium is being worked on, new tile flooring and chairs.
* Giannattasio asked if it was anticipated that sports would return to normal. Chris stated that they are planning on the ballfields to be open but this is more of a Health Director or Board of Education issue. Giannattasio asked about the Splash Pad. Chris stated that he thinks it will be open with limits. Justin stated that they are waiting for guidance from the Governor. Giannattasio asked about 4th of July fireworks. Justin stated that he hopes this will happen but will have a better idea in a few weeks.

**Old Business**

* Beatty questioned the trees discussion and understood that the crew was shared. Steve stated that the biggest challenge is over the winter and then snow in February. The Tree Crew is also CDL drivers and drive plows. Now that there is better weather, the focus is the trees 4-5 days per week.
* Giannattasio asked about the letter regarding the budget and why it wasn’t read into the record. Beatty stated that it was a draft report and she was intending to give a report in March and was not called on to do so. People were not in agreement with the report.

The next regular meeting will be on April 26, 2021.

A motion was made by Giannattasio, seconded by Beatty to adjourn at 7:55 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

 Respectfully submitted,

 Lisa Streit