Minutes of the Public Works Committee on February 24, 2020.

**Present Also Present**

E. Beatty, Vice Chair C. Saley, PW Director

A. Giannattasio S. Johnson, Asst. Director

P. Vetro L. Streit, Secretary

R. Vitali

W. Willis

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

**Minutes**

A motion was made by Vetro, seconded by Willis to approve the minutes of 01/27/20 as presented and carried unanimously. Vitali referenced Robert’s Rules of Order, 11th Edition stating that one could vote on minutes if you were not in attendance of the meeting. “It should be noted that a member’s absence from the meeting for which minutes are being approved doe not prevent the member from participating in their correction or approval.” By voting to approve a set of minutes you are not attesting that you were in attendance during that meeting. Rather, you are voting to approve the minutes based on the trusted accounts of your counterparts and your review of the formatting of those minutes. Therefore, you are absolutely permitted to vote in favor of approving minutes for a meeting even if you were not in attendance.

**Director’s Report**

* The department has been working on tree stump removal and sidewalk lifts, maintenance on trucks – annual inspections. The weather has been mild.
* Drainage issues – A pipe collapsed at Walnut Beach and work is being done to repair this. A discussion followed regarding the history of the site and that damage may have occurred when the boardwalk was put in.
* Bay View Beach project went out to bid. Millennium Builders won the bid. This was briefly discussed; the project is anticipated to be complete by 7/4/2020.
* The street paving list was distributed and reviewed. The town is broken down into zones. A lot of pothole repairs have been done. Gulf Street is progressing.
* Recycling fees have increased from $78 to $83 per ton. Beatty stated that this is a concern nationally; if recycling is causing more harm than good.
* Radar signs – West Main Street and Pond Point Avenue have radar signs and this was questioned. Chris stated that the Police Department orders these as part of a traffic study.
* Founder’s Walk is being looked into regarding pricing and options.
* The Fuel Cell went on line at the Beaver Brook Treatment Plant which should be a savings of $800,000./yr

**Concerns**

* Vitali stated that there is a tree with huge limbs by City Hall where the Mayor’s parking is and needs to be looked at. Chris will look into this. Also, there are an accumulation of branches at the upper north part of the Duck Pond. Steve stated that he would like to do some probing and look at the sediment in this area. Vitali stated that Riverdale/Anderson Avenue is overgrown. Chris will look into this.
* Vetro asked about Merwin Avenue. Chris stated that at the end of March work will be done in the Live Oaks area and he will incorporate Merwin Avenue with this. There is a drainage issue at Bryan Hill that causes a dangerous ice spot there. Chris will look into this.
* Willis asked about the work being done at Walnut Beach and how long this will be going on. Chris stated that they fixed 150’ of pipe in house and they are hoping to complete the work within the next week or so. Chris met with the Walnut Beach Association regarding their concerns with parking; this should be complete by the summer. The meeting went well. He will be meeting with the Heritage Sound Association on 3/31/2020 at the Margaret Egan Center at 6:30 p.m. Water fountains will get put on in April.
* Giannattasio asked about the pipe at Stone Bridge and if it has been repaired. Chris stated that it just got bonded and there is not a design yet. He met with Empire Paving; the company that did the Naugatuck Avenue area, and have had some repairs. Giannattasio stated that there is an asphalt recycling plant that could be cost effective to use. Chris stated that the asphalt does not meet DOT specs. A discussion followed regarding recycling asphalt verses purchasing. Giannattasio will send Chris information on this plant. Giannattasio asked about an update on the North Street project. Chris stated that he met with the Architect firm and they are in the process of finalizing the bidding component; there are conceptional plans.
* Beatty thanked Public Works for the radar sign at Pond Point Avenue. A discussion followed regarding their effectiveness and consequences as well as School Resource Officers role in safety. Beatty stated that there are 2 trees at 4 Revere Place with sidewalk lifts. Tree replacement was discussed; Steve stated that trees will get addressed and then a list of trees is given to the Tree Commission and they go out to look at the site. A discussion followed regarding trees and a problem with Ash trees; the process of dealing with trees needs to be refined. Public Works tries to preserve trees when possible. Pricing for replacement trees is being looked at; 5 – 8’ trees. Each site has to be considered and its surroundings as well as utilities, snow shelf, soil, shade, etc. Steve is in the process of becoming a certified Arborist; he is taking a 12 week program.

There being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. was made by Vetro and seconded by Giannattasio. The next regular meeting will be on 3/30/2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Streit