

RTM Public Works Committee Meeting - January 20, 2015

The Public Works Committee meeting was called to order at 8:06 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Adiletta, Frank Adelman, Patti Bumgardner, James Cameron, Jen Hite, Katie Keith, Jeff Marston, Tom Moore, Brad Patelli, **(Were Richard and David there?)**

Absent: Alison Stolar

Meeting was called to order by Chair Mark Adiletta at 8:05pm. Brad Patelli, a new member from District 1 was introduced and provided a short background.

First motion: Review and approve minutes of the Nov and Dec. RTM Public Works meetings. It was unanimous except for the 2 new members who abstained.

The Public Works Committee discussed three resolutions. Mark introduced Ed Gentile, the new Director of Public Works who gave us his background and an overview of the sewer projects.

Overview: Sewer Pump Replacement

There are 6 major pumps being replaced which were older than the other **19(?)** pumps in town. Ed recommended to the Sewer Commission to squeeze a 6 year plan down to a 3 year plan to accomplish that goal. He will have the first 2 pumps done by April 1, 2015. He was able to get \$200,000 moved up in the budget in order to have 2 more pumps completed by July 31, 2015.

The Nearwater pump station has 3 pumps and they are 25 years old and cost \$30,000 in maintenance. It costs \$8,000-10,000 each time the town had to pull a pump for maintenance. Of the two pumps that were replaced, one was at the Nearwater station and one was for the Stony Brook station. The Stony Brook pump was replaced with a 75 horse pump. The next two pumps to be replaced are also at the Nearwater and Stony Brook pump stations. Ed explained that those stations have 3 pumps each and together the 6 pumps are the oldest in town. Depending on the flow, they run 1-2 pumps at a time unless there is a huge rainstorm like a few weeks ago and then they run 3 pumps. He is asking to replace the pumps over the course of the year barring no emergency capital expense. The new pumps are \$45,000 each plus the additional cost to engineer each one which is \$40,000 each. However, their life span is 25 years so it is much more cost efficient to replace them than spending \$30,000 to repair those pumps each year.

It was asked what Darien's sewer fees are based on and Ed explained they are based on operating expenses and money set aside for capital maintenance and repair. Ed set aside \$145,000. He also discussed how we have to absorb some of the expenses from the City of Stamford.

Brad asked how many companies bid on the project and Ed said there was one proposal and it was from **J Fleet (?)**. He said it was on target of what they expected. They are the only manufacturer in the area so that is why they are the only one who bid on the project. There are more installers.

First resolution - Consideration and action on appropriation of \$200,000 for Sanitary Sewer Pump Replacements at Nearwater and Stone Brook Pump Stations.

The new pump expense is approximately \$85,000 each. The town proposes to purchase Flygt pumps. They are most reliable in the industry and the other 12 stations in town use these pumps. They have an impeller (shredder) that provides further protection against clogs, particularly from wet wipes which have become a major issue clogging our sewers. The balance in the sewer commission fund is approximately \$730,000. This fund is meant for capital improvements.

Second motion: Jim Cameron made the motion to approve the appropriation of \$200,000 for Sanitary Sewer Pump Replacements at Nearwater and Stony Brook pump stations. It was seconded by Tom Moore. The vote was unanimous.

Second resolution - 27 Lakeside Avenue

The second resolution asked for funds to support a pay out to the owners of 27 Lakeside Avenue for damages incurred from a sewer overflow. The blockage was due to a town sewer issue. There was a section of pipe that was smaller than regulation. They will have to replace this pipe. The damage to the home occurred in the basement (which had the proper permits). After sending the Town hired assessor, the town believes \$30,843 is the right compensation.

The owner signed a release of liability. Mr. Gentile commented on a way to prevent backflow in houses that have bathrooms / drains in their basements and is thinking about encouraging homeowners to purchase this protection. No one else was affected because the Town was able to stop the flow.

Third motion item: Tom Moore made the motion to approve the action on the appropriation of \$30,843 for Sewer Damage reimbursement at 27 Lakeside Avenue and it was seconded by Jim Cameron. The vote was unanimous.

Third resolution - Stephanie Lane and Stephanie Lane South

The resolution is a request to transfer the responsibility of the sewer on Stephanie Lane and Stephanie Lane South that was funded by owners of property on the streets officially to the town of Darien. The town of Darien needs to own all the sewer's in town in order to maintain them. The genesis of this request came about when someone asked to be connected to the town sewer. The town took the following steps:

-acquire the sewer - according to the DEEP; Darien owns it.

-Address the value of the sewer and divide by 22 properties - approximately \$9,000

-The owners who paid less than \$9,000 receive money back and pay \$9,000 when they connect; those who paid more than \$9,000 get money back up to \$9,000 and do not pay to connect; any property new to connect who did not pay will pay \$9,000 to connect.

-The \$9,000 is just to connect; it is not inclusive of the cost to connect by contractors.

- Most owners on Stephanie Lane and Stephanie Lane South are in support of this.

The sewer seems to be in good condition; there are no pumps.

Brad noted that we need to have the legally correct name of the Fund as there appeared a discrepancy on the motion we were given from legal.

Fourth motion item: Jim Cameron made a motion to approve the appropriation of \$98,498 from the Sewer Operating Fund balance for transfer of responsibility to the Town of Darien for Sanitary Sewers on Stephanie Lane and Stephanie Lane South. It was seconded by Tom Moore. The vote was unanimous.

The Public Works Committee discussed the human component of sewers. When the pumps are clogged, a worker must physically unclog the sewer. Often times, these are items that were never meant to be flushed - swiflers, wipes, t-shirts. About once a week our Public Works employees have to go below the surface and physically unclog the sewers. It is disgusting and can be dangerous. The PWC suggested a PR campaign to educate people on the dangers of sewer blockages and what they should not flush down their toilets.

Lastly, there was a discussion on the Pedestrian Infrastructure Advisory Committee (PIAC). Mark reached out to Public Safety and they will be discussing the PIAC at their meeting on Monday in Room 213. Member of PWC will try to attend.

Jayne has suggested PWC reach out to Jeremy Ginsberg and Ed Gentile, regarding the committee. While we don't need permission from these groups to propose the PIAC, it was agreed that it might be better received with support from Public Health & Safety and others. PWC also wants to make sure everyone understands this is not JUST sidewalks. This is about how infrastructure is maintained and how projects are prioritized to ensure safety of pedestrians.

There was a motion to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by:

Patti Bumgardner and Jennifer Hite