

RTM Public Works Committee
Special Joint Meeting with
RTM Public Health and Safety Committee
RTM Finance and Budget Committee
and RTM Planning Zoning and Housing Committee

March 4, 2020, 7:30 PM

Darien Town Hall Auditorium

MINUTES

Members attending: **Rolf Obin (Acting Chair), Werner Domittner, Eric Golus, Lindsay Kelly, Cecil Wade, one other person who was identified to me by Lindsay as "Mark"**

Members absent: **Monica McNally (Chair), Frank Adelman, Elisabeth Bacon , Terrence Duffy, Sarah Haverstick, Patrick Keane, Richard Poli,**

Others attending:

Media / public access: **Meeting recorded by TV79. (<https://vimeo.com/395719605>)**

RTM Public Works Committee did not have a quorum; therefore its members were unable to vote on motions presented at this meeting.

RTM Public Health and Safety Committee, RTM Finance and Budget Committee, and RTM Planning Zoning and Housing Committee did have quora, so their members were able to consider and vote on the proposed motions.

Director of Public Works Ed Gentile, and Director of Planning and Zoning Jeremy Ginsberg presented the seven proposed easements required for intersection improvements at the Noroton Avenue/West Avenue intersection.

The following points were covered:

- A state grant has been received that covers right-of-way acquisition costs and construction costs for this project. The town of Darien will pay for the design cost.
- The total project cost is in the range of \$1 million.
- Construction requires easements on seven private properties located on or around the intersection.
- DOT must approve the project.
- Current project status is "90% of the construction plans"are complete.
- The mapping of the easements has been finalized and damages have been assessed for each property. All property owners have agreed to the reimbursement amounts proposed. Easement documents have not yet been signed by the property owners.

- The total amount to be paid for easements is approximately \$64,000. Individual appraisals were made for each property based on recent home sale prices. Individual easements have been assessed in the range from \$1,000-\$21,000 depending on the property. The plan is consistent with the Town Plan, so approval by the RTM requires a 50% positive vote, if the plan were not consistent with the Town Plan, a 66% positive vote would be required
- The plan goes before Planning and Zoning at its March 16,2020 meeting. It will go to the RTM at its March 16 2020 meeting for approvals.
- There will be new ADA compliant sidewalks. There will be new crosswalks and crosswalk signs including audio alerts. There will be a left turn lane from northbound Noroton Ave. to westbound West Ave. There will also be a left hand turn lane on westbound West Ave. onto southbound Noroton Ave. Because the town is acquiring rights on the affected properties, the project requires approval of the Board of Selectmen and the RTM. The Board of Selectmen approved the plans on February 24, 2020.
- The project is expected to start at the close of school year, and end in the October-November timeframe, about six months.
- In the planning, the intersection's traffic volume has been simulated for the next 20 years. Based on the simulation, the proposed plan is expected to meet these needs. The west side of the Noroton Avenue above West Avenue will have its sidewalk extended as far as the Noroton Heights firehouse.
- Approval of all easement resolutions were passed by votes of the other RTM Committees without abstentions or nay votes.

Chief of Police Don Anderson presented the proposed improvement of the HVAC for Darien Police Department headquarters.

- Police HQ underwent a renovation and expansion in 2011 that included HVAC. Shortly after the warranty ended on the HVAC installed at the time, the police department began to have problems with it.
- The building management system which directs the HVAC is also obsolete. It is based on Windows 98, an unsupported operating system. The police department has spent much time attempting to correct the system problems but they have been determined to be uncorrectable with the existing equipment and systems.
- For the HVAC, a new condensing unit and a new building management system are required. Carrier makes the condensing unit. The building management system is based on open source software.
- Tony Campanella Supervisor of Facilities and Equipment spoke briefly on the warranty for the new equipment. The rooftop unit as a whole has a five-year warranty, and the compressor has a one-year warranty. The building management software system includes a one-year support contract with available annual software maintenance agreements.
- The goal is to have the system up and running in the first week of May 2020.
- The condenser unit lifespan is about 15 years.
- The resolution for the police department HVAC system improvement was passed by votes of the other RTM Committees without abstentions or nay votes.

Darien Police Captain Robert Shreders presented a proposed gift to the town of Darien Police Department by the Darien Foundation for the purpose of procuring two training systems:

1. **a live fire judgment training simulator, and**
 2. **A laser scanner for mapping motor vehicle accidents, and school and public facilities to provide training for critical incidents response**
- The motion to accept this gift from the Darien Foundation passed by votes of the other RTM Committees without abstentions or nay votes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Submitted by

Cecil Wade, Clerk RTM PWC