

BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2006
7:00 P.M. IN ROOM 104
SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT

MINUTES

◆ CALL OF THE MEETING/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Papa at 7:00 P.M. in Room 104. All in attendance pledged allegiance to the flag.

IN ATTENDANCE: ALDERMAN PAPA, CHAIRMAN
ALDERMAN FINN
ALDERMAN LANZI

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Voccola
Deputy Chief Hurliman
Alderman Chris Panek

◆ PUBLIC PORTION

Chairman Papa wished everyone a Happy New Year. Alderman Lanzi stated there were people here to speak about the item 2.10 and he would like the item to be moved up on the agenda.

ALDERMAN FINN MADE A MOTION TO MOVE ITEM #2.10 TO FIRST ITEM UNDER NEW BUSINESS. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Alderman Papa asked if anyone would like to speak to the commission on any items other than what is on the agenda.

◆ **AGENDA ITEMS**

◆ **CORRESPONDENCE**

There are 11 memos from Chief Voccola on items that he has taken a look at and acted on these items. They will be attached to the minutes:

Birdseye Road – Speeding Complaint – Alderman Finn discussed hump in road.

Bridgeport Avenue Traffic Island

Laurelwood at Longview Drive

Bridgeport Avenue at Old Stratford Road & Commerce Dr.

ATV/Dirt Bike Use – Buddington Rd/Grace Lane

Burturla Complaint – Nells Rock Road

Speeding Cars – Buddington Road

Far Mill River/Manhasset Trail – Chief received follow up on all requests sent to city yard.

Complaint of Brian Sedgewick – Municipal Lot Roaming Dog – Tulip Lane

Sign Repair – Meadow lark at Cardinal Drive

These letters can be seen as filed with these minutes in the City/Town Clerk's Office.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. REGULAR MEETING September 7, 2005

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FULL BOARD TO WAIVE THE READING AND APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY MEETING OF SEPTEMBER

**7, 2005. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR.
MOTION CARRIED 3-0.**

2. NEW BUSINESS

Item 2.10 was moved to beginning of new business

Request for Handicapped Accessible Doors at the Senior Center

Margaret Keane – 224 Lenore Drive –

Alderman Papa is discussing the letter sent to the commission about automatic doors at the Senior Center. Mrs. Keane would like some handicapped accessibility at the Senior Center with wheel chairs, people who have had strokes and needed walkers. They have no accessibility to the Senior Center unless someone is at the door trying to help them. The reason she is doing this is because if you try to put a person in a wheelchair, who is about 200 lbs., and try to push him through the doors that are there, the doors become like a vacuum and you are trying to get through the both doors backwards. Even if someone helps at the first door, you still have to struggle through the second door. It is to me discrimination. There are 43 million handicapped people in the United States and with the Baby Boomers and everything else, there will be a lot a people who would like to use the Center and can't because they can't get in.

Alderman Papa asks if she went to the Senior Citizens Commission. No she did not. Alderman Finn put this on the agenda and we are listening to it but it is a financial matter. Maybe LOCIP funds. Did you get a recommendation from the Senior Citizens Commission?

Alderman Finn states the doors come under the ADA act to have access for disabled people to all City Buildings. The Center said they don't want the first door open – people would be cold. But the doors would have a button, one door opens and then closes and then the other door opens by pushing another button. This is the same that is at the hospitals. You are not only dealing with people in wheelchairs, my daughter has been in a wheelchair for 30 years and they have the same problems. You also have to look for people with arthritis, canes. More people are having handicapped permits. More and more people need these aids under the ADA act.

Alderman Lanzi states this was brought up at the Senior Citizens Commission and was read at the meeting. Mr. Martin (a Senior Citizens Commission member) states they have no control over the building. The building belongs to the City.

Alderman Papa states he recommends she go to that Commission and then the Commission would make the recommendation to the City (Mayor) to allocate funds. Mr. Martin states that is what they agreed on. He feels every City Building should be treated the same. Alderman Lanzi states all the City Buildings are handicapped accessible. Mr. Martin asks about Auditorium. It is stated that there is an entrance from the back parking lot. But you cannot get from the Auditorium to the first floor without going around the outside of the building. Alderman Finn states he has been asking for years for a lift. He states it has not been filled.

Alderman Lanzi states everyone on the Senior Citizens Commission felt that there was no reason for the doors to be replaced. Bill Smarz (who was on the original building committee) stated at the meeting that the entrance to the Senior Center, the way it is constructed, it would be cost prohibitive to tear the whole area apart to put in the doors requested. The members suggested that a bell could be installed and when they ring it someone from the front desk could come out and help. Mrs. Keane states there is not always someone there. Alderman Papa asks is there no one in the building. Alderman Lanzi states there is always someone in the building. When they hear the bell someone will come to the front to help. This is the suggestion also of Mrs. Nesteriak and Mrs. Gannon.

Alderman Lanzi states someone will be there to help when the bell rings. Personnel will be instructed that when they hear the bell they will come to the front. Mrs. Keane states if the doors were installed a lot more people would use the center. Valley Transit helps them in when they bring them to the center. But if you are a person alone, you have a problem. Alderman Lanzi states they could call ahead for help.

Alderman Finn states when you are in a wheel chair or walker you want to be independent. You don't want to depend on others to help you. His daughter is very independent. Why should someone in a wheel chair have to sit outside the center waiting for someone to come open the doors? We have an ADA Commission in Shelton that hasn't met in two years. They need to meet to discuss some of these problems.

Alderman Lanzi states he agrees with some of this, but they always need someone there to help. They suggest a buzzer to get that help. That should take care some of the problems.

Alderman Papa states that situation with a buzzer is less invasive. They could try this way and see if it works.

Joe Coleman – 39 Poplar Drive – was at the commission meeting states he is there four or five days a week. He feels there are always enough people to help. He likes the idea – he likes the idea of trying something before they redesign the front doors. Alderman Papa feels the Senior Citizens Commission should be aware of this and to see how it works. If unsuccessful than they could look at another avenue.

Alderman Finn states they should write letters to the ADA and see if the buzzer is acceptable to make the building handicapped accessible.

Mr. Coleman asks if there is a law being violated with the doors being the way they are. Alderman Finn suggests they contact Marilyn Gannon.

Alderman Papa suggests the Senior Commission make a note to members of the situation with the buzzer and if this fails they can take other steps.

A Discussion continues about making one of the side doors into a handicapped electric door. Alderman Papa states this is a financial burden and probably could come from LOCIP funds. Alderman Papa

states they would only be recommending this to the City. Alderman Finn states they would go out for costs. Joe Sewack could do this. Alderman Finn states low taxes are great but you need the services to back it up.

Alderman Papa states to have the Chairman of Senior Center Commission send a letter to the Mayor. The Mayor has to give direction not the commission to tell Mr. Sewack to do this. Alderman Papa states it is a valid situation. Alderman Lanzi states they will take this back to the Commission.

Alderman Lanzi states that this is not an emergency and they will discuss it further at the next meeting. Alderman Papa states at your meeting you will decide what recommendation you would like and then sent a letter to the Mayor with these recommendations. The Mayor will respond to it.

Mrs. Keane mentions the side doors – into the pool room or sewing room. Mrs. Keane would like to go to the meeting. She is a caregiver and she can not always leave her husband.

Alderman Papa would like a copy of the letter sent to the Mayor also sent to them.

Mrs. Keane states you don't know how the situation is unless you go through it yourself.

2.1 REQUEST FOR 3 WAY STOP – EAST VILLAGE ROAD & LONGFELLOW

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A 3 WAY STOP TO BE INSTALLED AT THE INTERSECTION OF EAST VILLAGE ROAD AND LONGFELLOW. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

Alderman Papa would like the person or persons who request these items to be listed in the backup. Note to Clerk for person's name and address.

Alderman Finn states many people have requested this.

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO ADD TO THE AGENDA TWO ITEMS:

1. SLOW SIGN COMING DOWN HILL STREET AT THE INTERSECTION OF DIVISION AVE.
2. RIVER ROAD/MONTGOMERY STREET POLE #1361 CUT LOWER BRANCHES ON THE TREE SO THE LIGHT CAN BE SEEN.

2.2 REQUEST FOR 3 WAY STOP AT SOUNDVIEW AVE. & MAPLE AVE.

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO DENY THE INSTALLATION OF A STOP SIGN AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOUNDVIEW AND MAPLE AVE. AT THIS TIME DUE TO THE INTERSECTIONS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE DRIVEWAY OF ELIZABETH SHELTON SCHOOL. THERE WOULD BE PROBLEMS WITH BUSES NEGOTIATING A LEFT TURN FROM THE DRIVEWAY ONTO SOUNDVIEW AVE, CAUSING BUSES TO STOP PARTIALLY ACROSS THE ROADWAY, CREATING A POTENTIAL HAZARD OF BEING STRUCK BY A CAR. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PAPA.

Alderman Finn states the Kelley Family was almost hit by cars walking their dogs. The road is big enough for five cars across. He feels that removing the brush is not enough. Maple Avenue used to have an island in the middle. He would like the width of the road reduced and have the traffic division revisit this problem.

Chief Voccola states there are signs that say School and the speed is 25 MPH. Alderman Papa states this should go to the Street Committee.

Alderman Finn states the cars do not slow down when making the turn.

Chief Voccola states this should be sent to the City Engineer. He did his study and this is what he came up with. He can't reconstruct the road.

Alderman Finn states he would have to send a letter to Mrs. Nesteriak to be sent to City Engineer.

Alderman Papa asks about accidents on that corner. Chief Voccola states if there was an accident, he would have a report on it with him.

Alderman Panek asks about the school buses coming out onto Willoughby.

Alderman Lanzi draws a sketch of the area for Alderman Papa.

Alderman Finn states there is a curve in the road coming up Soundview Avenue. No hills involved.

The Chief states a two way is also not feasible.

This item will be tabled. No action taken.

2.3 ALARM ORDINANCE – REVIEW TO INCLUDE CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND THE FIRE MARSHALL TO FORWARD THE ALARM ORDINANCE TO CORPORATION COUNSEL FOR REVIEW. ALSO SEND TO PLANNING & ZONING, BUILDING INSPECTOR, BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONER AND OFFICERS COUNCIL. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

2.4 REQUEST FOR STREETLIGHT – PARTRIDGE LANE

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE FULL BOARD PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A 4000 LUMEN 50 WATT STREETLIGHT ON POLE #6171 LOCATED ON PARTRIDGE LANE AT A COST OF \$96.40 PER YEAR. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Alderman Papa asks who requested this item. The clerk should let the people know. The Chief states it is better for the Police to have the name of the person making a request so they could talk to them.

2.5 REQUEST FOR STREETLIGHT – RIDGE LANE

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION A REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A STREETLIGHT ON POLE #to be determined LOCATED ON RIDGE LANE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0

2.6 REQUEST FOR STREETLIGHT – OAK AVE. – POLE # 235

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION A REQUEST FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A STREETLIGHT ON POLE #235 LOCATED ON OAK AVE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Alderman Papa would like to know who requested this item.

Alderman Finn asks about sending items to the Chief directly and not go through Mrs. Nesteriak. Alderman Papa states this goes directly to the Chief from this committee.

2.7 REQUEST FOR STREETLIGHT – PARROT DRIVE

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION A REQUEST BY UNITED ILLUMINATING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF STREETLIGHTS TO BE LOCATED ON PARROT DRIVE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Alderman Papa states this request is coming from UI and he is not going to pay for lights for UI.

Alderman Finn states this has happened in the past and been denied.

Alderman Lanzi states there is a bend in the road on the Map. Chief Voccola states he will look at it.

2.8 SIGN REQUESTS

- **257 KNEEN STREET**
- **90 BIRDSEYE ROAD**
- **16 MEADOWLARK LANE**
- **ROUND HILL ROAD**
- **HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGN – 72 WOOSTER STREET**
- **ALLYNDALE COURT**
- **NIKE SITE – MOHEGAN ROAD**
- **LONG HILL AVE. & OJIBWA TRAIL**
- **MILL STREET**
- **LAKEVIEW AVE. AT LAKEVIEW AVE EXTENSION**
- **CONGRESS AVE.**

- MISTY LANE
- DOME DRIVE
- MURRAY AVE.

ALDERMAN FINN MOVED THAT THE FOLLOWING SIGN REQUESTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE BE APPROVED. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN LANZI. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0

- **257 KNEEN STREET – MOVE PER THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT “NO PARKING” SIGNS BE POSTED BY THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**
- **90 BIRDSEYE ROAD – MOVE PER THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT A “HIDDEN DRIVEWAY” SIGN BE INSTALLED EAST OF THE HOZA DRIVEWAY IN THE AREA OF SUMMIT RIDGE ROAD.**
- **16 MEADOWLARK LANE – MOVE PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT A DRIVEWAY WARNING SIGN BE PLACED AT THIS LOCATION.**
- **ROUND HILL ROAD – PER THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN NOTIFIED TO REPLACE THE STREET SIGN.**
- **72 WOOSTER STREET – MOVE PER THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT A “HANDICAPPED PARKING” SIGN BE INSTALLED AT 72 WOOSTER STREET.**
- **ALLYNDALE COURT – MOVE PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT A “DEAD END” SIGN BE INSTALLED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THIS STREET.**
- **NIKE SITE – MOHEGAN ROAD – MOVE PER THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT “10 MPH SPEED LIMIT” SIGNS BE INSTALLED AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE NIKE SITE.**
- **LONG HILL AVE. AT OJIBWA TRAIL – THE CHIEF OF POLICE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT THE HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT TRIM THE BRUSH AT THE INTERSECTION OF LONG HILL**

AVE. AT OJIBWA TRAIL IN ORDER THAT THE MOTORISTS CAN SEE THE CHILDREN AT THE BUS STOP AND THE "SLOW – SCHOOL BUS STOP" SIGNS THAT ARE CURRENTLY POSTED ON LONG HILL AVE.

- **MILL STREET – MOVE PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT "NO LITTERING" SIGNS BE INSTALLED ON EACH END OF MILL STREET AND THAT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT BE INSTRUCTED TO HAVE THIS STREET CLEANED, SWEEPED AND TRASH REMOVED.**
- **LAKEVIEW AVE. AT LAKEVIEW AVE. EXT. – MOVE PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO APPROVE THE INSTALLATION OF A "STOP SIGN" AT LAKEVIEW AVE. NORTHBOUND AT ITS INTERSECTION WITH WEST STREET AND THE INSTALLATION OF A "STOP" SIGN ON LAKEVIEW AVE. EXT. SOUTHBOUND AT THE INTERSECTION OF WEST STREET. FURTHER, THAT A "DEAD END" SIGN BE INSTALLED NORTHBOUND ON LAKEVIEW AVE. EXT. NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF WEST STREET.**
- **CONGRESS AVE. – MOVE PER THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT "DEAF CHILD" SIGNS BE INSTALLED ON BOTH ENDS OF CONGRESS AVE.**
- **19 MISTY LANE – MOVE PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT A "DEAD END" SIGN BE INSTALLED ON MISTY LANE AT THE INTERSECTION OF ADAMS DRIVE.**
- **DOMED DRIVE – PER THE CHIEF OF POLICE THE MISSING "STOP" SIGN BE REPLACED AT THE INTERSECTION OF ANDREW DRIVE AT DOME DRIVE.**
- **MURRAY AVENUE – MOVE PER THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE THAT A "STOP" SIGN BE INSTALLED ON ANN AVENUE AT THE INTERSECTION OF MURRAY. FURTHER, HE HAS INSTRUCTED THE OWNERS OF 44 ANN AVE. TO TRIM THE BRUSH ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF ANN AVE. & MURRAY AVE.**

2.9 REQUEST INCREASED STREETLIGHT WATTAGE – COTT ST. & BRIDGEPORT AVE.

This was requested by Al Sabetta.

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO FORWARD TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE FOR REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION THE REQUEST TO INCREASE THE WATTAGE OF THE STREETLIGHTS LOCATED AT COTT STREET AND BRIDGEPORT AVE. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

2.10 REQUEST FOR HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE DOORS AT THE SENIOR CENTER

This was discussed earlier in the meeting.

2.11 SLOW SIGN ON HILL STREET AND DIVISION AVE.

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO SEND TO THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO REVIEW. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0

2.12 RIVER ROAD – TREE BRANCH

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO FORWARD TO UI A REQUEST TO CUT BRUSH FROM POLE #1361 FOR BETTER VISIBILITY ON THAT CORNER. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 MAPLE AVE. AT HAYFIELD

Memo from Chief:

After a review of the area and of the five year accident data, I, as Chief of Police, acting as the legal Traffic Authority for the City of Shelton, authorized the installation of a three-way "Stop" sign at the intersection of Maple Avenue at Hayfield.

Among the more than 20 motor vehicle accidents in the Maple Avenue area in the past five years, two are most noteworthy-

- ◆ 11/24/04 fatal accident on Maple near Hayfield***

- ◆ *6/12/2005 accident with property damage (where a resident was nearly struck while doing yard work) on Maple near Hayfield*

Alderman Finn states the accident was near Ledgewood.

Alderman Panek states this request was sent before he was elected. He was going door to door and this was a question of the residents why it was put up.

Alderman Finn states people stated they didn't support the sign at that time. One person will come next month to speak about the stop sign. It is still an issue with the residents. Alderman Finn states he sees cars go through or roll through the stop sign. Some do stop.

Alderman Panek asks about who the authority is to put up stop sign. He understands the process now that the Chief of Police is the Traffic Authority for the City. The stop sign has been removed several times.

Alderman Papa states the requests come through this committee and they forward to the Chief.

3.2 STAIRWAY FROM MYRTLE STREET TO NAUGATUCK AVE.

The person requested this is out of town and asked if this could be tabled.

Alderman Papa states that there is one item – the drains for the runoff for the cleaning of the street for sand and this should be sent to Street Committee. The rest of the item will be tabled till next month.

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO SEND THIS ITEM FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF AN INSTALLATION OF A DRAIN FOR THE WATER RUNOFF TO THE STREET COMMITTEE FOR REVIEW. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED. 3-0.

Alderman Lanzi looked at this yard and sometime back the stairwell was put in because the people on Coram Gardens area wanted easy access to Grove Street. There are metal stairs that are rotting away probably because of water running under them. He is concerned someone would get hurt. This is on private property. It was maybe installed in the early 20's or 30's. He spoke to Corporation Counsel about this.

Mr. Kulacz is investigating this. The steps across from Echo Firehouse are the City's responsibility. Alderman Finn states through the Full Board two months ago funds from LOCIP were allocated to correct the problem.

4. REPORTS OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES

A. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

No one attended

B. POLICE SERVICES

Chief addressed items during meeting.

C. FIRE SERVICES

No one attended

ADJOURNMENT

ALDERMAN LANZI MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M. SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FINN. ALL IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

MARGARET WEBER,

**CLERK PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY
BOARD OF ALDERMEN**