



**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
S T R E E T C O M M I T T E E M E E T I N G
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
AT SHELTON CITY HALL, ROOM 104
54 HILL STREET, SHELTON, CT
AT 6:00 P.M.**

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE/CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Alderman McPherson on Tuesday, September 3, 2013 called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Aldermen Street Committee to order at 6:00 P.M. in Room 104, of Shelton City Hall and led the group in a pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present

Alderman McPherson, Chairman

Alderman Kudej

Alderman Farrell

Also Present

Paul DiMauro

Alderman Finn

ADD-ON:

*Before the meeting began, Chairman McPherson MOVED to place an add-on to the meeting agenda, under New Business:

Item 2.4: Hull Street Closure & Transfer to Inline Plastics Corporation. SECONDED by Alderman Farrell. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

AGENDA ITEMS:

1. MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

1.1 STREET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES- AUGUST 6, 2013

Alderman Kudej MOVED to waive the reading of the Street Committee Meeting Minutes of June 4, 2013. Aldermen Farrell SECONDED the motion. All were in favor and motion carried 3-0.

2. NEW BUSINESS

2.1 UPDATE ON ROAD REPAIRS- PAUL DIMAURO

Paul DiMauro: The contractor paving has been completed on Research Drive, Perry Hill Road, Wooster Street as you saw from Perry Hill Road down to Route 108. Belmont Avenue is completed in its entirety; Brook Street up to Route 110 and up to Wooster was done so we would have an interconnecting area of completely paved roads. Those are all of the other ones that we had outside contractors doing. We had done an extensive amount of leveling for chip sealing, which starts in about 2-3 weeks. We will be doing some micro surfacing on one of the roads that were pre-done, which was Plaskon Drive. In addition to that, we will be doing a section of Isinglass Road from Route 108 into Waverly.

On South Constitution, we are going to do up to Route 110 up to where it was rebuilt last time. We are going to put a micro surface on it. It will not be a long-term fix, but it will last us 6 to 8 years hopefully, and get us out of the woods for that area, because it is heavily travelled. We will probably crack seal it first; we picked a series of streets that we will be crack sealing ourselves. There will be crack sealing prior to micro surfacing, or chip sealing. Plus, like I say, all of the leveling, and I will give you a report for the next meeting.

We have a list of roads that we would like to get done for 2013; I would hate to put it up there and have to be pushed back by the weather; and having someone say that my road was not done. Be assured, if the road is on the list and if it is not done, it will get done for the beginning of next year. We have started to compile next year's list because the \$5 million will be spread in the course of a two-year construction period. It will give us very good coverage of all of the roads, and hopefully by November, I will probably give you a map of all of the roads that were completed over the last three or four years and what will be left to repair.

Besides doing that, the Highway Department did pave the entry circle at Elizabeth Shelton School, which had to be milled, dug up and repaved. On Booth Hill Road, we did an extensive amount of paving; there was a lot of cut and patching if you noticed on Soundview, but it will hold us and possibly do a chip seal next year if we do not get to it next year. That has been the type of work that we have been doing overall, and we also had to undertake the Chamberlain Drive culvert, that has been put off for a couple of years. It is a 48-inch culvert; 300 feet of it was a major project and Highways did it in-house completely.

To update you on Public Works activities, the old "Pink Elephant" on 40 Riverdale Road, now you can call it the "Brown Bear" because we changed the color to brown. It has been completely re-skinned, new installation, new roof on half of it; it was worked on a few years ago. All three large overhead doors were facing Riverdale and one was facing south. Two-thirds of the building is being leased to Landmark. The two overhead doors will be utilized for them at that end of the building for maintenance of the school buses. The next one down, we are going to loan to the Fire Department- when they have to lift a vehicle in the air. On that note, we just got a bid for portable jacks that will completely lift a fire truck to six units. It is in the area of \$50,000, but it is something that we need for these guys to get underneath a vehicle. The other bay that does not have an overhead door on it- it will be 1,200 square feet, and that will be used for Landmark offices.

The fire block wall has been installed already, and between our maintenance people and some maintenance people from Board of Ed will do some of the framing; all the electrical, framing, plumbing, from here on in, was done by a small contractor to get that going. For the work on the inside, Ernie put it on CAD; we had the drawing done. We met with the Fire Marshal and the Building Inspector and we are building the best space for them. I cannot give a deadline for when they will be going in there just yet. They are using the trailer on site, like the old company used to do, but this will give them a complex of

offices, dispatch offices; a place for their people to come in the morning and to be sent out. It is a major improvement to our property. Once that whole area has been completed, it is going to be drastically changed overnight.

The animal shelter will be pouring footings pretty soon, and we are getting ready for the pumping station for the storage tanks. I am preparing an area for them to install; that is going to be a joint effort to install the tanks and the pumping station. We have to run lines to them, lights, etc; so we have been working on that. That should be underway and coming soon. They are using a portable setup now; you will notice that there will be end blocks set up; so that is going around the perimeter to protect it. I think that area is going to be very attractive.

Chairman McPherson: Going forward after we have done that, maybe we can get Brewster Street done, and cleaned up.

Paul DiMauro: We are going to have to do something special from the bottom, up. We are going to be putting the sewer line in, and the water tap for the animal shelter from there. We will be coming from Brewster, so we cannot do that much now. Hopefully we get some planting done by the "Brown Bear", and then the old animal shelter will be coming down; we will take that grade down and use that overload parking for the bus drivers. It will work out well, and most of the cars will be able to get off the street.

Chairman McPherson: It is a nightmare for Charter Arms.

Alderman Kudej: Well, there are two companies over there; one is Charter Arms, and I do not know the name of the other one.

It is where Russell's Linen used to be.

Alderman Kudej: He bought the building and only uses half of it. The other half he rents it out to some other company.

Paul DiMauro: It is not our responsibility to have to do it, but they should either make arrangements to lease the property because they cannot park on the street corner like that. I already chased them out where the animal shelter is, because we are certainly not allowed to park there because it is too narrow.

Alderman Kudej: When we were there, not only the workers were parking on Brewster Street, but the bus people were also parking there as well.

Paul DiMauro: Right now everything is under construction. Once everything is all done, they will be able to park there; I should be able to get at least 30 or 40 places to park. I do not know why, but when they pull out next to the buses, they can't just park on their own; but that is their situation.
So that is basically all I have for what is going on right now.

Alderman Kudej: During the last meeting, we had the people from Wright Street. Did you ever get a chance to go down there?

Paul DiMauro: Yes I did, and we are going to put that on next year's list; it needs maintenance and leveling. We can level it but there is not that much we can do with the drainage over there; there is no where else to go with it so we will try to get it off the road as much as possible so there is no ice condition, no accumulation of puddles.

Alderman Kudej: I am sure they will be calling me before then.

Paul DiMauro: We told them at the meeting that it would get done next year, not this year. My hopes are to be able to take an entire area from Lafayette towards Wright Street, and go straight down, left and right and hit all of those side streets in one shot, and Coram Gardens and get all of that out of the way. On the side streets, like with my street, I chip sealed mine just to show that in the Downtown area you can do that successfully without making a mess. It looks good, and we had a lot of cracks on our street. I still see the cracks in front of my house but summertime came again, and nothing was coming through.

Alderman Kudej: With the mercy of Mother Nature, the water gets underneath there and freezes.

Paul DiMauro: That is what we do not want; that is the real issue.

Chairman McPherson: I have one other thing on the subject, and we will move on: Didn't we have map here?

Paul DiMauro: That is what I was talking about before, getting one here. I will get another one for you, once I know what is going to be done.

Chairmen McPherson: I wish there was some way that we can download a map on the city website.

Paul DiMauro: We can, and we will. What I will do is when I finally have time to play around with the computer; I will put something together and put it on the webpage. People have to understand how much we have done in the last three years. I would like to get something on the webpage.

- 2.2 ISLAND HOWE AVENUE (NEAR & UNDER ROUTE 8)- Alderman McPherson
- 2.3 ISLAND (INTERSECTION KNEEN & HOWE AVENUE)- POSSIBLE REMOVAL- Alderman McPherson

Items 2.2 and 2.3 were combined into one discussion.

Chairman McPherson: I have mentioned this to Jason Perillo: The Island just before you get to the Route 8 Bridge on Howe Avenue, you have one down this way and one under the bridge. They are really unattractive and I do not see a purpose that it does that the yellow line cannot do. You have the same thing on Kneen Street coming down. It is very unattractive, and it does not look good.

Paul DiMauro: I know they do not look good, but even in fairness, when you are going slowly, it does nudge you from going into traffic on the other side; it does delineate the side. I do not think that we want to see a barrier in there but it does break you away from going on the other side. I think you will find that the state will give you opposition to do that, from a safety standpoint.

Chairman McPherson: Even where Howe Avenue and Kneen Street meet?

Paul DiMauro: Yes definitely, because of the way that traffic comes in, out and around. If you think about it, if you are taking a left if you are coming down Kneen Street; it is the last location where you can go before you can turn left. If you do not have it down there, people are going to go further when they miss the corner, and they will try to sweep back up. Those are the things that we do not think about.

Alderman Kudej: There is a problem there. I was involved in an accident over there about 4 years ago. I was going up Howe Avenue, and there was a guy on my right that I thought was going to make the turn, and get onto Route 8. When we got to the end of

the esplanade, he decided he had to get to Derby, and he made a U-turn in front of me, and I plowed into the side of him.

Paul DiMauro: Exactly. That is a very good example of what can happen on the other one. If that island were a little further up where you could not do it; then yes you have to then come down and make a left off of it.

Alderman Kudej: What really caused it; he wanted to go to New Haven.

Paul DiMauro: So he thought was going towards New Haven.

Alderman Kudej: With the signs, I talked to Jason, and a few others about it: When you come to make that right hand turn at where the sign that says Waterbury- Route 8 North, it does not have anything where you can go to New Haven, to Route 34, so if there was a sign that was placed to go to New Haven also.

Paul DiMauro: Well we should have a sign that says towards New Haven.

Alderman Kudej: Well we do not have one.

Paul DiMauro: Is there one when you get off Route 8 to go towards Route 34?

Alderman Kudej: I do not think so.

Paul DiMauro: If you go over the Commodore Bridge, you would think that there would be a sign there that says 'Towards New Haven'.

Alderman Kudej: Coming up Howe Avenue though, you are in the quandary. You know that you will make that right hand turn and you will get on Route 8 to get to Waterbury.

Paul DiMauro: It should say 'Waterbury and New Haven'. What does it say coming towards the other way to Downtown?

That is a very interesting point. I am going to ask whom I can talk to at the State, to ask about signage, and that type of thing.

Alderman Kudej: I was involved in another accident, involving the same thing, and I was saying that someone is going to get killed there one of these days.

Paul DiMauro: I agree with you; I do not know who thinks of these things or where they go. I always love the idea of going on Route 34, heading toward New Haven on Route 34 and seeing the sign for the Merritt Parkway, and a sign for New Haven telling you to get on the Merritt Parkway, going toward the tunnel. If I am going to New Haven on the Merritt Parkway, you want to go straight ahead but it should give you the option for both ways. It is not even bringing you towards the center of New Haven. I thought the signs were supposed to direct you towards the center, not the outskirts of New Haven. That sign is wrong.

Alderman Farrell: They are supposed to direct you toward the center of New Haven, and I know those roads like the back of my hand. That is a terrible sign there.

Paul DiMauro: I have been seeing that sign there, and I thought we should mention that; that is a stupid sign that does not belong there. I do not know what is on the Merritt Parkway. There should be an exit on Route 34, when you are coming north to say, 'New Haven Right on Route 34'.

Alderman Farrell: Over there it says 'Yale Bowl' and 'West Haven'. When you are getting off onto Derby Avenue, of the Merritt Parkway, there is a big sign that reads 'Yale Bowl', 'West Haven'.

Paul DiMauro: That is not right.

Alderman Farrell: I think of that every time I go by there.

2.4: HULL STREET CLOSURE & TRANSFER TO INLINE PLASTICS CORPORATION- DISCUSSION

Chairman McPherson: Here is the map, and to give you a quick briefing: Here you have Inline Plastics, and over there I think that was the old Oaks Brothers Building.

Paul DiMauro: No, Oaks Brothers was on the corner of Wharf Street.

Chairman McPherson: Inline Plastics took over the building next door to them.

Alderman Kudej: Inline Plastics used to be part of the Sponge Rubber.

Chairman McPherson: Anyway, they took over the building and they are doing repairs to it on the outside. I am familiar with it because they were at a Downtown Sub-Committee Meeting, and the subject came up of the little section of Hull Street, in which they have an interest on taking that over. Since it does not do us any good to have it, the thought it to let them take control of it and put it back on the tax rolls is a good idea.

Paul DiMauro: That is a good idea; anytime when you can take a piece of land off the City that we are not going to use- we have no reason to own that. (Looking on the map)- Now both sides of that are owned by them.

Chairman McPherson: It is crazy to me that we have it, when we can give it back to them to put it back on the tax rolls.

Having said that, Stan and I feel that it is nice you want to have that, but we feel that there are things that they need to do; to repair the sidewalk, and I did mention that at the Downtown Sub-Committee Meeting. John Ruffalo, the architect, was there and I had said that we have the program, for 50% reimbursement to repair and replace the concrete sidewalk. Since he was doing exterior repairs anyway, he can also do this with the sidewalk, it goes over from Wharf to Hull Street.

Paul DiMauro: They should rebuild the sidewalk. So you are offering to contribute to that?

Why would you offer to contribute because we are already giving them something?

Alderman Kudej: I was at City Hall with John Anglace, and John started to question me about giving Hull Street to the people? I said that would be great; I asked what we would get in return.

Paul DiMauro: That is exactly the point.

Alderman Kudej: I said I would be willing to give them the street; let them do something with the sidewalk and maybe the fence.

Paul DiMauro: Do you want a suggestion?

Alderman Kudej: John also brought it up in the legal meeting, and I told Eric about it, and we have been working together to hammer this thing through.

Paul DiMauro: I would suggest two things: Have the sidewalk rebuilt and have the sidewalk lined up with some sort of tree. Why not make the area look right? If you are going to do that, you should put sidewalks in, and let Ruffalo come up with a planting plan because all you have there is a building all the way around, which is not attractive for the City.

Chairman McPherson: Then you have that awful looking fence with all of the overgrowth, so Stan and I said that we do not have a problem with that, and it is good to put that back on the tax rolls. However, we think that they should address the sidewalk, and clean up all the overgrowth hanging over the fence. I also like your idea of planting some nice trees, but they have to be the right kind of trees.

Paul DiMauro: They have to be the right type of tree that is accepted by the Tree Warden.

Chairman McPherson: If you look at the trees on Howe Avenue, they were put there in the mid 80s, and they were the wrong kind of tree.

Paul DiMauro: They are not necessarily the wrong kind of tree; it is also whether you maintain those trees. If you want trees to be right in an area, you have to trim and maintain them. I have a cherry tree in front of my house that is 30 years old, and I keep it cut back constantly; you have to.

Chairman McPherson: Some of the trees do not even match; you have one type of one tree and another as a flowering crabapple.

Paul DiMauro: They should come up with a standard type of tree for the Downtown area. I would not think it would hurt to have something there that looks attractive.

Chairman McPherson: I would make this a part of the motion that the Street Committee moves to recommend of that portion of Hull Street closed or abandon?

Paul DiMauro: Attorney Farrell: Abandon a street.

Chairman McPherson MOVED to recommend to the Full Board to abandon the portion of Hull Street from Wharf Street, to the Inline Plastics Building, subject to negotiations of the Mayor and the abutting property owner; and to empower the Mayor to negotiate the terms and the conditions with the abutting property owner to take ownership of the property. SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 3-0.

3. OLD BUSINESS

3.1 UPDATE- TRASH ORDINANCE – (PROGRESS MADE) - ALDERMAN MCPHERSON

Chairman McPherson: I think it is very important that people know the success that we have had with this ordinance. Stan and I have noticed a real difference, especially in the Downtown area. Of course you get the occasional landlord or tenant that dumps the stuff out, but we really made a lot of progress and we are cutting down significantly on the amount of trash. That is why I wanted to put this on the agenda, and if Paul has anything else to add with the progress we have made with the trash ordinance.

Paul DiMauro: I am looking through right now, and at this time I do not feel that I need to make any change in the ordinance itself. It doesn't prohibit the actions that we need to take. There are two parts of it, and if I do have to clarify that, we may be able to do it by policy or if I have to come back for a change, I will.

There are two issues: if someone leaves something on a sidewalk, etc, there is also the sidewalk ordinance; as Public Works Director I can take care of that. If it is impeding traffic, I can go in- I would rather handle that type of an issue in the sidewalk ordinance, where the trash is blocking the sidewalk. In the trash ordinance, in the section about removal: if there is stolen trash on your property, whether it be commercial or residential, if it is not in the proper container, then within the trash ordinance, we can go after them in that respect. That is why I have to give them notice of 5 or 10 days, per the ordinance; then we can go in and bill them. When a sidewalk is blocked, I want to be able to act immediately; for example there was one on Howe Avenue. We called the landlord, and she said that she would have her sons take care of it.

Alderman Farrell: What was the matter with it?

Paul DiMauro: The tenant moved out, and left all of their stuff on the sidewalk; this happens all the time. We are getting to know the landlords, so now we are all in tune with all of the people in the trouble areas. We know where the landlords are, so we will get them a courtesy call.

Alderman Farrell: This couch was out there for a month, and a mattress was out there for at least 3 months before that took effect.

Paul DiMauro: We will take care any of that nature if we are given notice. Sooner or later, we are going to go after the one on Long Hill Crossroads. We get on the ones that are on the street, and I think Downtown looks 100% better. You will get the occasional one that puts something out in the wrong place, but the people along Howe Avenue, near Route 8 have gotten smart about it. They are smart because they put the containers out so no one can park; to make sure that their garbage is picked up. It has been working a lot better, and there is always going to be a problem in this district.

Alderman Kudej: People are getting better by the day.

Paul DiMauro: It will be a year on September 1st, and all of those questions like: Where to place the container and the size, has all gone away.

Alderman Farrell: What do you do with all of the trash that is left on the road?

Paul DiMauro: It is a tough thing to do, and quite honestly, we do not have all of the resources.

Alderman Farrell: I know, but it is dangerous. You cannot go out there to pick it up because you will get killed the first week.

Chairman McPherson: In the case of 290 Howe Avenue, she is a repeat violator. What I do, as soon as see that a tenant moves out, I call the Housing Officer and I have him contact her, because they are moving the next one in without a CO. Any 'for rent' I see on Howe Avenue, Perry and parts of Coram Avenue-

Paul DiMauro: Are they following up with it?

Chairman McPherson: Ben McGorty just took the position, and I know that he is on top of them.

Paul DiMauro: Which position?

Chairman McPherson: He is also the Housing Officer; he is still a Deputy Fire Marshal but he is also the Housing Officer.

Paul DiMauro: As Housing Officer, how far does that carry him?

Alderman Kudej: He is supposed to be a blight officer.

Chairman McPherson: Charlene and Fred Wills do the blight, but Ben said he was the Housing Officer.

Paul DiMauro: I understand that the Building Inspector is the person who gives a permit for a re-rent. If you are renting out an apartment, you have to get a permit from the building inspector.

Chairman McPherson: Well he has something to do with it.

Paul DiMauro: Maybe he is doing the enforcements. Which department is he working for?

Chairman McPherson: Possibly out of the Building Department, but his office is where the old Registrar's Office used to be.

Paul DiMauro: I would love to know who is doing what- I also know that there are two boarding houses that are operating- one on Howe Avenue, next to the senior citizens, and the other one on Myrtle Street; just off Coram. So, there are two roaming houses that are running illegally. There are other places where they call them one-family, but it is two-family and two-family but they are considered four families. These are all illegal because they are cheating us out of taxes.

Alderman Farrell: The noise ordinance is driving me crazy; again at 6 in the morning I was down at Walmart. I have been meeting with the recycling people, and I finally got that straightened out. The people are sleeping a bit better, but this morning was awful.

Paul DiMauro: You are right, but they really need to enforce these things.

Alderman Farrell: I am getting that enforced because I am working really hard on that; John Anglace worked on it with me. Before Joe Salemme sold the recycling place, he cut it down. The new people that own the recycling place; there is so much noise. It was this past week, and we met with them again. I met with them, and John and I met with Joe Salemme.

Paul DiMauro: Did you find these people responsive so far?

Alderman Farrell: Yes, they are very nice.

Paul DiMauro: Let me tell you, I went up there to give Marilyn a tour of the new recycling place, and I was astonished on how neat and clean they are. All of the equipment is lined up perfectly; the most impressive were the people shredding in the back; the way they have everything set up. They made everyone clean up their act.

Alderman Farrell: The complex is different, and when I was leaving there, there were speed bumps across the road. Let's say D'Addario's has a place in the back to paint the cars, and every morning at quarter after 4, the recycling people were picking up the container and dropping the container; it woke everyone up in my complex and the complex right next to us. I went and took the numbers off of the containers, all on Bridgeport Avenue and I wrote them up. Now it has stopped; it has now been 2 weeks that we did not have any noise from them. However, at Walmart, they do not care.

Paul DiMauro: What company is hauling for them; do you know?

Alderman Farrell: It is Walmart's own people, with their yellow things that make a beeping noise.

Paul DiMauro: You mean the forklifts?

Alderman Farrell: Yes, it starts around quarter to 6 in the morning, and the noise ordinance says that they cannot do that until 7:30.

Paul DiMauro: Who is supposed to enforce that?

Alderman Farrell: John Anglace was going to talk to Chief Hurliman. I have called the police a couple of times.

Paul DiMauro: You do not need more ordinances; there needs to be more enforcement on what you have.

Alderman Farrell: If it happens tomorrow, I am calling Joel; he gave me his cell phone number.

Paul DiMauro: So, I would still like to bring up the parking lot. If you need me to get information from the City Engineer on the description, send it formally.

Chairman McPherson: I agree with that, let's see if we can get that on for the next month.

Alderman Farrell: Which parking lot?

Paul DiMauro: The parking lot on the corner of Cornell Street and Coram. The City bought that years back for parking, but we do not use it. So what you have are the people that own the property is using it. Let them buy and split it, or whatever it may be. Getting it back on the tax rolls is where I am getting at. The other thing I brought up was the possibility of abandoning Maltby Street, from Coram to Route 110. In that case, you would offer it to the adjoining property owners if they want it for fair market value. Honestly in the wintertime when it gets real bad, we close it off. I will also send the means for that street also; giving you a formal letter to recommend abandoning the street, and the back up that is necessary to follow.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Alderman McPherson made a motion to adjourn the Board of Aldermen Street Committee meeting. The motion was seconded by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken; all were in favor motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Brittany Gannon

Brittany Gannon

