

**TOWN OF SOUTHLINGTON  
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 6, 2013

Present: *Members:* Chairman Peter Romano, Christopher Palmieri, Sandra Feld, Albert Natelli, Garry Brumback. *Ex-Officio Members:* Jim Grappone, Annette Turnquist.  
Absent: Chief Jack Daly, John DeGioia, Fred Rogers  
*Others:* Ed Humel, ProEnergy.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman Romano called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT.

**MINUTES:** Motion by Sandra Feld, seconded by Chris Palmieri, to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2013 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMUNICATIONS:**

a. Reports on Ongoing Operations/Special Notices

- i. Bulky Waste Station: Sandy Feld asked about the scanners. They are on order and we are hopeful that by the end of the month they will be available and programmed prior to the spring push at the transfer station.
- ii. Leaf Program: No report.
- iii. Retention/Detention Pond Maintenance: We are in the process of making sure they are clear and clean and able to accept the melting snow. Highway and Parks departments are doing that.
- iv. Parks Department: No report.
- v. Police Department: Chief Daly had spoken to Pete Romano about a potential issue with the roof at the dog pound. We talked about going forward with roofs. We will have a consultant come in and determine the best way to repair it. When it comes to replacing roofs, we will hire an independent roof architect to come in and evaluate what kind of roof is best for that facility and write the spec so that everyone can compete.
- vi. Snow Removal: We have had a significant snow event with Charlotte the weekend of February 9<sup>th</sup>. At this particular point, the total cost to the town is a little over \$420,000. We are compiling all of the information to send to FEMA who has told us that they will consider reimbursement eligible expenses for the most intensive 48 hours of the storm. We get to choose those hours. However, we will try to get this information to FEMA as quickly as possible in the hopes that the Governor is successful in his request to extend that to 72 hours. This could potentially mean as much as \$150,000 back to the town.
- vii. Storm Drainage Maintenance: Same as retention/detention pond maintenance. We are trying to make sure the storm drains are clear to be prepared to accept any future storms and runoff of snow melting.

- viii. Street Lights: Discussion under New Business.
  - ix. Water Department: Water Department was not there but Garry Brumback updated the committee with the information that the Water Department has now submitted their GIS maps with their construction plans for the next couple of years which allows us to put the town maps and all of the utilities on one set of GIS maps. We hope to make that public by the end of the month.
  - x. Other: Nothing.
- b. Members Communications  
No specific comments from members.
  - c. Public Communications  
Art Cyr was the only citizen who spoke, and he talked about street lights.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Report & Discussion on Street Lights with owner of Pro Energy  
There was significant discussion with Ed Humel who is the owner of Pro Energy. He discussed the last reports that they had sent. He accepted responsibility for the problems we have had with both reporting and fixing lights over the last several months. He attributed some of the problems to his organization and some of the problems due to a backlog related to Storm Sandy. He did report that all of the requests for services have now been submitted to CL&P or been repaired. He has established 13 zones throughout the town for his night rides to evaluate working and nonworking street lights, and will do one zone each Monday. Therefore, he will be able to cover the entire town every quarter which is his obligation based on the contract.

Chris Palmieri asked a question about what can be done with the old numbers on the poles. Some of them are missing and some don't exist. Ed responded that he is replacing them as he can but is only able to replace them on town-owned poles. They are reporting the numbers that are missing to CL&P for their poles. Chris also asked about problems with some street lights being on all day and Ed basically said that if his folks see them while they are working in town, they note it and try to fix it, but this is an area that the Police Department and residents would be very helpful, and he encouraged people to report street lights that are on all day. In conclusion, Chris Palmieri thanked him for the new updated reports and told him that these were exactly what he was looking for and was grateful.

Pete Romano asked Ed if there was such a thing as a shared file that we could use to update the street light outage list in order to keep the information from becoming redundant, and town staff said that we would ask Jay Baker to look into the possibility of this.

Pete Romano's next question was when is the contract up, and the answer is May 2014. Pete asked Ed if there was a better way to structure the contract where he wasn't losing money but the town was getting quality service. Ed didn't think so, and he felt that the

service issues were related to Storm Sandy and the financial issues he should recover from over time.

Pete Romano's last question was what is the status of shifting to LED lights? Ed answered that LED lights are expensive but would justify themselves if we were getting credit for all of the energy savings, but we are not. CL&P gives us a discount on the poles and lights but because our individual lights are not metered, that discount makes the return on investment for LED lights not nearly as attractive.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

a. Capital Improvement Program

Garry Brumback stated that the CIP was submitted as part of the budget.

b. Road Improvement Program - Update

We have Belleview designed and prepared for construction when the weather gets better. Next up is Marion Avenue which is partially designed. Last in the early spring is Clark Street. After Clark, we will begin working on the Pavement Management System list, chip sealing, milling and overlaying.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Romano, Jr.  
Chairman