

TOWN OF SOUTHTON
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2013

Present: *Members:* Chairman Peter Romano, Chief Jack Daly, Sandra Feld, Garry Brumback, Albert Natelli. *Ex-Officio Members:* Keith Hayden, Steve Wlodkowski.
Absent: Christopher Palmieri, Fred Rogers

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Romano called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 75 Main Street, Southington, CT.

MINUTES: Motion by Sandra Feld, seconded by Garry Brumback, to accept the minutes of the April 3, 2013 meeting. Motion carried with abstentions by Chief Daly and Al Natelli.

COMMUNICATIONS:

a. Reports on Ongoing Operations/Special Notices

- i. Bulky Waste Station: We have continued to experience issues with expired stickers despite telling those with expired stickers that they may dump once throughout April but could not dump again. We intend to enforce stickers beginning Saturday, May 4. Steve Wlodkowski is requesting Police support for two reasons. There is excessive speeding coming up to the transfer station which is putting the folks at the gate at risk, and there has been some belligerent behavior that has caused folks at the gate to feel unsafe. Steve will work with Chief Daly to sort through that.
- ii. Leaf Program: Stephanie Urillo submitted a letter (attached) requesting that the Public Works Committee support moving the beginning of town leaf pickup back a week because she feels that the leaves have not dropped all the way and we are initiating the program too early. Steve Wlodkowski responded to the letter saying that the majority of the time we have managed to get most of the leaves and recognizing that Zone One is a little early. That is why we hit Zone One twice. He does not believe it is necessary but will defer to the Council because the committee at the time did not recommend changing the process as it currently stands.
- iii. Retention/Detention Pond Maintenance: We are done with the maintenance on the north side and will basically split the town in two so that every other year the ponds get maintained so next year the south side will get maintained. We will rotate that way going forward.
- iv. Parks Department: They are working on the ball fields making sure the irrigation systems are all up and running in preparation for the summer season. They will be asking for the tennis courts bids to be accepted later on in this meeting.
- v. Police Department: Chief Daly asked about the roof on the dog pound. We decided we would have an independent architect determine what the right roof is, then budget it for next year. It is a two-step process. It used to be one where the roof contractor came in and told us how much it would cost to fix the roof. Now we will

have an architect determine what kind of roof we should have and budget for the correct roof.

- vi. Snow Removal: Done.
- vii. Storm Drainage Maintenance: Catch basins adjacent to or supporting all of the roads and we are staying up with them reasonably well.
- viii. Street Lights: There are 29 open reports. Six have been for a long time. It seems that the contractor's reports are coming in regularly and that significant progress has been made.
- ix. Water Department: The Water Department sent in an email. Their email basically is they are doing small water jobs for the 2013 season, primarily to stay in front of the town's paving schedule. They will be doing West Main Street, West Queen Street, Clark Street and South Center. He also wanted everybody to know he was in the middle of an 8-24 transfer for Columbus Avenue.
- x. Other: No report

b. Members Communications

Garry Brumback brought up the fact that we have had significant challenges with mailbox claims because the cost of mailboxes can differentiate significantly. Our proposal is to look at what other towns are doing and recommend adopting a new reimbursement policy at the next meeting.

c. Public Communications

Art Cyr talked about the Greeley Lane patch job. He was happy about the progress in streetlights. He wanted to know if we can fix the bubbler at Panthorn Park. He supported the leaf program and said things were going well at the transfer station.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Rails to Trails – Future Phases. Dr. Natelli talked about Plainville is in design for their piece of the trail. SRS is working on their piece of the trail between Curtiss and Lazy Lane, and he is suggesting that we start the planning process to complete our piece of the trail toward Plainville.
- b. Trench Bids. Bids will hit the streets on Thursday, May 2.
- c. Tennis Court repair bids were in. Dr. Natelli made a motion recommending accepting the bid from TJJ Industries for \$18,225.00, seconded by Chief Daly. Motion passed 6-0.
- d. Guardrail bids were also in. Motion by Chief Daly, seconded by Sandy Feld to recommend approval of the bid from Eagle Fence & Guardrail for \$46,377.80. Motion carried 4-0-2 abstentions (Romano abstained because he works for the company. Dr. Natelli also abstained).

OLD BUSINESS:

- e. Road Improvement Program – Update. Making great progress on Belleview.
- f. Safe Routes to School – issue with ConnDOT. Keith Hayden is working on the issue with ConnDOT. Got good feedback from FEMA and are optimistic that we can have a decent result.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other business, Al Natelli made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Sandy Feld.
Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Romano, Jr.
Chairman

Attachment: Letter from Dr. S. Urillo

1 May 2013

Chairman Romano & members of the Public Works Committee:

I am writing to this committee regarding the leaf pick-up program, which is on the agenda for today's meeting. I am requesting that the leaf pick-up commence one week later than it has historically has commenced.

The reason for this is twofold. First (speaking as a private citizen), for the past two years, and with all the fury Mother Nature has to offer, the program was delayed for at least one week. On October 29, 2011, we had the freak winter snow storm. On October 29, 2012, we had Superstorm Sandy. In addition, leaves do not fall that early, especially the oak leaves. As they say, "You can't rush Mother Nature!" With the best attempts by Southington citizens, there are not leaves to put out by the curb, because they have not yet fallen!

Second (speaking as a Town Counciler), we have heard, at more than one Town Council meeting, from citizens who have not had the leaves to put out to the curb because they had not yet fallen, but did so only to find that they were not picked up. The town graciously returned to these streets & picked up the leaves at additional town expense. While, I am told, that this is the exception, I truly believe that if pick-up were delayed by one week, this situation would not have occurred.

I have been told that it takes time to convert town apparatus to handle plowing snow. Historically, snow had not yet begun to fall until later in December or in January. Surely, it cannot take weeks for this conversion! My lawn tractor takes less than an hour! While that is not a big truck, are not the individuals doing the conversion experienced mechanics? In addition, does the town not contract out some of the leaf pick-up? I recall approving the contracts at Town Council meetings.

Again, I respectfully request that the beginning of Town leaf pick-up be at least one week later than it has in the past. And, I request that this letter be read into the minutes of today's meeting.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Urillo

360 North Main Street

Southington, CT 06489