

**Town of Southington
Public Works Committee**

Committee Members:

Michael DeSanto, Chair	Present
Paul Chaplinsky Jr., Vice Chair	Present
Christopher Poulos	Present
Ed Pocock Jr.	Present
Susan Zoni	Present
Chief Jack Daly	Present
Bill Casarella, SWD Supt.	Present (late)
James Grappone, ex-officio	Present
Annette Turnquist, ex-officio	Present

Contact Person:

Annette S. Turnquist,
Director of Public Works /
Town Engineer
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MINUTES

Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

Webex Meeting

<https://southingtonct.webex.com/southingtonct/j.php?MTID=mb25341583c159a3bf2396cefb8750ad4>

Meeting number (access code): 179 276 2527

Meeting password: 1234

To call in from a mobile device (attendees only)
+1-408-418-9388

1. Call to Order – Quorum *The Webex meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.*
2. Approval of Minutes
 - i. 11-4-20 Meeting Minutes *Motion to approve – Daly/Zoni 6-0 approve (Casarella not yet present)*
3. Communications
 - a. Police Department *The Chief reported that the PD roof is about 90% complete. The flat part of the roof will be started Monday. The Chief thanked Jim Grappone for his help with the project.*

Mr. Chaplinsky asked who the contractor was.

Mr. Grappone responded that it is BMP construction.

Mr. DeSanto asked about warranties since the first PD roof only lasted 18 years.

Mr. Grappone began by saying he was going to research whether or not the Town should submit a claim for the original roof. He mentioned the underlayment (plywood) is in good shape. Shingles were showing a lot of wear, and they probably should have lasted more than 18 years. We are getting a 25-year, written warranty for the new roof.

Mr. DeSanto brought up vandalism along the trail. He had a call from a constituent regarding recent vandalism to the butterfly mural, and she was suggesting that the trail should have lights.

Chief Daly said that lights and cameras were recommended along the trail from construction of the first section. They were not put in place for financial reasons. It is still the Chief's recommendation that all sections of the trail should have lights and cameras. Concerning the butterfly mural vandalism, it is on private property. PD has one person who did it. Had him remove some of the vandalism, but they are waiting the hear back from the people who painted the mural. They do not want the mural to be scrubbed off with the vandalism.

Mr. DeSanto asked if there is any way to navigate the trail for patrol. He mentioned the bollards at various locations along the trail. He also acknowledged the trail is closed from dusk to dawn.

The Chief said they have the ability to unlock and remove the bollards. But he said the ability to patrol the trail is limited at best.

Mr. Poulos agreed the trail should have lights and cameras. He runs every morning and sees people using the trail in the dark all the time. He has seen some strange characters. He thinks the lights and cameras are important for the safety of anyone using the trail at any time. It would give us a way to know if someone is in distress. Mr. Poulos questioned how a project like this would be funded. Who would be responsible? Mr. DeSanto believes getting an estimate is warranted. He questioned how lighting would affect the fact that the trail is closed from dusk to dawn. He asked the Chief's opinion.

Chief Daly suggested having the IT Department look into the cameras. He also mentioned that cameras should be installed in the parks due to vandalism there as well. Cameras are the future of policing and society, but he believes this would be a very expensive undertaking.

Mr. Casarella said he believes there is still a camera at their well #1 site which was put up for the trail. He recalls it being very costly to install.

Chief Daly thinks PD IT was involved and got a price for the entire trail, but it was approximately 10 years ago. He offered to talk to Jay Baker to see if he could come up with a solution or contact vendors, but he thinks it will be quite costly.

Mr. DeSanto sees no harm in getting a price. He asked if Jay would also take care of the lighting.

Mrs. Turnquist said she could look into the lighting. She indicated it is not very costly for the power, especially if the lights are billed similarly to our streetlights. But the cost could be high depending on the post and fixture chosen. For example, the green lights downtown are over \$7,000 a piece.

Mr. DeSanto thinks that lighting alone may reduce the amount of vandalism, and cameras may not even be needed.

Mr. Chaplinsky suggested reaching out to universities because they all have police posts where you can push a button and indicate you need help. You could integrate a light and camera into the same mechanism.

Mr. Casarella mentioned they had something like this near the old Water Department on Mill Street. He indicated there was a lot of vandalism in the area. They had a drinking fountain that was vandalized every year. Mr. Casarella and Chief Daly indicated the police box was disabled years ago.

Mr. DeSanto would like a price to light the trail, and would like Jay to get a price for cameras. The cameras may not need to be along the whole trail, perhaps just trouble areas.

Mr. Chaplinsky suggested looking to see if any State grants are available.

Mr. Poulos suggested budgeting over time and doing it in phases.

Mr. Chaplinsky would like to see lights and cameras included in the last phase of the trail project adjacent to Plainville.

b. Bulky Waste Transfer Station

i. 2021 Schedule

- i. Every Saturday in November Mrs. Turnquist and Mark Sciota discussed having the Transfer Station open every Saturday in November. In previous years, it has been every other Saturday. November seems to be very busy. The last Saturday it was open, we had 1,700 cars. Usually, 1,000 cars is a lot. It really only adds one Saturday, because it will not be open the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Mrs. Turnquist then mentioned that the Transfer Station is usually open every other Saturday during March, but doing so in 2021 would result in it being closed for three consecutive weeks because of when Easter falls. Therefore, she recommends being open both March 20th and 27th. Springtime would not be a good time of year to be closed three weekends in a row.

c. Highway/Parks Department

- i. Leaves Mrs. Turnquist reported that as of this afternoon, about 90% of the leaves have done for the second pass of zone 1. Weather permitting, we should be able to finish up zone 1 by the end of the week. We are letting the contractors go after tomorrow and will be finishing up with Town forces and Town equipment.

The two new leaf machines have been a great help this year. If we could get a few more, it might even be possible to eliminate contractors. Upon completion of zone 1, we may go back to some heavy areas in zone 2 provided there is time and the weather holds out.

- ii. *Christmas Mrs. Turnquist reported the Highway/Parks Department started decorating the greens on Tuesday. The tree lighting is Friday. It will be a small event, just the child who was picked and the parents. We cannot do the White Christmas in the Community like we usually do, but Dawn Miceli came up with the idea of doing a "stroll." It is starting December 16th along the trail near Zingarella's and Factory Square, and it will run for two or three weeks. We will be setting up the lighted structures, bringing in Christmas trees, and decorating some existing features. People can walk along the trail or drive by. It is not our typical celebration, but it will still be nice for people to have something positive to do during the holidays.*

Mr. Chaplinski congratulated Emily Cooper for being the child chosen to light the Christmas tree on the green. He brought up the manger on the green and asked if we were doing anything differently to deter stealing of the pieces.

Mrs. Turnquist indicated that nothing different is being done. A camera would be great, but it is not likely. In the past, chicken wire has been put over the manger, but it looks terrible.

Mr. Chaplinsky agreed that he did not want chicken wire. He asked if we have the ability to replace the pieces if anything gets stolen.

Mrs. Turnquist said we would find a way to get them replaced.

- iii. *Tennis Courts Mrs. Turnquist explained that Panthorn is holding up ok, but there is some cracking at Memorial and Rec. Most of it is very small, virtually hairline. There are two different types of cracks occurring. One type is due to a failure of the product used. The vendor has been out there. They own it and will repair the cracks of this nature. The other cracks are very common according to the vendor. He explained that because the tennis courts were neglected for so long, there were some significantly sized cracks. Once those cracks are sealed using the Riteway system, groundwater looks for another way to escape. There is high groundwater at both Memorial and Rec. This is what causes the new cracks to form. The vendor said it is to be expected and should be addressed with annual maintenance budgeted for going forward. The contract clearly indicates new cracks are the responsibility of the Town, but I had a conversation with the vendor. I explained that this was not sitting well with the Town since we are not even a year out from the reconstruction. The new cracks are only about 20 lf at one park and 30 lf at the other. It probably amounts to between \$1,000 and \$2,000 for repair. We spent close to a quarter of a million dollars with this vendor. They understood and are going to cover the repair of the new cracks for this year. They want the courts to sit through the winter, and they will reevaluate in the spring and make the repairs. Going forward we need to plan some annual maintenance. If we do, the vendor believes the courts will hold up well for several years.*

Mr. DeSanto asked if we have ever done annual maintenance.

Mrs. Turnquist said no and indicated that is why the courts were in the condition they were and cost so much to reconstruct. Several years ago, a vendor from Vermont was somehow retained, but just to fill large cracks. I am not even sure the proper material was used. If we do the proper annual maintenance, we have a much better chance of the courts holding up for a while.

Mr. DeSanto asked if the annual maintenance was expensive and if there will be a contract.

Mrs. Turnquist said Hinding is going to give us proposal for maintenance. I am not sure if it will be now or in the spring when they return for reevaluation. Going by the linear feet of cracking currently at Memorial and Rec, maybe we should budget a couple thousand dollars annually for each park. It is budget season now, so I can look into doing that.

- iv. *General Maintenance The bulk of the crew is busy with leaves, but necessary tasks such as filling potholes and emptying Town garbage are still taking place.*
- d. **Engineering**
 - i. *Trail Lazy Lane to TL Mr. Grappone indicated that 100% design plans were submitted to the State by our consultant about a week ago. The next milestone pertains to Wetlands, DEEP, and ACOE permits which we are hoping to have wrapped up by the net Public Works Committee meeting.*
 - ii. *Plantsville Safety Improvements 100% plans and responses to comments are expected to be submitted to DOT this week. We received ROW comments, and the maps are going to be revised and submitted at the same time. Mr. DeSanto asked if this project will be ready for construction in the spring. Mr. Grappone explained that it depends on the DOT. They are still working remotely. They will review the plans again, and they are negotiating rights-of-way. But we are hoping to at least get authorization to bid in the spring.*
 - iii. *Marion Avenue over Humiston Brook Bridge Replacement Anticipate final design being submitted by the end of this month. We recently had a meeting with the consultant regarding water main design. We will be getting some details over to the Water Department, and then we will set up a meeting to discuss them.*
 - iv. *Spring Street Bridge Had 12 bids. We are familiar with the apparent low bidder, Dayton Construction out of Watertown, CT. They have completed several projects for the Town. The bid came in under the engineer's budget of \$1.852 million. It is under the federal-local program, 80% federal and 20% Town. Once we have authorization to award, it will come before the Public Works Committee and the Town Council. Construction possibly beginning in March.*
 - v. *Spring Street turning lane at Route 10 We just completed cleaning out the culvert and the video was taking place today. Hoping to have a video by the end of the week to submit to DOT. We cleaned a lot of silt out of the culvert. Construction will have to be in the spring because asphalt plants are closing.*
- e. *Water Department Mr. Casarella reported that the Mill Street tank project is coming to a close. It is approximately 95% complete. The biggest issue right now is weather (rain). Grading and seeding are left. Mr. Casarella mentioned other projects in the design phase or going out to bid are the Laning Street vault and taking over exclusive service area along Shuttle Meadow from Valley Water. They are working on a memorandum of agreement to take water down Route 10 to Route 691. This is for a development on the west side of Route 10. Regional Water cannot supply them water at this time. Finally, we will be starting a pilot study for manganese in the spring.*
- f. **Members**
- g. **Public**
- 4. **Old Business**
- 5. **New Business**
 - i. *2021 Public Works Committee Meeting Schedule*
 - ii. *2021 Transfer Station Schedule*
- 6. **Action Item**
 - i. *2021 Public Works Committee Meeting Schedule Motion to approve Chaplinsky/Zoni 7-0 approve*
 - ii. *2021 Transfer Station Schedule Motion to approve Zoni/Chaplinsky 7-0 approve*
- 7. **Adjournment** *Motion to adjourn Daly/Casarella. The meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.*