PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ROOM 208
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT

Members Present: Councilman Todd Berch
Councilman Gerald Daley
Councilwoman Linda Salafia

Staff Present: William Russo, Public Works Director

Others Present: Earl Roberts

Councilman Todd Berch opened the Public Works Commission Meeting at 7:03 p.m. He requested a motion to approve the minutes dated August 21, 2013. Chair Berch motioned to approve minutes. Motion was seconded and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT –
Earl Roberts of 785 Bow Lane stated that back in 2008 he supported a referendum to reconstruct the eastern portion of Bow Lane. He doesn't feel that it has a legitimate cul-de-sac because the city put the current temporary one in place just so the school bus can turn around. He recently had company that hit a pot hole which bent their rim and flattened their tire. After putting some complaints into the city attorney's office, Public Works department went out and did some patch work. He feels that the referendum and the money have been approved and nothing has been done since 2008. Mr. Roberts suggested to his friend that maybe he should go to a public hearing meeting and listen in on how Middletown goes about their solutions compared to other towns. He wants to keep trying as best he can to suggest that something gets done towards making a formal presentation and a better decision making process to come up with a permanent solution.

CORRESPONDENCE –
Director Russo asked the commission to review an article that insurance and claims has given to him. The article is titled "Mailbox damage policy may change". At next month's meeting, it was suggested that the commission can talk about how other towns go about replacing damaged mailboxes and their policies. Some recommendations can also be made as far as how to set a dollar limit on how much the town will pay for the damages. It was agreed among the commission that this will be a topic on next month's agenda for further discussion.

Director Russo wanted to share a letter that he received from the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut. The foundation wanted to thank the Public Works Department for re-paving the entrance to the field so quickly and on such short notice for the Annual Mud Volleyball Tournament. The Tournament had 216 teams and $65,000.00 was raised towards helping those with epilepsy.

NEW BUSINESS –

a. Bid Waiver for Winter Sand – Director Russo stated that WFS Earth Materials is the Public Works department's sand vendor. He asked if the commission can take a minute to review a letter he

received from WFS Earth. The letter stated that they will continue to provide winter sand to the City of Middletown at the same rate as last year which is $15.00 per cubic yard. On average, the city uses about 10,000 cubic yards of sand and 3,500 tons of salt per year. City yard employees use a 3-1 ratio - three buckets of sand per one bucket of salt. Director Russo stated that there is no state bid for sand. He believes it is airport required and that 78$ per ton goes to the airports, CRCOG gets their sand for 26$ per cubic yard. The city rate of $15.00 per cubic yard is $9.00 less than what CRCOG is offering.

b. CNR Request – Following the Common Council meeting, Director Russo was told to get the priorities back to the commission and then to Finance and Government based on the original number. Dealing with the previous superintendent, present superintendent and the fleet manager, their priorities include replacing the 1990 Ford and the 1992 Ford with two plow trucks totaling at $181,500.00 per truck. The current 1997 sweeper needs to be replaced. Director Russo was asked if money should be put into the truck. He stated that this truck is a priority and that there are currently 4 sweeper trucks. The 1991 pay loader needs to be replaced as well which will cost $175,000.00. Roughly, the 4 new trucks will cost $749,000.00. He was also asked for a few small items such as a mower head for $13,000.00 and 2 vacuum cleaners for city hall totaling at $1,800.00. The constraints of the budget make it difficult to purchase these items, but they will make a huge difference in the long run.

Chair Berch motioned for approval of the CNR Request. Motion was made and seconded by the commission. From here, the CNR Request will go to Finance and Government. Two public meetings will then be held if the bond money is allowed.

OLD BUSINESS –

Director Russo stated that the road bond work on Timber Ridge Road is completed. The 2007 road bond for Long Hill Road is completed and filled with residents. The City bases the order of completion for road bonds by recommendation of engineering and the order of importance of each road.

Earl Roberts reminded the committee that the east end of Bow Lane doesn't have any traffic. Director Russo stated that road bond work that was being discussed was from years ago and the money was put towards fixing the drainage. The drainage was completed around the time that Sal Fazzino was leaving.

Director Russo stated that Miner Street and Miner Brook had a lot of road work done such as double basins and grates.

A way to gain support for the referendum this year would be to show an annualized basis of certain road bonds from when they originated, all the way to present time. In other words, If you authorize a certain amount of dollars every year since the originated road bond, and that comes out to so much per year, how much will be spent? He doesn't want residents to feel that the approved money wasn't used property or to its full extent.

Director Russo believes the city is spending about 2 million to 2.7 million dollars per year on road bonds. It is favorable to the city to do all of the bidding around Christmas time because people aren't doing as much road work and the best rates will be offered around that time. Most roads being worked on are secondary roads that are around 30 years old and in need of work.

Chair Berch brought up an issue with 669 Country Club Road has gravel washing out into the street after they put their new driveway in. Director Russo stated that they were forewarned that if the rocks were not cleaned up then they would eventually have to get billed. Considering the work was not completed yet, it will have to be taken care of.

The Yankee Gas job on Main Street will begin on Sunday September 15, 2013 from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. This job will boost gas pressure for restaurants on Main Street and will come down from Washington Street and loop out towards Cromwell.

The sidewalk in front of Krust is being worked on as well as the second section on Newtown Street. This will be completed before the winter because the step going in was illegal and did not meet the ADA requirements. As soon as the section on Newtown Street is completed, Main Street sidewalks will be worked on using the money in the bond. Before starting work, it needs to be determined whether or not the sidewalks will be getting new gas or not.

Director Russo stated that he is going to get a package of bid specs together for the front patio on City Hall. Once everything is pulled apart, it will be tough to bid it looking in from the outside. If it is not in the city's expertise to do a design, someone will have to be hired to put together a package for a new design. Going through the bid process is the best approach so that everyone is bidding on the exact same thing which in turn will save time and money.

OTHER –
As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:31 p.m.