

**PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 14, 2014
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
MUNICIPAL BUILDING
ROOM 208
MIDDLETOWN CONNECTICUT**

Members Present: Chair Carl R. Chisem
Councilman David Bauer
Councilman James B. Streeto
Councilwoman Sandra Russo-Driska

Absent: Councilman Thomas Serra

Others Present: Vincent C. McDermott, FASLA, AICP

Chair Chisem opened the Public Works and Facilities Commission Meeting at 7:00 p.m. He requested a motion to approve the minutes dated April 9, 2014. Minutes were seconded and approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

It was requested that item 5d be moved to the top of the agenda for discussion. Motion was seconded and approved.

CORRESPONDENCE

Director Russo wanted to confirm if an email is a sufficient form of correspondence. The commission agreed that emails are fine.

Director Russo mentioned that he has received a lot of phone calls regarding residents wanting their roads paved after seeing the article on the Ridge Road and East Ridge Road public hearing.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. Palmer Field Concession Stand Resolution and Lease Agreement – Director Russo mentioned how this item was tabled at the last meeting. There was a discussion regarding the price of the net profits. During the previous meeting, the proceeds were reduced from 5% to 2.5% because the commission believed that it would have been easier for the bookkeeper to keep track of. However, Director Russo believes that it should remain at the 5% considering how page 3 discusses the 5% of net profits.

Commissioner Chisem moved approval for the lease agreement. Motion was seconded by commissioner Russo-Driska and approved unanimously.

- b. Harbor Park Board Walk – Director Russo stated that the current lighting on the Harbor Park Boardwalk needs to be replaced due to safety reasons and the amount of electricity that is being burned. The resolution states that it costs \$19,000.00 to install the 36 LED lights with a \$7,600.00 credit which would bring us down to around \$11,000.00. The purchase will be done with LOCIP money which the mayor approves of.

Commissioner Chisem moved approval for the new LED lighting. Motion was seconded by commissioner Russo-Driska and approved unanimously.

- c. Eagle Scout Service Project Proposal – Director Russo stated that a young man from the Eagle Scouts would like to do a project for the city.

One of the commissioners stated his concern in regards to the Riverfront Committee changing the area's topography. Director Russo informed the commission that the Eagle Scout project is just for enhancing the area presently. The idea originated with the former Park Commission and then came to the Public Works & Facilities Commission. Director Russo believes it will be a nice project and did not want to tell him that he would have to come up with a whole new project so the work will be continued.

A suggestion was made that the Riverfront Redevelopment Plan should be reviewed to make sure that it has no effect on the project.

Commissioner Chisem moved approval for the Eagle Scout Project Proposal. Motion to approve project was seconded and approved.

- d. Millone & McBroom Discussion – Director Russo introduced Vincent McDermott as Senior Vice President of his firm. He stated that Vincent will be discussing his plans to replace the natural grass with synthetic turf on the little league fields at Snow School, Country Club Road Soccer Complex, Long Hill Road Soccer Complex and Hubbard Park. The need for the fields in good condition is high since 330 kids registered for spring soccer and 180 kids registered for lacrosse this year alone.

Vincent stated that his firm has no affiliations with any of the turf companies. In the past, they have done 4-5 fields per year. A well-maintained natural grass field between irrigation and mowing will cost \$20,000.00 per year. The alternative is to get the same level of play in all types of weather conditions on a g-max field which costs about \$5,000.00 per year to maintain, depending on the level of use. G-max is the measurement that is used to measure how hard or how soft the field is. Initially, the field may have to be maintained more frequently after it settles in from the construction. Most municipalities will maintain their fields once every three weeks. There will be no need for fertilizing and irrigating, but there will be a need for water supply nearby to clean anything off of the field that should not be there.

Director Russo stated that the city is currently spending about \$7,000-\$10,000 per year on field maintenance. The laws of chemicals are what make the field maintenance more costly. The organic fertilizers cost three times more than the regular fertilizer. The downfall of the organic fertilizer is that it causes grubs and other termites that eat away at the fields. It is hard to keep up with the demand to give all of the city field premises a good looking facility.

Vincent indicated that synthetic fields consist of a finely-graded dynamic stone base, generally two layers, which is highly permeable to allow severe storms to pass through and still allow play. The average depth is between 9-12 inches depending on the need. Dynamic stone is extremely important so that it doesn't break down over time. Poor quality stone will break down and lose its infiltration capabilities which defeats the purpose. Carpet will then be placed on top of the stone base. The thickness of the carpet will depend on the sport being played on the particular field. The

carpet fiber is in-filled with a mix that can be all rubber, which is not recommended by Millone & MacBroom. It can also be a mixture of sand and rubber so that it looks as close as it can possibly get to natural grass. As the water passes through, it will be collected by a series of drains installed on the edges of the field, below grade, and then discharged into the storm system.

The base will be thickened depending on how poor the underlying soils are. If the field was to be used for football, it is recommended to have a 2.5" fiber and 1 3/4 – 1 7/8 of the infill. Infill makes the fiber stand up and gives the resilience that is needed to protect against head injuries. A field that is too soft can cause knee injuries and muscle fatigue.

There are many methods to go about building a field. The total construction process will take around 2-3 months. It will be anchored with a curb or another known method, but curbing was found to work the best. This also serves as a barrier so that when the synthetic field is put against natural grass, it will separate them from one another. This makes it easier to mow the lawn without damaging the lawn mower on the synthetic grass. Walkways or fences can also be installed to surround the field which will encourage the security in a municipal setting to prevent motor bikes or anything else that may damage the field.

Director Russo stated that he would like to bring the firm out to the facilities to come up with a proposal. The commission will then discuss recommendations on funding which will then come from the council. Professional services have to be signed off by the department head, the Director of Finance and the Mayor. If everything on the scope of work is agreed upon, they will start the work. He believes that the field upgrades will benefit the city in the future.

- e. Sidewalk Snow Shoveling Ordinance – Director Russo stated that the sidewalk ordinance is the biggest issue in the winter time. Public Works does not leave their shift until all of the roads are plowed. The administrative office receives well over 100 calls regarding sidewalks not being shoveled after a storm. Residences near elementary schools are also not shoveling their sidewalks which cause the schools to hesitate on opening for the day when there is a storm. Councilwoman Russo-Driska moved approval for the Sidewalk Snow Shoveling Ordinance. Motion was then seconded and approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- f. April 2014 Overtime Report – The commission reviewed the overtime report.
- g. April 2014 Building Permits – Director Russo stated that the revenue number was projected at \$540,000.00. As of today, there was \$492,333.00 taken in. There are more large permits coming in, including Wesleyan Universities graduation tents, which will exceed the projected revenue.

OTHER

- h. April 2014 Monthly Report – Highway Division – Director Russo stated that asphalt was finally received to fill in the pot holes and start repairing the roads. New Britain was the only place open due to Tilcon not producing it and Suzio's breaking down.
- i. March & April 2014 Weekly Reports–Parks Division – The commission reviewed the overtime report.

As there was no further discussion, the Public Works & Facilities Commission meeting was adjourned at 8:17 P.M.