

**Public Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 14, 2021**

Mrs. Chamberland called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

Present: Kim Chamberland, Amy Vilaro and Ted Haskin

Staff: City Law Director Mike Minniear, City Manager Michael Doss; Assistant City Manager Pam Holbrook, Police Chief Jamey Mills, Sanitary Sewer Superintendent Dave Walker

Visitors: Ryan Merkle with Scenic River Canoe Excursions along with several residents

Proceedings: *Approve the proceedings from the April 5, 2021 Public Services Committee Minutes. Mrs. Vilaro made a motion to approve. Seconded by Mrs. Chamberland.*

High Street Stormwater Discussion

Mr. Doss stated that Phil Ditchen (developer of the new High Street residential homes) approached the City about assisting with labor costs associated with establishing a new stormwater line on High Street. The new stormwater line is a result of the new residential development for the four homes on High Street presently under construction. Mr. Ditchen proposed that the City cover the labor costs and he would cover the material costs for the new stormwater line. Mr. Doss stated that the City explore the possibility of performing the stormwater line labor in-house, but staff concluded that the project was not feasible for City labor. Mr. Doss indicated that the City solicited estimates for the project, but the preliminary estimates indicated that the project would have to go out for bid under prevailing wage. Mr. Doss further indicated that the City would be responsible for constructing a new stormwater line on Sycamore Street to accommodate any new stormwater line on High Street. According to Mr. Doss, the projected cost for the Sycamore line replacement would be at least \$100,000. Mr. Doss, along with staff, concluded that the City should not be involved in the High Street stormwater line project. The City needs to focus resources on the Sycamore line replacement.

The Committee agree to accept the recommendation of Mr. Doss and Mr. Walker to not provide City assistance with the new stormwater line on High Street.

Wallace Waterline Engineering Quote

Mr. Doss provided the committee with two quotes from Brandstetter Carroll Engineering for surveying/mapping and preliminary engineering design services for the Wallace Avenue to Garfield Avenue discharge line in the amount of \$14,000 and the Wallace Avenue supply line in the amount of \$22,500. Mr. Doss indicated that both projects were necessary in advance of construction for the new Wallace Avenue water tower. These lines will assist with handling the capacity and hydraulics associated with the future water tower servicing the City.

Mr. Doss stated that Brandstetter Carroll was hired by the City in late 2019 to provide an analysis and establish a preliminary engineering report and opinion of probable costs for the entire scope of the project. Mr. Doss explained that because of the recent analysis and familiarity from the preliminary engineering report conducted by Brandstetter Carroll; he believes that they are best suited to provide the engineering for the discharge and supply line projects. Mr. Doss anticipated using the preliminary design and engineering to obtain more points during the evaluation and scoring of OPWC grant applications for funding in the next round. These points will be critical in advancing both projects into the district for grant funding. Mr. Doss recommended that the Committee advance the two quotes from Brandstetter Carroll to City Council for consideration and adoption.

Mrs. Vilardo stated that her preference would be to obtain three quotes for the two projects.

Mrs. Chamberland asked if the surveying and design work needed to be done soon. Mr. Doss replied that was not necessary, but he wanted to get the preliminary design, surveying, and engineering complete before the August OPWC application submission deadline.

Mr. Haskins asked if this was the same engineering firm that the City recently vetted for the water tower project. Mr. Doss indicated “yes”.

Without further Committee discussion...

The Committee agreed to recommend that the Law Director draft an ordinance authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with Brandstetter Carroll in the total amount of 36,500 for engineering services associated with the Wallace Avenue to Garfield discharge line and Wallace Avenue supply line.

Buses, Through Traffic and Section Revisions to the Previously Proposed Ordinance 2021-81 Discussion

Mr. Minnear explain that the current ordinance needs to be changed to reflect proposed Ordinance 2021-80 related to increasing the gross vehicle weight from 10,000 pounds to 14,000 pounds. Mr. Minnear stated that no vehicles over 14,000 pounds will be permitted on City streets except trucks using City streets for deliveries and drop offs within the City.

Mrs. Chamberland stated that the previously proposed ordinance would have exempted buses traversing in the City. She is proposing changing the language to state “no commercial vehicles weighing more than 14,000 pounds could use City streets.

Mr. Haskins stated that he was concerned with the practice of “cut thru” and that his personal definition of a cut through is starting at point A outside the City and ending at point B outside the City without stopping inside the City.

Mrs. Chamberland noted that any decision to change the existing ordinance will not only impact Cleveland Avenue, but other streets within the City.

Mrs. Vilardo offered a compromise that commercial vehicles under 14,000 lbs. are permitted to travel on City streets.

Mr. Doss asked Mr. Merkle with Scenic River Canoe Excursions for the weight of the small buses. Mr. Merkle replied under 14,000 pounds.

Various residents publicly commented on the issue. Comments included support from the residents for allowing buses on specifically Cleveland Avenue. Those residents stated that they were not adversely impacted by the buses travel and routes by Scenic River Canoe Excursions. Other comments reflected concern over safety for residents of the South Milford neighborhood due to the increasing presence of the full-size buses used by Scenic River Canoe Excursions.

Mrs. Chamberland proposed the following language to address the issue:

“No person shall operate a vehicle exceeding a size specified in Section 339.03 or exceeding a gross vehicle weight rating (gvwr) of 14,000 pounds upon any street in the City other than a State route, except those local streets designated as a truck route and marked as such by appropriate signage indicating “no thru commercial vehicles”. Drivers of such vehicles may provide services, or visit commercial establishments for the purpose of eating, refueling, or conducting other necessary business provided such commercial establishment provides adequate off-street parking to accommodate such vehicles and provided such vehicles are only operated in a reasonable way between the designated route and the place of delivery, pick up, service, or such commercial establishment, or otherwise directed by a police officer. School buses as defined in Section 301.35 shall be expressly exempt from this section.”

The Committee agreed to the proposed language as presented and made a recommendation that the Law Director draft an ordinance amending section 339.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Milford regarding use of local streets.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m. with a motion from Mr. Haskins, Seconded by Mrs. Chamberland. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Doss, City Manager

“These minutes have been approved and adopted by Mrs. Chamberland, Mrs. Vilardo and Mr. Haskins on April 15, 2021”