



## **Operations Committee - Board of Representatives**

Joseph Coppola, Jr., Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Wednesday, April 20, 2016

**Time:** 7:00 p.m.

**Place:** Republican Caucus Room, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice-Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Buckman, Coleman, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. Chair Coppola, Adams, and Giraldo. Also present were Rep. Ryan; Mayor David Martin; Paul Ginotti and Lou Casolo, Engineering; Prakash Chakravarti, WPCA; and Burt Rosenberg, Law Department.

Vice Chair Zelinsky called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">O29.063</a>	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Amendment to <a href="#">Chapter 200, Sewers, Section 200-41</a> , Regarding the Levy of Sewer Connection Charges by the WPCA. 02/04/16 – Submitted by Mike Toma 03/30/16 – Approved by Committee	<b>Committee Approved 5-0-1</b>

Mr. Rosenberg stated that this amendment is to clarify the existing ordinance with regard to the State statutory charges. He talked briefly about the new changes made to the [ordinance](#). He explained that the wording in Sub-Section B “also known as a Connection Charge” was removed because it is not a connection charge it is a sewer assessment charge on an expanded building. Also the word in sub-section B was changed from “shall” to “may” because even though a building may expand it may not contribute any extra to the sewer system. Sub-Section C is new because State statute CGS § 7-255 deal with sewer connections. The WPCA will now be authorized to investigate the benefit assessments on properties per Connecticut’s State Statute.

Rep. Zelinsky opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. There being no one from the public to speak, Rep. Zelinsky closed the public hearing.

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<sup>1</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:02:40

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-1. (Zelinsky, Buckman, Coleman, Liebson, and Mahoney in favor; McMullen abstained.)

- <sup>2</sup>2. [O29.064](#) RESOLUTION and approval of public hearing; **WITHDRAWN**  
Proposed increase of Tipping Fee to \$95 per ton, per  
[Code Section 137-10](#).  
03/09/16 – Submitted by Ernie Orgera  
03/30/16 – Held in Committee
- <sup>3</sup>3. [O29.066](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Dewberry Engineers, **Committee**  
Inc. for Construction Administration and Inspections at **Approved 5-0-1**  
the Merriebrook Lane Bridge.  
04/06/16 – Submitted by Mayor Martin  
04/14/16 – Approved by the Board of Finance

Mr. Rosenberg stated:

- The Bridge is very old and not sound
- The steel that is holding the bridge up was manufactured between 1890-1943 and it was reclaimed steel and welded together.
- The beams are in critical condition
- The Bridge is in danger of failing
- There is a 6 ton weight limit on the bridge
- There was only 1 bid in response to the RFP

In Response to questions and comments from the Committee Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Casolo and Mr. Ginotti explained:

- Merriebrook Lane is a public road
- The bridge was not put together in a traditional way
- Engineers are very concerned about the bridge failing
- The bridge services one resident and access to the Mianus River Park
- The road must be closed to replace this bridge
- The resident is away for all of July and August
- They will use a prefabricated bridge
- The contract is for Construction Administration and Inspections Services and the cost is \$180,000.00
- The design contract was for \$150,000.
- The construction bid came in at \$1,074,000.00
- The bid process was waived because of time constraints and the poor conditions of the bridge; also familiarity of the company with the bridge

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-0-1. (Buckman, Coleman, Liebson, McMullen and Mahoney in favor; Zelinsky abstained.)

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<sup>2</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:02:40 Part 1

<sup>3</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:39:18 Part 1 continued on Part 2

4. O29.062      REVIEW; Zoning Enforcement Procedures and Status of Enforcement Activities Related to Current Construction Projects.      **Item Held by Committee 6-0-0**  
02/03/16 – Submitted by Rep. Buckman  
02/08/16 – Held at Steering  
03/30/16 – Held in Committee

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0. (Zelinsky, Buckman, Coleman, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen in favor)

A motion was made to take this item off hold in order for Mayor Martin to discuss it was seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-0. (Zelinsky, Buckman, Coleman, Liebson, and Mahoney in favor; McMullen opposed)

<sup>4</sup>Mayor Martin said the City of Stamford is enforcing zoning regulations. He also said:

- The Zoning Department staff size has decreased
- The legal process by zoning is very time consuming (example: Rock Crushing business in the South end took 5 years with no fines or penalties).
- They have administered several stop work orders on violators
- 200 fines executed in 2015
- 20 fines executed In 2016

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0. (Zelinsky, Buckman, Coleman, Liebson, Mahoney and McMullen in favor)

Vice Chair Zelinsky adjourned the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Zelinsky, Vice-Chair

This meeting is on video ([Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#))

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<sup>4</sup> Video Time Stamp 00:20:00 part 1