



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, April 23, 2018

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Republican Caucus Room, 4th Floor, Government Center, 888 Washington Boulevard

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In attendance were Chair Jacobson and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, Watkins and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Reps. Coleman and Saftic. Also present were Reps. Figueroa and Lion; Burt Rosenberg, Assistant Corporation Counsel; Lou Casolo and Arnold Knittel, Engineering; Mike Pensiero, Technology and several members of the public. (See [public hearing sign-in sheet](#)).

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. O30.003	ORDINANCE <u>for public hearing and final adoption</u> ; Amending Section 214-29 , Excavation Permit Required, to Update Street Opening Permit Procedures. 01/03/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 01/23/18 – Held in Committee 8-0-0 02/27/18 – Approved by Committee, as amended, 6-0-2	Approved 5-1-1

Chair Jacobson opened the public hearing. Mr. Czescik spoke in opposition to the ordinance, noting that the bond should be sufficient to guaranty that the work is done. . Mr. Cavaliere spoke in opposition to the ordinance, noting that when work is done on State roads both a State and City permit must be pulled. He suggested that Stamford follow the procedure used in Norwalk, which charges for repairs. Ms. Andino of Eversource read the [attached letter](#) into the record. Mr. Lawrence of Aquarion objected to various aspects of the proposed ordinance, including the intersection-to-intersection designation, the 90 day time limit and the 6 year review period, stating these would create problems managing the work. There being no further speakers, Chair Jacobson closed the public hearing.

Mr. Casolo and Mr. Rosenberg discussed the proposed ordinance and the comments made at the public hearing with the Committee as follows:

- Street opening permits carry a 2 year bond, however, as a matter of State law, larger utilities are not required to provide a bond
- Opening of State roads does require both State and City encroachment permits, this is required in order to have police officer on a State road. This is required by the Police contract.

- Stamford does not want to follow the Norwalk practice of patching roads
- The goal of the 90 day permit is to provide an incentive to get the work done in a timely fashion; any work has an impact on residents
- The larger utilities have multiple installers and subcontractors who perform the final restoration
- The Engineering Department has limited staff and uses the Traffic Department personnel when they are available to check that work is completed
- The City can't be reimbursed for inspections; it can only be reimbursed for administrative costs
- Large jobs, such as Aquarion's proposed 24" water pipe across Stamford, requires great coordination. Stamford changed its policies in order to keep up with the work. The intersection to intersection limit allows City control
- The ordinance and resolution meet the City's concerns
- Cutting into a road significantly shortens its life unless the repair is done correctly
- The City believes that it has valid defenses if the utilities file an objection with PURA.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-1 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Lee, Sherwood and Watkins in favor; Rep. Mahoney opposed; Rep. Adams abstaining).

2. [O30.004](#) RESOLUTION and public hearing; Establishing Fees as Provided by Section 214-29. **Approved 5-1-1**
 01/03/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 01/23/18 – Held in Committee 8-0-0
02/27/18 – Approved by Committee 8-0-0

Chair Jacobson opened the public hearing. Mr. Czescik spoke in opposition again noting that the bond should be sufficient. There being no other members of the public wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed.

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-1-1 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Lee, Sherwood and Watkins in favor; Rep. Mahoney opposed; Rep. Adams abstaining).

3. [O30.012](#) APPROVAL; Agreement with Frontier Communications Corporation under RFP #718 Local Access and Long Distance Telecommunications Services. **Approved 7-0-0**
 03/23/18 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
 04/12/18 – Approved by Board of Finance

Mr. Pensiero discussed this agreement with the Committee as follows:

- This is a standard telephone contract for dial tone and long distance
- It is a 1 year contract with renewal options and provides 20% savings over the current contract with the same provider
- This contract has newer technology and a newer platform
- A consultant is currently reviewing the old Avaya system, which is 5 years away from 20 years, and will be making recommendations
- The cost of this contract is \$7000/mo for the City and \$9000/mo for the BOE
- This contract was under an RFP, but Frontier was the only submission

A motion to approve this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Watkins in favor).

4. [O30.013](#) REVIEW; Stamford's Ability to Comply with the ACLU's Call to Establish Municipal Broadband Service.
03/29/18 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson **Held**
5. [O30.014](#) REVIEW; Update on Repairs to Seawall on Weed Avenue.
03/29/18 – Submitted by Reps. Figueroa and Sherwood **Report Made & Held**

Rep. Sherwood stated that much of the Seawall on Weed Ave is breaking down or non-existent. Rep. Figueroa noted that she and Mr. Casolo had walked the wall several years ago.

Mr. Casolo discussed this with the Committee as follows:

- In 1995, the Engineering Department worked with DEEP to do repairs on the southern part of the wall under a Certificate of Permission (“COP”)
- The northerly parts of the wall have been falling apart
- The properties that front the wall are privately owned
- It is not a City obligation to repair the privately owned portions, but the wall supports the road
- The City has been working to acquire the properties through quitclaim deeds – one was acquired in 12/16 and another in 1/17.
- DEEP is down to a skeleton crew
- DEEP limits the time period when this type of work can be done to June through September
- This will probably not get done in 2018
- There is \$400,000 available for this work
- The road may have to be closed to do this work and there may have to be sheeting
- The COP process is 45-90 days
- He will see if there is a way to expedite this process, such as getting the COPs prior to getting the quitclaim deeds
- He will provide the Committee with an update in 2 months

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on video ([Pt. 1](#) & [Pt 2](#))