



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

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

# **Committee Report**

**Date:** Tuesday, September 24, 2019  
**Time:** 6:30 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 Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, Spadaccini and Watkins. Absent or excused was Rep. Coleman. Also present were Reps. Di Costanzo, McMullen, Morson, Nabel, Patterson and Stella; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; William Brink, WPCA; Dan Colleluori, Recycling and Sanitation; Thomas Turk, Highways; and Lou Casolo, City Engineer.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Committee Action</b>
1. <a href="#">O30.056</a>	REVIEW; Explosion at Wastewater Treatment Plant on August 1, 2019. 08/07/19 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood & Zelinsky 08/26/19 – Held by Committee	Report Made & Held 8-0-0

Rep. Mahoney noted that members of the Committee had received emails with questions on this issue, which have not been provided to the Board office.

Mr. Brink discussed this item with the Committee as follows:

- There was an explosion in the sludge dryer at 10:45 on August 1<sup>st</sup>; both the equipment in the building and the building in itself were damaged
- An investigation into the explosion is being conducted by the insurance companies for the City all of the potentially responsible parties
- It seems as if it was from a dust explosion internal to the dryer equipment
- The wastewater creates 2 sludge streams, which are conveyed to the sludge dryer facility to be heated and dried to pellets which are 90% dry; this is a complicated process involving a gas generator and an exhaust; the pellets are stored in bins outside of the building; there is air pollution control equipment to control dust
- The City owns the building but the facility is operated by Synagro under a contract with the WPCA. Synagro has been under contract to operate the dryer and dispose of the sludge since the dryer was installed in 2008
- Andrus is the manufacturer of the equipment; the dryer equipment consists of about 25 pieces of equipment
- The polycyclone is the equipment that separates the air from the dust and pellets
- Since the dryer is out of commission, the dewatered sludge (like mud) is being transported, up to 20 tons, by trailers; the first option is to transport the sludge to

an incinerator in CT, the second option is a landfill in PA, and the third option is a landfill in GA; the incinerators are currently running at capacity, so they will not accept the sludge; Synagro's contract requires that it dispose of the sludge at the least cost option; approximately 4 trailers are going out per day; ½ are going to GA and the other ½ are going to CT and PA; the WPCA does not make this choice

- An insurance company will ultimately reimburse the WPCA for the cost of the sludge hauling
- There were no prior instances of fires in this equipment
- Heat from the dryer and the fuel is the sludge; for an explosion to occur, the oxygen level has to get high enough to support an explosion
- There have been explosions in dryers, but not of this type that he knows of
- The repairs are expected to be completed by next June; there is no redundancy in the process; the dryer is being repaired, some components are being replaced
- There are more odors on-site due to the dryer being down; they are trying to control them as much as possible
- The questions received by the Board will be presented to Mr. Brink to be answered after the meeting
- The cause is being investigated by the insurance companies and the City's own consultant
- The cost is estimated by Tighe & Bond at \$10,000,000 for repairs and interim sludge hauling costs; \$6,000,000 to \$7,000,000 is for the building and equipment repairs and \$2,000,000 is for sludge hauling
- The process for repairs will not begin until they get a signed purchase order, which will not be done before the investigation is complete and it is determined who would pay for pay it; there is a 12 week lead time to get the new components
- The Consulting Engineer is representing the City's interests in the investigation
- The City is producing marketable fertilizer with the sludge, but it is trucked to Orange County, NY; the value is equal to the trucking costs
- There had been problems with the dryer in the spring due to increased fiber in the sludge; this is a seasonal character of the sludge
- An analysis done last year as part of contract negotiations showed that the cost of hauling vs. the cost of the dryer was currently about equal, but was trending toward the cost of the dryer being lower
- The cost of operating the dryer is \$150,000 per month; the cost of hauling the sludge is about \$13,000 per day 5 days per week;

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Spadaccini and Watkins in favor)

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|------------|---|--------------------------|
| 2. O30.057 | REVIEW; Update on Final Design Plans (Date Expected August 15), Final Contract Documents (Date Expected September 16), and Timeline on West Main Street Bridge Project.<br>09/04/19 – Submitted by Rep. Nabel | Report Made & Held 8-0-0 |
|------------|---|--------------------------|

Chair Jacobson said that he spoke to Mr. Casolo that this project is going out to bid next month and they will have bids in November. He said he will not have information until October or November.

Mr. Casolo discussed this item with the Committee:

- Since March, the City has gone on with a notice to proceed for design of the rehabilitation of the bridge and they are moving on to construction documents
- They are coordinating with regard to the roadway aspects of the project, which is a separate project
- The project is almost 100% complete and ready for bid
- The plans are being submitted by the consultant by the 30<sup>th</sup> and Purchasing will put them out for bid. The target date for the ad is October 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be walk-throughs; inquiries will be closed at the end of October. The bid opening is set for November 13<sup>th</sup>. The contract will most likely be awarded in December and will go forward if it is within the financial constraints.
- There will be a line item in the contract for a pedestrian bridge, so they will know that cost
- Contractors learn of bids through an e-bid process; they are trying to get a large number of bidders
- The resolution was based on a cost of this project of 151,500 with a 25% contingency. The cost of the landscaping has gone up and the cost of the structural rehab has gone up \$64,000, so the contingency is now 9%. He still hopes to be within the budget
- This is a low-bid contract; the lowest qualified bidder will get the contract

A motion to hold this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Spadaccini and Watkins in favor)

3. [O30.058](#) REVIEW; Status of Paving of City Streets, Plan for Remaining Calendar Year and Potential Areas of Concern. Report Made  
09/04/19 – Submitted by Rep. Mahoney

Director McGrath and Mr. Turk discussed this issue with the Committee and reviewed the attached "[Paving Budgets 2007-20](#)"; and the "[City of Stamford Paving List](#)" and "[Historical paving map and upcoming paving projects](#)" which are located online at <https://www.stamfordct.gov/road-maintenance/pages/highways-and-road-maintenance-activities>.

- Paving budgets have increased; the Administration is hoping to spend \$7.3 million this year.
- The Paving List shows the status of roads in the City based upon the study done
- Cannot work on road may mean that there is work being done or about to be done which prevents going forward
- The first group on the paving list are large roads which take a long time. The pending roads are smaller roads and the paving should go faster
- Drainage work can continue in the winter if the weather is not freezing; milling and paving are done together
- The original survey was done by block-long segments, so the paving list may only relate to a segment
- This list is based on a road surface condition analysis of every street in the City and ranking
- He doesn't want to do work where subsequent work will impact the new paving
- They work with the Engineering Department to address flooding issues if they can
- If they are in a neighborhood, they try to do as many streets in that area as possible

- The list is based on the survey, not on complaints or requests for paving
- The goal is to try to respond faster
- Utility contractors who do repairs should be supervised
- About 10% of the City has been repaved in the last 3 years
- Utility projects are not on this list
- Private roads are not paved by the City
- Half of the paving schedule is not on the paving list, but have to do with the work being done as a result of utility work
- If the department had more money, more roads could be paved; this list is based on current budget
- It would take \$5 to 6/ per year for the next 10 years to complete these roads.
- A portion of the budget should be dedicated to the work being done in conjunction with utility work

4. [O30.059](#) REVIEW; Curbside Clothing Recycling Program. Report Made  
08/14/19 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky

Vice Chair Zelinsky conducted the rest of the meeting.

Mr. Colleluori reviewed the [attached items](#) with the Committee.

- This contract was signed off on in April, 2019
- An outside company picks up recyclable clothing at peoples' homes and the City employees note houses with pink bags on a tablet, which are then picked up by the company
- When their trucks are broken, then the drivers can't notify the company
- There is a direct link to the company on FixIt for homeowners
- They are trying to coordinate with the company so that condos and rentals will also have pickups
- Everything is done by the company
- Residents get replacement bags whenever a bag is put out
- The City collected over 27,000 lbs of textiles in the first 2 months.
- The City gets 2 cents per pound

Vice Chair Zelinsky adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

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