



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee report

Date: Tuesday, December 29, 2020
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Curtis, Sherwood, and Watkins. Excused were Reps. Lee and Mahoney. Absent was Rep. Coleman. Also in attendance were Rep. Stella; Michael Pollard, Mayor's Office; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept., Luke Buttenwieser, Traffic Engineering Dept.; Cynthia Anger; Law Dept.; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; and four members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. O30.080	REVIEW; Update on Water Running into 6 Woodland Avenue (Previously Reviewed as O30.052). 12/09/20 – Submitted by Rep. Adams	Report Made & Held 6-0-0
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rep. Adams explained that the front yard of the property holds water after it has rained and creates heavy saturation.• Mr. Casolo has recently been to the area during heavy rains. It was determined the catch basin at the corner of Lipton Place and Atlantic Street takes in water but does not drain. This causes the basin to overflow and travel downhill towards 6 Woodland Ave.• The drainage system was built in the 1950's and over the years the drainage connection was inadvertently removed.• Mr. Casolo has been working with the Highway Dept. to interconnect that basin to the sewer lines. Mr. Theder has committed to starting the project within the next few months, weather permitting.• Rep. Adams requested a drainage pipe be placed in the front yard of the property temporarily, however Mr. Casolo said this would cause too much hardship on the property and it would be best to wait until Mr. Theder completes the drainage project on the street.	

A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:30

- ²3. [O30.069](#) REVIEW; South End Fire House; Installation of Police Substation and Duration of Substation at Location. **Report Made & Held 6-0-0**
03/04/20 – Submitted by Rep. Adams

Item No. 3 was taken up out of order.

Chair Jacobson explained that this item was put on the Agenda due to Rep. Adams being unable to get feedback from the Administration. There was discussion:

- Rep. Adams has been hearing from many constituents questioning when the police substation will be built.
- Mr. Pollard apologized and stated there was some confusion as to who was responding on the issue.
- The original agreement contained an obligation clause that the buyer was to build a police substation on the property. The amendment removes that clause and there is no longer an obligation for the buyer to build a police substation.
- Chiefs Fontneau and Shaw had previously expressed that they did not see a high value in a substation at that site. Stamford has been de-emphasizing and deactivating substations.
- The amendment includes historic preservation.

A motion to hold Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

³After Item No. 2 was closed, Rep. Adams requested that Item No. 3 be revisited. The previous motion to hold was considered retroactively tabled, and the discussion continued.

Mr. Pollard restated that the amendment removed the obligation for a police substation. This was due to difficulty in obtaining a buyer to agree to it and a substation no longer being needed.

The Committee will look into how this amendment transpired, and how the previously determined obligation of a police substation was allowed to be removed.

A motion to hold Item No. 3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

- ⁴2. [O30.065](#) REVIEW; West Main Street Bridge **Report Made & Held 6-0-0**
12/04/19 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
12/30/19 – Held in Committee 7-0-0
01/28/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee
8-0-0
02/26/20 – Held in Committee 5-0-0

Mr. Casolo reviewed this item and there was discussion:

² Video Time Stamp: 00:31:36

³ Video Time Stamp: 01:40:28

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 00:45:10

- Michael Baker Intl. is now the engineering design firm working on this project.
- The two main issues delaying the project are funding and DEEP requirements.
- Raising the bridge just above the 100-year flood level causes ramping on the west side of the bridge which then causes complications. It needs to be determined how to minimize ramping. If it is put below the 100-year floodline, it will reduce ramping, but it becomes a regulatory process.
- It needs to be determined how the new crossing will affect the floodway. Mr. Casolo and the design firm are looking at different configurations and hydraulic models of elevation of the bridge, and any possible impacts.
- The current bridge is deteriorating and cannot be saved economically.
- A \$2 million grant from Mill River Collaborative will go towards this project.
- The bridge is very important for many residents.
- The BOR was told two years ago that this was an immediate public safety issue, and needed to be worked on right away.
- This current item seems to be different than what the BOR voted on two years ago for the bridge.
- The scope of the project has changed. There are many capital constraints. The original bid of \$2 million from WMC was only for a minimum rehabilitation for pedestrian use.
- The current model being looked at is a prefabricated truss pedestrian bridge, which is commonly used.

Mr. Casolo and Mr. Pollard will formulate a timeline and get it to the BOR within one month.

While there are grants available, these grants often have very specific terms and conditions of usage that can prevent the City from taking advantage of them. Mr. Pollard will get a summary of these grants to the BOR right away.

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Curtis, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 8:28pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).