



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report - UPDATED

Date: Tuesday, March 23, 2021
Time: 6:30pm
Place: Meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance was Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Watkins. Excused was Rep. Curtis. Also present were Reps. de la Cruz, McMullen and Stella; Mayor David Martin; Michael Pollard, Chief of Staff; Thomas Madden, Director of Economic Development; Assistant Police Chief Tom Wuennemann; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Chris Dellaselva, Law Dept.; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; and five members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:31pm.

| Item No. | Description | Committee Action |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 13. O30.085 | APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and Eagle Environmental, Inc. for Hazardous Material Monitoring & Inspection for the Old Police Station Demolition under RFP No. 822. 03/03/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 03/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1 | Failed 2-6-0 |

Item #3 was taken up out of order.

Mr. Casolo gave background on this item. Last year the design contract for the demolition failed in the BOR. The cost was then estimated at \$3M. The Administration wanted to know the true costs, and the only way to do that was to put the project out to bid. Six companies submitted bids and Stamford Wrecking came in at \$867K. Work would begin in mid-April 2021 and be done by mid-July 2021. Bid contracts do not require BOR approval, and the bid can be awarded to the lowest responsible qualified bidder. In order to do the demolition, environmental monitoring is required. The agreement with Eagle Environment is based on hourly wages and lab testing costs.

Various points were raised:

- As of now the Administration has no plans of selling the property and it will be used as green space.
- Certain members of the BOR expressed concern last year over the demolition and abatement and these concerns do not seem to have been addressed.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:05

- Did the Administration go through a different route so the contract would not have to go back to the BOR?
- Should the City be responsible for the demolition and abatement if the property will be sold?
- The building is contaminated and needs to be removed. It should not be left as a blighted piece of property for years.
- Green space is important. However the property could be sold and that money used for funding greater needs in Stamford.
- The property should be appraised.
- The Administration believes strongly that a heavily contaminated building needs to be demolished.
- A clear plan is needed for what will happen to this property and what is best for the City. The Administration and the BOR should work together to figure this out.
- Mr. Casolo will get more information on the abatement process to the Committee.

A motion to hold Item #3 was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 4-4-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Coleman, Lee, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Zelinsky, Adams, Mahoney and Sherwood opposed).

A motion to approve Item #3 was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 2-6-0 (Reps. Jacobson and Watkins in favor; Reps. Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, and Sherwood opposed).

- ²2. [O30.081](#) RESOLUTION; In Favor of Creating a Solarize Stamford Program. **Held 8-0-0**
 01/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. Lee and Jacobson
 01/26/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0
 02/23/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee, 7-0-0

A motion to hold Item #2 so that experts can attend the next meeting was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

- ³1. [O30.069](#) REVIEW; South End Fire House; Installation of Police Substation and Duration of Substation at Location. **Held 8-0-0**
 03/04/20 – Submitted by Rep. Adams
 12/29/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-0-0
 01/11/21 – Moved to Pending
 02/23/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee, 9-0-0

Chair Jacobson recommended that Item #1 be held for three reasons:

- Mayor Martin was not able to be on the meeting for this discussion.
- Key items which Rep. Sherwood requested were received by the Committee shortly before this meeting which did not give the Committee enough time to review the information.
- There is not yet a written legal opinion on this item.

² Video Time Stamp: 01:57:00

³ Video Time Stamp: 01:57:48

A motion to hold Item #1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

44. [O30.086](#) APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and Sustainable Strategies DC LLC for Federal Lobbying Services under RFP No. 825. **Approved 6-1-1**
02/26/21 – Submitted by Mayor Martin
03/11/21 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-1-0

Mr. Madden and Mr. Pollard reviewed the agreement and there was discussion.

- There were interviews with three firms and through the ranking system Sustainable Strategies DC LLC came out on top.
- This is a three year contract. Monthly fees are : Year 1) \$10,050; Year 2) \$10,550; and Year 3) \$11,050.
- Stamford has used this firm before, three years ago.
- This firm is capable of building the content and language in grants submissions that is necessary to secure grants.
- Sustainable Strategies does not submit the paperwork, the City Grants Department does that.
- Holland & Knight, the previous lobbyist firm, was more involved with policies and not as much with securing grants.
- Knowledge is needed for the new Rescue Act Package under President Biden's Administration. The Rescue Act has a number of components involved and the City will need to know how to submit applications to win grants.
- Rep. Sherwood stated that she would not be in support of this item as she is opposed to lobbying.
- Rep. Mahoney requested that the BOR receive regular updates on the lobbyists' activities.

A motion to approve Item #4 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-1-1 (Reps. Jacobson, Adams, Coleman, Lee, Mahoney, and Watkins in favor; Rep. Sherwood opposed; Rep. Zelinsky abstained).

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).