



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood. Excused was Committee Member Rep. Watkins. Also present was Rep. de la Cruz; Mayor David Martin; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Kevin Murray, Parks & Facilities Dept.; Dana Lee and Mike Toma, Law Dept.; Andrew Nisker, Producer, *Ground War*; Dr. Sara Evans, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Louis Rosado Burch, Citizens Campaign for the Environment; and 10 members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
12. O30.094	ORDINANCE for publication; Prohibiting the Use and Application of Non-Organic Pesticides, Fungicides, Insecticides, Herbicides, Rodenticides or Fertilizer on City-Owned Properties. 06/07/21 – Submitted by Reps. Sherwood, Jacobson, Figueroa, Cottrell, Patterson, Saftic, Zelinsky, Pratt, Curtis and Mayor Martin 06/29/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0	Approved as Amended 8-0-0

A motion was made, seconded and approved to take up Item #2 of order.

Mr. Nisker, Mr. Burch, and Dr. Evans spoke about this item and there was discussion. Some of the points discussed:

- Pesticides can linger in the soil for many years, and are proven to be dangerous to humans, animals, and the bird and insect population.
- Vulnerable populations are of big concern – children, elderly, and immune compromised people especially.
- Effects of pesticides are often not seen in the human body for many years.
- Colony collapse disorder with pollinators is a big problem caused by these pesticides.
- The State statutes regarding pesticides is not enough to protect people.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:02

- Municipalities should look to Middletown, CT as an example, which expanded the State regulations to now ban pesticides at all schools K-12.
- The BOE is not doing any kind of treatment for the BOE fields. It should be looked into as to why there is no treatment at all.
- Mr. Murray stated that organics are currently being used as a test run at two ball fields, one at Cummings Park and one at Cove Island.
- Implementing organics is a five year program. Approximately \$80-100K is spent on materials each year of the initial program. Once the root system is established, this amount would be much less. It would be approximately \$150K each year total for 22 fields including materials and labor.
- Mr. Dana Lee explained that the State statute controls the application of pesticides on school property, banning it on K-8 fields, and for high schools requires the BOE to implement an integrated pest management plan, which involves using only State approved pesticides determined to be low/minimal risk.

A motion to approve all of Mayor Martin's amendments (as attached to this item) was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, and Sherwood in favor).

A motion to amend Sec. F(3) by deleting "*effective date*" and replacing with "*passage*" was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, and Sherwood in favor).

A motion to approve Item #2 as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, and Sherwood in favor).

21. [O30.098](#) RESOLUTION; BOR's Recommendation on the use of the Old Police Station to the Mayor. **Held 8-0-0**
07/06/21 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson

Chair Jacobson explained that he drafted this resolution with the intention of the Committee discussing what the next step should be. There was discussion.

- The November Board Meeting is the last date to take action on a formal recommendation for this item.
- Two public hearings should be held.
- Should the Committee make recommendations now, or wait until after the first public hearing and/or second public hearing?

A motion to hold two public hearings and make recommendations only after the second public hearing was made and failed for lack of a second motion.

- Did Mayor Martin agree that if public outcry was big enough he would not demolish the building?
- This resolution lacks a recommendation; the recommendation will be accomplished after the two public hearings.
- Chair Jacobson asked that Representatives send him all of their ideas on what to do with the property. He will add the ideas to the draft of this resolution so that

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members of the public can clearly see what the potential options are for the property before the public hearings. That revised draft resolution will be presented to the Steering Committee.

- The consensus of most of the Committee Members was that the Committee should make recommendations after the first public hearing, then fine tune the resolution after the second public hearing, then advance it to the full board.

A motion to conduct two public hearings was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, and Sherwood in favor).

A motion to approve this resolution was made and failed for lack of a second motion, and the motion was withdrawn.

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

33. [O30.065](#) REVIEW; West Main Street Bridge **Held 8-0-0**
12/04/2019 – 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 by Committee 5-0-0
12/29/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-0-0
01/11/21 – Moved to Pending
05/25/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 9-0-0
06/29/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0

Mr. Casolo gave an update on this item and there was discussion. Two activities have occurred since his last update to the Committee:

- One, an RFP was written and advertised for professional engineering services design of a pedestrian bridge. The RFP is due back on July 29, 2021.
- Two, an in-depth bridge inspection was initiated that took place on July 20, 2021.
- Follow up inspections should be done every three months, as things continue to get worse with the bridge.
- The Operations Department removed significant debris from the area.
- Clerk Nabel and Rep. de la Cruz have been working on a draft resolution will they will submit to the Committee as soon as possible.
- The bridge will continue to be closed during severe weather.

A motion to hold Item #3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, and Sherwood favor).

44. O30.099 APPROVAL; Creation of an Operations Committee **No Action Taken**
Review Item Subcommittee.
07/06/21 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson

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This item is a mechanism to discuss the schedule for the next several months. Various options were considered and there was discussion.

- Create an Operations sub-committee to consider review items.
- Have two meetings each month with separate agendas for action items and review Items.
- Have two meetings per month with each agenda having both action items and review items.
- The President could create a special committee.
- Something needs to be done as when meetings go on for over four hours all the items are not receiving proper due diligence.

A motion to create an Operations Review Item Subcommittee with Operations Committee members was made and failed for lack of a second motion.

It was agreed upon that the best direction moving forward is to have two Operations Committee Meetings per month with each agenda containing both action items and review items for the remainder of the term.

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 9:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on [Video](#).