



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Monday, August 15, 2022
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely*

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair de la Cruz and Committee Member Reps. Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Watkins. Absent was Rep. Boeger. Also present were Reps. Matheny and Summerville; Matt Quinones, Director of Operations; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Dan Colleluori, Supervisor of Solid Waste & Recycling; Janeene Freeman, Mayor's Office; Carmen Hughes, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Officer; and three members of the public.

Chair de la Cruz called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. O31.017	REVIEW; Stamford Transfer Station Operations and Possibility of Increasing Fees for Non-Residential and Commercial Businesses using the Transfer Station. 07/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Curtis 07/18/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 7-0-0	Report Made and Held 7-0-0

Mr. Colleluori gave an update on this item, and there was discussion:

- He has visited the site with Frank Petise, Traffic Bureau Chief, regarding the line of trucks waiting on Harbor View Drive. Mr. Petise will go to the business to see if he can make any changes to the parking to possibly make a lane for the waiting line. In the past the businesses have expressed they want the parking spaces to remain.
- Users of the facility are supposed to bring in waste only from Stamford, but there is no way to prove that.
- Mr. Colleluori has inserted himself more in the day to day process. The volume has not decreased, but the process has become more efficient.
- Transfer station now has employees there at 5:00am to allow two hours for some of the large trucks to remove waste before the facility opens to the public.

- Fees will be increasing by \$3.00 per ton on December 1st, which is when contractor fees go up. Per the Stamford ordinance this is allowed.
- Small companies or individuals that do dump runs usually do not have contracts or receipts to prove where the waste is coming from.
- City of Stamford garbage haulers should not be in the line. Employees are now getting out to direct traffic so these trucks bypass the line.
- Residents are allowed to dump 200 pounds per day for free.
- City Carting (WIN Waste) is the only other place in Stamford where residents can dispose of garbage.
- Stamford processes 66,000 tons of waste per year. Approximately 48-50,000 tons of that is Stamford garbage collection.
- Mr. Colleluori will follow up with OPM to figure out what revenue is generated.
- Stamford's waste goes to Pennsylvania. Highway backups and holidays can delay the garbage leaving the transfer station.

Mr. Colleluori extended an invitation to any representatives who would like to come for a tour of the transfer station and discuss possible solutions.

A motion to hold Item No. 1 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. de la Cruz, Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Stella, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

²2. [O31.018](#) REVIEW; West Main Street Bridge. Report Made
08/03/22 – Submitted by Director Quinones and Held 7-0-0

Director Quinones and Mr. Casolo reviewed the [attached presentation](#), and there was discussion.

- There was a lot of community outreach. Residents want something done now to fix the bridge and make it safe. However, there was no clear consensus on whether it should be a vehicle bridge or pedestrian only.
- The prefabricated bridge project is moving along with permits and administrative tasks involved.
- The prefabricated bridge will be placed on the north side of the existing bridge.
- Connecticut based ROTH Contracting won the bid.
- Purchasing Dept. is working on a contract that should be completed this week.
- Once started, the job should be finished in 180 calendar days.
- A 1,700 foot pedestrian detour will be directed towards Mill River St., to Tresser Blvd., to Clinton Ave., to Main Street.
- A full replacement of the existing bridge is currently being pursued, per the Board Resolution 4121.
- The bid will be for two concept designs: pedestrian only, and pedestrian with vehicle access.
- This process will run parallel to the timeline of the prefabricated bridge.
- The prefabricated bridge will take all utilities across the river. That stage is not happening in this current project. This will follow once the structure is in place.
- There will be removable bollards at each end of the bridge, which will be moved when emergency vehicles go through.
- It has not been decided whether the prefabricated bridge will be there permanently or will be replaced by the new bridge.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:30:10

A motion to hold Item No. 2 was made, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. de la Cruz, Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Stella, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

- ³3. [O31.019](#) REVIEW; Placing Utility Wirings Underground on any New Sidewalks and Street Projects. Report Made
08/03/22 – Submitted by Rep. Stella

Rep. Stella explained why he put this item on the agenda. There are many sidewalks with utility poles in the middle of sidewalks. While sidewalks are being repaired in Stamford, we are missing the opportunity to put the utilities underground. Storms often result in loss of power and expensive repairs. Underground utilities could prevent this. Other municipalities are doing it and Stamford should look into it.

Mr. Casolo stated that this issue has come up with various Administrations. To do it in an urban setting is very challenging. It is traditionally done with newer developments. Utility companies view this as a betterment, which means municipalities pay the entire cost. Maintenance and troubleshooting of underground utilities is difficult.

There was discussion:

- Retrofitting utility lines when repairing/creating new sidewalks is very costly and can be problematic.
- Every individual property owner would be responsible for connecting from the street to their property.
- Greenwich zoning requires that all new developments in planned residential zones have utilities placed underground.
- With storm events becoming more frequent and severe, the sooner Stamford starts moving in the direction of underground utilities the better off the City and its residents will be.

The Committee agreed to make a report on this item with the expectation that at the next Steering Committee Meeting a derivative of this item will be submitted. Chair de la Cruz will circulate a draft of the new item for the Steering Committee.

Chair de la Cruz adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).

³ Video Time Stamp: 01:20:00