



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

Sean Boeger, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, December 29, 2022
Time: 6:30 pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair de la Cruz, Vice Chair Boeger, and Committee Member Reps. Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Watkins. Also present were Reps. Adams, Campbell, Matheny, Miller, Morson, Pavia, Summerville, and Walston; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; and three members of the public.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. 031.022	APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and Antinozzi Associates P.C. for HVAC Units & Roof Replacement at the Yerwood Community Center (a/k/a the Boys & Girls Club), 300 West Main Street (Under RFP No. 868). 11/23/22 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 12/07/22 – Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-1	Approved 9-0-0

Mr. Casolo gave an overview of Item #1 and there was discussion.

- This project will be for HVAC units and roof renovation.
- Antinozzi Associates performed assessments. There is more work that needs to be done than is in the current budget to support, but the budget is sufficient for this project.
- An RFP was put out, six firms submitted proposals, and the selection committee chose Antinozzi.
- The building is designed in such a way that there are three different main roofing systems throughout the Center.
- There are too many obstructions on the roof to allow for an optimal solar panel configuration. This could be revisited in the future but would not work now.
- There is barely enough money to do this project, let alone installation solar panels even if the situation was optimal.
- This agreement allows for \$148,900 for architectural and engineering services.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:08

- Right now there is \$1.5 million with ARP funds and CDBG funds which is just enough to cover this project.
- The roof is at the end of life, 25 years old. The structure itself is from 1926.
- Chair de la Cruz stated he is very disappointed that this project is moving forward without solar panel installation.
- Chair de la Cruz also expressed concerns that the feasibility of installing solar panels was not fully explored and that a thorough cost benefit analysis was not performed.
- Rep. Watkins stated we should accept the opinion of the professionals in the Engineering Dept.
- Reps. Ley, Sherwood, and Tomas stated they were satisfied with Mr. Casolo's explanation of the project and the reasons why there cannot be solar panels installed at this time.

A motion to approve Item #1 was made, seconded and approved by unanimous voice vote (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

- ²2. [O31.017](#) REVIEW; Stamford Transfer Station Operations and Possibility of Increasing Fees for Non-Residential and Commercial Businesses using the Transfer Station. **Held 9-0-0**
07/06/22 – Submitted by Reps. Stella and Curtis
07/18/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 7-0-0
08/15/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 7-0-0
09/12/22 – Moved to Pending
10/17/22 –Held by Committee 8-0-0

Due to the unavailability of the invited guests, a motion to hold Item #2 was made, seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

- ³3. [O31.018](#) REVIEW; West Main Street Bridge. **Held 9-0-0**
08/03/22 – Submitted by Director Quinones
08/15/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee 7-0-0
09/12/22 – Moved to Pending

Mr. Casolo gave an update of the project since the August 15, 2022 update given by Mr. Quinones.

The Administration will outsource the development of concept designs for an emergency vehicle and pedestrian bridge. On December 16th Mr. Casolo sent out a proposal to engineering firms and bridge designers to complete a planning level engineering analysis to develop budgeting and project scheduling.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:33:55

³ Video Time Stamp: 00:36:22

There are currently three options for the bridge:

1. Remove existing bridge, piers and abutments, and construct new vehicular bridge in existing location with sidewalks and bicycle lanes. Includes removal of new pre-fabricated bridge.
2. Removal of existing bridge, construct new vehicular bridge with sidewalks and bicycle lanes but re-aligning bridge with Smith Street to better align the roadway network. Includes removal of new pre-fab bridge. This will be the most expensive of the three options.
3. Remove existing bridge superstructure, piers, and abutments; keep the pre-fab pedestrian bridge; historic elements of bridge to be cleaned and relocated to nearby area.

Grant opportunities vary widely because certain grants are available only for specific options. Therefore it is difficult to say exactly how much grant money is available until it is known which option will be chosen. To restore the existing bridge and make it vehicular is not feasible.

There was discussion:

- Regardless of what the cost would be for a full restoration, the BOR would like to see this option and the costs.
- Between 2000 and 2004 several studies and designs were done. None could retain the existing structure to allow for vehicular traffic.
- Regardless of the cost, it might not be physically possible to restore the bridge. Would have to try to meet grade at both touchdown points, and hydraulic backflow cannot be increased by putting deeper beams in the floodway. Full restoration can be evaluated, but the outcome will probably not be successful.
- BOR should be presented with all possibilities for the bridge, even if some options are cost prohibitive.
- Mr. Casolo has been trying to present the most feasible options.
- Rep. Ley stated that a fourth option should not be added to the RFP, since it seems restoring the existing bridge might not be feasible or possible.
- Resolution Number 4121 is not legally binding and can be broadened.
- The RAISE grants for the West Main Street corridor will not include the bridge.
- Chair de la Cruz stated that the scope of the RAISE grant for the West Main Street Corridor should be renegotiated to include the bridge.
- Mr. Casolo will get back to the BOR with the information on a full restoration.

A motion to hold Item #3 was made, seconded and approved by a unanimous voice vote (Reps. de la Cruz, Boeger, Baxter, Coleman, Ley, Sherwood, Stella, Tomas, and Watkins in favor).

Chair de la Cruz adjourned the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).