



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, September 30, 2021

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: This meeting was held remotely.

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford and Sherwood. Chair Stella was excused. Also present were Reps. Adams and Cottrell; Ted Jankowski, Public Safety & Health Director; Ralph Blessing, Land Use Bureau Chief; Dana Lee, Law Dept.; Trevor Roach, Fire Chief; Erin McKenna, Senior Planner; Noah Slovin, Resiliency Planner, SRL Consulting; Julia Shaffer, medical student; Mark Stelzner, Professor of Economics Connecticut College; Rona Stuller; and seven members of the public.

Vice Chair Morson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. PS30.057	RESOLUTION: In Support of Medicare for All. 06/02/2020 – Submitted by Reps. Cottrell, de la Cruz, Summerville, Patterson, Moore, Sherwood, Pendell, Policar, Matherne, Aquila, Saftic and Roqueta 06/08/20 – Moved to Pending 08/10/20 – Moved to Pending	Held 7-0-0

Rep. Cottrell and the invited guests spoke on Item #1 and there was discussion. Some points included:

- Healthcare costs are rising, and everyone should have everyone should have access to quality healthcare.
- People often delay doctor visits due to cost.
- Medicare for All would help small businesses owners.
- Single payer system can causes long wait times for services, and Canadians often come to the U.S. for tests and elective surgeries.
- Healthcare costs are burdensome to Stamford's municipal budget.
- Access to healthcare should be separate from a person's employment and relationship status.
- People often stay in dangerous personal situations to avoid losing healthcare.
- The City of New London introduced a resolution similar to this.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:02:00

- The wording on this resolution should be examined more thoroughly.

A motion to hold Item #1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor.

- ²2. [PS30.099](#) RESOLUTION; Adopting the Western Connecticut Council Of Governments Multi-Jurisdiction Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2021-2026. **Approved 8-0-0**
 08/03/21 – Submitted by Ralph Blessing
 08/09/21 – Moved to Pending Agenda

Ms. McKenna reviewed Item #2 and there was discussion.

- Every five years the regional plan agency coordinates with member municipalities to update this hazard mitigation plan. The role of the Land Use Bureau is to work with City departments that have a role in disaster preparedness.
- Each department details what the hazard preparedness goals are for the next five years.
- This is a requirement for FEMA funding, and also works for other grant endeavors.
- There is an annual report of the implementation of the plan that is to be distributed to the BOR.
- The actions in the plan are statements of intention and recommendations, not mandates.
- This is multijurisdictional plan.

A motion to Approve Item #2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor.

- ³3. PS30.101 REVIEW; Update on [PS30.068](#) - Impact of Work Performed by A. Vitti Construction on Air Quality. **Held 8-0-0**
 08/04/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis and Pratt
 08/26/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-1-0

Mr. Jankowski gave an update on Item #3.

Mr. Jankowski and the citations officers visited the property numerous times at various times of day for a seven-day period. The findings were presented to the Legal Dept. The Legal Dept. submitted a detailed 55 page motion on September 10, 2021 to enforce stipulations that are in place. The motion is currently in the court system awaiting the next steps.

² Video Time Stamp: 00:56:20

³ Video Time Stamp: 01:16:00

A motion to hold Item #3 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor.

44. PS30.102 REVIEW; August 28th Fire on Reynold's Avenue **Report Made**
that Resulted in Injury to a Stamford Firefighter and
Reports of Several Inoperable Fire Hydrants and
Poor Water Pressure In the Immediate Area.
08/30/21 – Submitted by Reps. Curtis, Stella,
Sandford, and Sherwood

Chief Roach and Mr. Jankowski reviewed Item #4 and there was discussion.

- Aquarion has put \$22M in Stamford's infrastructure to improve pressure and increase water mains.
- For most part everything with the fire went well and it was put out quickly.
- The driver of one rescue truck made an error and missed the street.
- There were no water pressure issues as previously reported. A crew attempted to hook up to a fire hydrant and the stem broke. It was a problem with the hydrant, which was installed in 1930.
- The injury to the firefighter occurred when he was in the attic and stepped through a hole in the floor.
- There was a communication breakdown with the crews that is currently being looked into.
- Rescue trucks carry 3,000 gallons of water which is used immediately upon arrival before opening a hydrant.
- There is an ongoing project to update all of the hydrants in the city.
- Replacing a hydrant costs between \$6,000 to \$9,000. There is an agreement with Aquarion that during major water main projects, Stamford will provide the hydrant which costs about \$2,500 and Aquarion will install it at no cost.
- Approximately 1000 hydrants in Stamford are more than 40 years old.
- Last year 45 hydrants were replaced. This year about 100 will be replaced.

55. PS30.092 REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality **Held 7-1-0**
Monitoring as Proposed in [Resolution 4081](#),
Advocating that the City of Stamford Prepare And
Seek State Approval of an Air Quality Monitoring
Program and Implement Such a Program.
04/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Stella,
and Zelinsky.
04/29/21 – Report Made and Held by Committee 7-
1-0
08/26/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-0-0

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 01:19:10

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 01:45:32

Mr. Jankowski spoke on Item #5 and there was discussion.

- Mr. Jankowski spoke to Erik Mallory, a consultant with JJ Wilbur who met with DEEP. Mr. Mallory's recommendation for outdoor monitoring is to purchase monitoring equipment that will monitor for fine particular matter. He also recommends getting a laboratory canister that gathers samples.
- He recommends monitoring indoors for carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, and foreign particular matter.
- Monitoring ozone levels is out of our control; it comes from the stratosphere.
- Mr. Mallory needs to do more research on this. Mr. Jankowski will be speaking to him next week.
- Stamford would run the air monitoring program.
- Rep. de la Cruz stated that OSHA is coming to look at the air quality in the schools, so a document is needed that defines the programs objectives.

A motion to hold Item #5 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-1-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor; Rep. McMullen opposed).

Vice Chair Morson adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Vice Chair Morson

This meeting is on [video](#)