



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Jeffrey Stella, Chair

Eric Morson, Vice Chair

Committee

Date: Thursday, October 28, 2021
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely.

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Stella, Vice Chair Morson and Committee Member Reps. Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood. Also present were Reps. Cottrell and de la Cruz; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Burt Rosenberg, Mike Toma, and Dana Lee, Law Dept.; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare; State Rep. David Michel; and four members of the public.

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

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. PS30.109	APPROVAL; Agreement with Central Square Technologies for Public Safety Records Management System 09/24/21 – Submitted by Ted Jankowski 10/14/21 - Approved by Board of Finance 5-0-0	Approved 8-0-0

Director Jankowski and Mr. Rosenburg explained the importance of this Agreement and there was a brief discussion.

- The current records system of the Stamford Police Dept. (SPD) is at the end of its useful life and will no longer allow for field based reporting by officers. It does not connect to the computer assisted dispatch system (CAD) for automatically populating the incident data. It has become very labor intensive and causes delays for reporting.
- The new system proposed is cloud-based, and integrates the current CAD system with the records management system (RMS).
- It will greatly reduce the number of data entry errors, allow for more accurate reporting, and will reduce costly work time.
- The Stamford negotiating team did an excellent job of negotiating a good price, along with ensuring that Stamford gets the full functionality of the new system.
- Much of this contract involves updating and modifying the existing system.
- The City has worked with this vendor for a long time, and there will be approximately \$250K in savings by staying with this vendor.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:01:05

- This program is specific to policing and CAD systems, and complies with all state and federal requirements.
- This is a five year contract with no annual increase. Each year costs approximately \$155K. The first year has a \$100K rebate, the second year has a \$100K rebate, third year has a \$100K rebate, and second year has a \$75K rebate.

A motion to approve Item #1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor).

22. [PS30.057](#) RESOLUTION: In Support of Medicare for All. **Approved as Amended 5-2-1**
 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
 09/30/21 – Held by Committee 7-0-0

Rep. Cottrell reviewed the Health Costs [presentation](#) in detail and there was discussion.

A motion to allow State Rep. Michel to speak on this item was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-2-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor; Reps. McMullen and Palomba opposed).

A motion to take up the proposed resolution for consideration was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 6-2-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor; Reps. McMullen and Palomba opposed).

A motion to strike “**Whereas, recent national polls show that a majority of Americans support Medicare for All; and**” was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 8-0-0 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sandford, and Sherwood in favor).

A motion to include “**excluding abortion services as already excluded by federal law**” in the fourth Whereas clause was made and failed for lack of a second motion.

A motion to strike “**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Stamford Board of Representatives enthusiastically supports Medicare for All and calls on our federal legislators to work toward enactment of H.R. 1979, the Medicare for All Act of 2021, that will assure appropriate and efficient health care for all residents**” was made, seconded and failed by a vote of 2-6-0 (Reps. McMullen and Palomba in favor; Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, Sandford, and Sherwood opposed).

A motion to approve Item #2 as amended was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-2-1 (Reps. Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, and Sherwood in favor; Reps. McMullen and Palomba opposed; Rep. Sandford abstaining).

² Video Time Stamp: 00:12:55

33. [PS30.108](#) REVIEW; Limiting the Recreational Use of Marijuana in Stamford. **Report Made**
09/19/21 – Submitted by Rep. McMullen

Mr. Lee gave an overview of the State law and its impact on municipalities with respect to use and use restrictions, and there was discussion.

- Wherever tobacco smoking and vaping is not allowed, cannabis smoking and vaping is not allowed.
- There are gaps that likely need to be filled, such as restaurants with sidewalk café areas and private outdoor spaces.
- The State law gives municipalities the authority to pass an ordinance banning smoking and vaping cannabis, and the consumption of cannabis edibles, on property controlled by the municipality.
- This means Stamford can pass an ordinance that further regulates or prohibits the use and consumption of cannabis on public grounds, and in the outside air portions of restaurants.
- Municipalities can establish reasonable restrictions regarding the sale of cannabis, such as hours of operation, signage, and proximity of retail establishments to sensitive buildings, such as houses of worship and schools. Retail sales in CT will probably begin in late 2022.
- Stamford has the ability through zoning or ordinance to prohibit the sale of cannabis.
- If cannabis use in Stamford is prohibited in all public areas, since there is a population over 50,000 a designated area in the city must be established where use is allowed.
- Operating a vehicle while under the influence of cannabis is not allowed at certain levels, the same as with alcohol.
- Per State law a person can walk in a residential area smoking, vaping or consuming marijuana.
- The City of Stamford needs to take an educated approach about marijuana when making any zoning laws or ordinances. There are many questions that still need to be answered.

A report was made on Item #3.

44. [PS30.110](#) ORDINANCE for publication, public hearing and final adoption; Adding Chapter 73 - Marijuana & Tobacco **Held 7-2-0**
10/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. McMullen and Stella

Vice Chair Morson opened up the Public Hearing for Item #4. Kieran Edmondson spoke in favor of monitoring marijuana use in the City to protect young people at risk under 21 years of age. There being no one else from the public wishing to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

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⁴ Video Time Stamp: 01:42:00

Co-sponsors Reps. McMullen and Stella agreed that there is a lot of work that needs to be done with this item and much more time is needed to thoroughly research and discuss it. If it is approved tonight it would most likely be duplicating the State statute.

A motion to hold Item #4 was made, seconded and held by a vote of 7-2-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Giordano, McMullen, Palomba, and Sandford in favor; Reps. Matherne and Sherwood opposed).

⁵5. PS30.101 REVIEW; Update on [PS30.068](#) - Impact of Work Performed by A. Vitti Construction on Air Quality. **Held 8-1-0**
08/04/21 – Submitted by Reps. Stella, Curtis and Pratt
08/26/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-1-0
09/30/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 8-0-0

Chair Stella took over chairing the meeting.

Director Jankowski gave an update on Item #5 and there was discussion.

- Citation officers have been to the property. They are observing, not enforcing, because the stipulation agreement right now is the ruling factor. The officers are going to the courts and reporting.
- It is active in the courts, so Director Jankowski cannot discuss many details.
- The Legal Dept. is ensuring that all agreements are being enforced.
- As long as the property owner does not get a certificate of occupancy, can they continue to operate as they have been?
- If the judge previously ruled there was a violation, the property owner should not be allowed to continue rock crushing while the case is in court.
- The property owner cannot be fined since he does not have a certificate of occupancy.
- Director Jankowski will reach out to Cynthia Anger in the Legal Dept. to get more information.

A motion to hold Item #5 was made, seconded and held by a vote of 8-1-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, and Sherwood in favor; Rep. Sandford opposed).

⁶6. PS30.092 REVIEW; Administration Plans to pursue Air Quality 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. **Held 9-0-0**
04/06/21 – Submitted by Reps. de la Cruz, Stella, and Zelinsky.
04/29/21 – Report Made and Held by Committee 7-1-0

Director Jankowski gave an update on Item #6.

- He is continuing to work with the J.J. Wilbur Company air monitoring specialists.

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⁶ Video Time Stamp: 02:07:30

- This week he will be meeting with a representative from DEEP and hopes to gain much more information about an air quality program after this meeting.
- Stamford will probably move ahead with J.J. Wilbur again as they have helped other municipalities put forth air quality programs.
- Rep. de la Cruz stated he has heard concerns from parents about the levels of carbon dioxide in classrooms.
- Director Jankowski plans to give an update at the next Committee meeting.

A motion to hold Item #6 was made, seconded and held by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Stella, Morson, Curtis, Giordano, Matherne, McMullen, Palomba, Sanford and Sherwood in favor).

77. [PS30.106](#) REVIEW; Requesting a Map Comparison and Report of **Report Made** all Known and Documented Flooding in Stamford Going Back at Least Three Years from September 9, 2021.
09/14/21 - Submitted By: Reps. Stella, Curtis, Sherwood, and Sandford

Chair Stella explained that Item #7 was put on the agenda due to many constituent complaints about flooding. Additionally, Storm Ida resulted in several deaths in other states in basement apartments, and because there are many basement apartments in Stamford this is a big safety issue. Stamford needs to figure out how to prevent flooding.

Mr. Casolo and Director McGrath reviewed this item and there was discussion.

- The Engineering Dept. has created a living document that maps Stamford's flooding issues. The mapping data is a compilation of three data points: 1) items that come into the city Fix-It program (mostly for the Highways Dept.); 2) inquiries to Engineering Dept., and 3) inquiries to the Fire Dept.
- The best way for residents to report flooding and drainage issues is to report it on the Fix-It Stamford website form at <https://veoci.com/v/p/form/wbvcc7v4ycns>.
- It can be a very complicated process to fix a big problem, involving Stamford, the State, and the EPB.
- The best prevention for residents' safety is early notification, making sure residents move cars to higher ground, leave basement apartments, use sand bags for private property, etc.
- The existing storm drainage systems are not designed to be able to alleviate rainwater from extremely large storm events.
- Mayor Martin recently proposed a city-wide drainage assessment, but it was not approved by the Board of Finance. Fixing these problems often depends on how much funding the Engineering Dept. receives for drainage remedies.
- Communication about storms between the City and residents is vital. In addition to preparing residents before a storm, there should be notifications about what to do during and after the storm.
- Every Monday all supervisors receive a report on problems that were reported to Fix-It Stamford for their department.
- Residents should be notified about the status of their Fix-It issue.

A report was made on Item #7.

8. PS30.107

REVIEW; Report of Municipal Waste Haulaway Program Backlog, Resulting in the Yard/Transfer Station Operation being Shut Down and Sanitation Trucks being used to Store Garbage.
09/15/21 - Submitted By: Rep. Curtis

Report Made

Director McGrath gave an update on Item #8.

- After Storm Ida, there was a combination of increased debris and a slowdown of removing it.
- The receiving end of Stamford's trash is in New Jersey, and New Jersey was experiencing flooding.
- Usually 13 truckloads per day are hauled away from Stamford. After the storm, the average was six to 10 truckloads.
- The transfer station was closed for 2.5 days to commercial vehicles to help alleviate the problem.
- For a few days 16 to 19 hauls were picked up daily to get back on track.
- No garbage was stored in trucks overnight at any point.
- The current haul away contract was extended 45 days, and the new bid process is ongoing.

A report was made on Item #8.

Chair Stella adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Stella, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)