

CITY OF NORWICH
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

July 30, 2009

Present:

Ald. Bresina, Chairman
Ald. Carey
Ald. Deierlein

Also:

City Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
EMO A. Jones

Absent:

None

Ald. Bresina called the July meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order at 6:03 PM on July 30, 2009, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Carey **moved** to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009, Committee meeting. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all.

Visitors - None

Correspondence - None

Department Head Reports

Fire Department Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo reported that a DEC grant for equipment and materials for brush fire control has been approved in the maximum amount of \$1,000. It is a matching grant, wherein the City provides \$2,000 and DEC provides \$1,000. He also mentioned that the new fire pumper truck is expected to be delivered approximately on August 23rd. Ald. Carey asked about the status of funding. W. Roberts replied that the State Emergency Services 2½ % loan proceeds of \$225,000 were already received last year, and that \$90,000 in Capital Reserves would make up the balance of the approximately \$315,000 purchase price. He believed the \$90,000 transfer has also been done, and wasn't sure but thought that around \$140,000 remained in the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve. (Note: Subsequent verification confirms that the transfer was done, and the current reserve balance is \$121,000.)

Police Department

K9 Unit

Police Chief Joseph Angelino reported that the P&G grant of \$20,000 has been received, and he has spent about \$1,800 to convert the oldest patrol car to K9 use. He reported that a panel including the Broome County K9 Director and K9 Sergeant, plus Greene Police Chief Dutcher, all of whom are K9 specialists, interviewed several NPD officers as candidates for K9 Handler. Officer Brandon Clarke was determined to be the best match for the assigned extra duty. Chief Angelino then reviewed logistical and strategical details of how the operation will work and be managed. In addition to the P&G grant, a private donor has committed up to \$5,000 for the cost of the dog, which will be a German Shepherd. Chief Angelino said he will seek to get the most cost efficient result for the benefit of the donor.

Technology Grant

Chief Angelino referred to three Federal grant program applications he submitted this year. The first one was under the American Reinvestment Recovery Act (ARRA - Federal Stimulus Program) to cover salary costs in a range of about \$480,000; there were a tremendous number of applicants nationwide exceeding the limitations of available funds for the current round. Only 7 first round awards were announced on Tuesday for New York State. Norwich was close to approval, being

number 8 of the top 15 in the State under the rating system. Norwich was highest in financial need rating, but one of the lowest in per capita crime rates, and based on the composite score did not get funded.

The second grant involved the "Live Scan" finger printing (unfunded mandate) technology. The equipment cost for this is between \$36,000 to \$40,000, plus an annual operational cost of about \$2,000. The only available equipment in the County is located in the County jail, and for the City to share its use would be essentially unmanageable due to unwieldy logistics, which the Chief detailed. An alternative would be to fingerprint in the conventional manner, and then scan the sheets into electronic form. This card scan approach would cost approximately \$20,000 to \$24,000, with \$2,000 annual operating costs. He indicated that there will be about \$18,000 to \$20,000 2009 Budget savings in Personal Services from the absence of Sergeant Scott Meade, who has been called up to active duty for most of the remainder of the year. In planning ahead, he anticipates that should a grant not be awarded, a budget transfer from Personal Services plus supplemental transfer from Capital Projects for the balance will be pursued.

The third grant was submitted under the Rural Drug Enforcement Initiatives program, which would be a substantial amount of funding over 2 years for appointing a current police officer to the position of full-time detective, fully funded by the Federal grant. This would create a new hire backfill that would be partially funded under the two years. Additionally, the grant would include several thousand dollars of equipment and operational expenses.

St. Bart's Church Feast Day

Chief Angelino noted that correspondence has not yet been received from the Church requesting public safety coordination with the annual Feast Day celebration and small parade next month on certain streets in the Sixth Ward. He said he would follow up with the new pastor to make arrangements.

Radio Equipment

DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson asked Chief Angelino about the current Police Dept. radio equipment that is being replaced through FEMA funds allocated by the County Sheriff. The Chief said he is getting four new radios and base station, plus rack charger. He has also applied for five more in a grant application. Ivarson has suggested that the Water System purchase the old radios from the P.D., since although they are out of date for PD use, they are durable and useable for the Water System. The Chief said he will bring up more details on this and other equipment replacements at a Finance/Personnel committee meeting later in the fall.

EMO

EMO A. Jones reported a summary of results of the tabletop drill and policy review held in two parts between the City, County and State on July 8 and 9. The first part was an evening session involving a policy group consisting of department heads and operations people, and it went fairly well. The second part was not as effective as initially expected because the State personnel didn't follow through with related details. The City was very well represented due to its soundly established and thoroughly documented details. Alderman Deierlein asked about the status of the stream gauges installations, and Jones summarized that they are operational, except for one location that appears to need recalibration and/or chip replacement, which is under the warranty. A general discussion followed, including the County's involvement with the Federal Flood Buy-Out Program.

DPW

Troughs Bid

DPW Superintendent C. Ivarson reported on the primary clarifier troughs bid opening conducted on June 14th. One bid was received from MFG Water Treatment of Union City, PA, in the amount of \$55,000.00. He said this was a good figure, since initial estimates were in the range of \$65,000. Ald. Carey **moved** to forward to Finance/Personnel with a recommendation for approval. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, ayes all.

Open House

C. Ivarson said the annual Water System open house will be held on Wednesday, August 19th at 5:30 PM and the Wastewater Treatment facility.

RBCs Update

C. Ivarson reported that the Financial Hardship Application through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) with Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) was well-received, and that the Mayor would likely make an announcement in the near future. He and W. Roberts updated the Committee on the possible benefits and effects.

Creek Work, DEC, COE

C. Ivarson reported that DEC and Army Corps of Engineers (COE) don't think that work is needed except in the area of Black Bridge, although he disagrees. He also pointed out that coordination with Flood Control and Fisheries is necessary in order to schedule any work. The State was to provide up to \$9,000 for the work, but it is not yet clear when a permit would be issued. Ald. Carey **moved** to forward the issue to Finance/Personnel with the proviso that no work is to be done until a permit has been received back from DEC. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, ayes all.

Paving 2009

C. Ivarson handed out a schedule of this year's planned Street paving work. This will be posted on the City Web Site next week.

Time Warner Easement Request

C. Ivarson indicated that Time Warner had presented him with a rough sketch of the layout for buried fiber to be run into City Court. This is in connection with the State requirement for the entire NYS Unified Court System to be set up with fiber optics. An easement agreement has been submitted by them, which W. Roberts said will need to be reviewed with the City Attorney.

Other Items

Motorcycle Rally

A brief discussion was held regarding the logistics between the Fire, Police and DPW Departments relative to the Gold Wing Road Riders motorcycle rally, which was approved at the July 21st Council meeting.

Adjournment

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 7:21 PM. Seconded by Ald. Carey, duly approved ayes all.