

CITY OF NORWICH
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

January 25, 2007

Present:

Ald. Bresina, Chairman
Ald. Williams
Ald. Abraham

Also:

Superintendent of Public Works Carl Ivarson
Director of Finance William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police & Fire Chief Joseph Angelino
Assistant Police Chief Dale Smith
EMO A. Jones
Assistant Fire Chief Jan Papelino
Assistant Fire Chief Jim Foulston
Mayor Maiurano (6:15)
Ald. Schermerhorn (6:32)
Deputy Clerk Darlene Colaso

Committee Chairman Ald. Bresina presided at the Public Works/Public Safety Committee held at 6:00 PM on January 25, 2007, at the Public Works Highway Garage on Hale Street in Norwich.

Department Head Reports

Police & Fire Chief: Police Department

Purchase of New Patrol Car

Chief Angelino asked the Chenango County Safety Board to allow the purchase of a new patrol car and they will be forwarding the request on to County Supervisors. He reported that the city will be using its own equipment reserve money, which the County will reimburse through Stop DWI funds. Director of Finance Roberts asked if they are covering 100% and Angelino responded that it will be the State bid price of a car and he thought approximately \$20,467 plus maybe some extra equipment cost to be added.

Police Station Security

Angelino reported that the station on track to be closed and will soon have the security system installed, despite a few details to be ironed out. There was a brief discussion regarding DPW in cars and how they will be handled with the police station closed at night. Ald. Williams asked when the station would be closed and Angelino responded that it would be closed (unmanned) from 11 PM to 7 AM, with minor exceptions. He said that this will go a long way with officer safety. He briefly described the vandal proof telephone box that will link directly to the call center with a single-button touch. Angelino added that this will put an additional officer, usually a Sergeant, out on the street.

Personnel Update

Angelino also reported that he will be sending a new recruit to Utica or Binghamton (Officer Carpenter). He also mentioned that he is waiting list of Civil Service candidates to be announced or he may need to request a lateral transfer.

Police & Fire Chief: Fire Department

Equipment Update

Angelino reported that the new ambulance has arrived and the old ambulance will go to the auxiliary. There are some vehicles that need to be put on the surplus list, as they are too costly to maintain (former auxiliary ambulance vehicle, etc.). He also reported that he just discovered a maintenance expense that is beyond his ability to pay (over \$5,000; a connector problem with the ladder tower truck). Assistant Fire Chief Jan Papelino commented on the condition of some of the

equipment and a brief discussion ensued. Papelino added that there are certain parts that need to be replaced, however he believes one of the parts should be replaced at no cost to the city. Angelino, however, stated that the part is ~\$7,000 and the labor is ~\$1,000 and that they would require a transfer to cover this cost. Angelino advised the committee that the part is going to be ordered, adding that six tires for Engine 234 (\$2000) were recently purchased. Roberts suggested a transfer to cover the upfront costs. He suggested authorizing a transfer of ~\$8,000 to Capital Reserves (with a subsequent reimbursement). It was determined the best place to repair it is at the fire station. Roberts said he would have a resolution prepared for the upcoming Finance/Personnel Committee meeting.

Ald. Williams **moved** to recommend that the Finance/Personnel Committee authorize the ~\$8,000 transfer from the Capital Reserves, upon confirmation of responsibility by the manufacturer. Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted ayes all.

Ambulance Overtime

Angelino reported that Superior is leaving one ambulance in the area to comply with state requirements, adding that the hospital is no longer calling Superior. Angelino said that their overtime is going to go up drastically, however there should be some revenue coming in. He added that there's no way the thirteen EMT Fire Fighters can pick up the slack of the six Superior people transferred to Binghamton. A brief discussion ensued as to example of issues the city has in various emergency situations. Ald. Williams commented that she thought the city was going to stop doing transfers and Angelino said that the city will still be handling certain transports. Another brief discussion ensued as to the city's ambulance coverage area (it was determined that there are 65 square miles covered by Fire Department ambulance services) and the frequency of calls. Ald. Williams inquired as to whether or not all the per diem employees are EMT's and the scheduling problem associated with the amount of vacation time each fire fighter has. Ivarson asked how old the oldest ambulance is and Angelino stated less than three years old.

Angelino also mentioned that emergency vehicles that need to carry drugs, such as lifesaving narcotics, are going to be a huge expense (due to security requirements). Roberts stated that medication is running about \$12,000 to \$15,000 and concurred that there are huge expenses associated with maintaining and securing these drugs.

DPW Superintendent

Manpower

Ivarson reported that they still need a lead operator and that he is having issues with recruiting and retaining water and wastewater operators. The average age in NYS is over 51, and he added that this problem is widespread, throughout the industry.

RBC Media

Ivarson reported that he got into the RBC's (rotating biological conductors) yesterday and they are in worse condition than he originally thought; adding they are literally falling apart, and the city will be lucky to get two years out of them.

Eaton Avenue; infrastructure repair cost

Ivarson reported that he would like to have this forwarded the Finance/Personnel Committee General Fund costs are \$23,548; the Sewer will be \$171,481.52; the Storm Sewers will \$71,083.05; and the Water will be \$118,484.17. Ivarson indicated that he would like the Mayor to set up a meeting with NBT Bank to discuss the construction process, as it will interfere with the bank's access (from the middle of the Eaton Center to South Broad Street).

Ivarson said it's a very complicated project, adding that the sewer line impacts the water line and the fiber optics, which are encased in concrete just above all the city services. In regard to the cobbles under the street, instead of trying to repair, we just have to remove them at a cost of \$121,000 just for the cobblestones.

Ald. Williams **moved** to forward to the Finance/Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted ayes all.

Natural Gas Engine Repairs; Well 3 Repairs

Ivarson reported that he started getting back coolant in the oil and needed to find out where the coolant was coming from. They found a head bolt that's stripped 61,000 hours (a little over 2-million miles). They were told when they began, that they would only get about 10,000 on this engine. Now he needs to pull it apart, as that well hasn't been pulled in ~30 years. Ald. Williams inquired about Well 4's status and a brief discussion ensued as to output. Ivarson stated that this would entail a transfer out of the Equipment Reserves account.

Ald. Williams **moved** to forward a recommendation for the \$29,000 transfer to the Finance/Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ald. Bresina and duly adopted ayes all.

Water Treatment Plant

Ivarson reported that next month at the Water Commission meeting, he will have an engineering firm coming out to show what the city will need to get their proposals together, so they can go out and try to raise some money. He mentioned that the Water Board meets at 7 PM on the third Wednesday of each month at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Training

Ivarson reported that three additional out of town trainings are coming up. One is for wireless operation for remote pump stations, another will be held here in Norwich (Practical Methods for Testing Water) and he would like to send some of his new people, who lack this type of experience, to that training; he also said there is a third training on electronic lab reporting (in Syracuse on 02/13). Ivarson confirmed that all of the training is budgeted for already.

Ald. Abraham **moved** to approve the training request. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted ayes all.

Storm Water Mapping

Ivarson reported that the city has no maps whatsoever, of the storm water system. He is having Delaware Engineering hire an intern for summer work, so we can map our storm water system. Ivarson stated that this project goes back to 2004, with funds already pre-authorized: Roberts confirmed that these are in the Capital Reserves. Ivarson is just letting the committee know that this will be done.

Truck; water system

Ivarson asked the committee for permission to go to bid for a water system truck (it's budgeted).

Ald. Williams **moved** to forward to the Finance/Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted ayes all.

Correspondence: Peter & Pamela Mennis

Ivarson reported that this is a storm water problem. He said it is a situation where the one homeowner installed a drainage pipe where the city had a swale. The installation of the drainage pipe was incorrect for the amount of drainage that flows down there. It is affecting the second homeowner, who is incurring damage to his garage whenever it floods. Ivarson said that there are different ways to correct this. One issue is that there is an easement; unfortunately the status of this right-of-way is in question, as the city had previously transferred some adjoining property. Ivarson stated that in that case, it's between the property owners. Ivarson needs to find out if the city has retained the right-of-way. There is currently a 12-inch pipe and there should be a 36-inch pipe.

Ald. Abraham asked if the homeowner put it in, why would the city pay to have it fixed? Ivarson responded that he has talked with both parties and found them to be very nice guys who are seeking resolution; he promised them he would take it to committee for resolution. He added that the total cost would be ~\$6,000 including manpower. Ivarson recommended, if we have the easement, that we replace the 12-inch pipe with the 36-inch pipe.

Ald. Abraham **moved** to refer this to the City Attorney to see if this easement is still viable. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted ayes all.

Prior to the vote, Ald. Schermerhorn, who was present, expressed great concern about the city incurring a cost for a homeowner's mistake. A brief discussion ensued as to whether or not this was related to flood damage, and it was determined that it was not.

Streets 2007

Ivarson reported that he would be paving Canal Street from East Main to Lakawanna Avenue at a cost of \$9,875; he added that he needs to contact NYS DOT, as they have wires in the road for lighting. He reported that he would also be paving Canasawacta Street from Pleasant Street to Newton Avenue at a cost of \$30,908. Ivarson will be paving Conkey Avenue from the first driveway east of Locust Street, at a cost of \$2,736 (it's a CHiPS requirement to separate streets); and Locust Street from West Main Street to Conkey Avenue at a cost of \$46,865.82. York Street will be paved at a cost of \$13,573. Of these costs, the State will be reimbursing nearly the entire cost of the project (the city would only incur a mere \$374.30 in costs).

Mayor Maiurano commented that he received a call from the Comptroller's office in response to Ivarson's letter for an increase in funding. He said that by April 1st they should know the outcome of the possible funding. Ald. Williams said that this is something they could address with legislatures at the February NYCOM conference. Ivarson mentioned one thing that has both escalating/de-escalating costs is asphalt and that he intends to put a clause in the contract that there will be a no surcharge cost estimate from the state, which could save us a substantial amount.

Ald. Williams **moved** to approve the 2007 Streets Project. Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted ayes all.

Surplus Equipment

Ivarson reported that they moved all the equipment from the old pump house from the engineer's office/Historian's office. Ivarson said that it is cast iron equipment that needs to be taken to the junkyard and then have a check for it put right into the General Fund. The Common Council must declare the equipment surplus. He added that it has no resale value.

Ald. Abraham **moved** to refer this to the Common Council. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted ayes all.

Third Floor

Ivarson had distributed a cost estimate for the third floor. Ivarson said that the original plan was just for the outside walls and sealant, while the \$280,000 is to finish the inside of the building. Ald. Abraham asked if he will be going to bid on this and Ivarson commented that there will likely be three bids needed. Ald. Abraham asked if the \$17,000 has been paid for the engineering costs: Ivarson responded that we pay that. Ald. Abraham stated that last year Ivarson said that he would complete the work during the winter months, adding that now the city has lost a lot of time.

Ald. Abraham asked about the roof replacement for City Hall. Ivarson commented that the cost is \$120,000 without the copper (\$160,000-170,000 with the copper). Ivarson said the total is more than \$200,000 to complete the train depot in order to retain it as an office building. Ald. Bresina asked if these numbers are really a surprise and Ivarson said no, that these numbers are within 5% of the original price. Ald. Schermerhorn asked why the roof at City Hall is going to cost so much, when he can roof his own home for a small fraction of that. Ivarson noted that he received estimates, although no one will give a quote for the copper, and that the shingles on City Hall are different from anything he's ever seen before. Ivarson said that he had tile and rugs quoted and added, as well as solid core doors to keep with the soundproofing standards requested. He also said that he added insulation and removed the tile in the storage area. There was an additional \$10,000 added to the cost for firemen apparatus, which they requested be incorporated into the aesthetics of the building via the third floor project. Ivarson wants to forward this to the Finance/ Personnel Committee. He added that they need to stop the engineering costs and figure out what to do with the third floor. Ald. Williams commented that it's over \$200,000 to fix up the existing City Hall (depot) and Ivarson concurred absolutely.

A brief discussion ensued as to how many exterior doors need to be replaced at City Hall (at a cost of \$1500 each), and Ald. Williams inquired about the whether or not the depot is deemed an historical building. Ald. Bresina suggested a motion to refer this to Finance/Personnel. Ald. Abraham asked about the \$280,000 figure for the third floor (as of November 2006). He wanted to

know if there is any reason why we couldn't take the \$280,000 and spend it on the existing City Hall depot. Ald. Abraham wanted to confirm that according to the discussion this evening, we wouldn't have to procure more funds and we could re-do the train depot right now. Ald. Abraham said he would like the committee to consider this option very seriously. Roberts said to add to that, long-term (5-20 years down the road) he doesn't believe you would want to see the city trying to maintain two separate buildings (one with a third floor that's empty, and the current building). Roberts said one of the key reasons for moving to the third floor, economically, was to condense down the open space we own and have to pay utilities on. Ald. Abraham said right now we're pinched for money, and he does not want to see the city going downhill on expending such money. Roberts said that if they decide to put the funds into the current building that perhaps long-term that will make the depot more appealing to any potential buyers. Ald. Schermerhorn feels we need to be fiscally responsible. Ivarson said that we are at a point right now where a decision needs to be made, as we are just wasting money on engineering costs.

Ald. Abraham **moved** to forward this to the Finance/Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted ayes all.

Prior to the vote, Ald. Abraham asked why we have to use copper. Ald. Williams requested to find out if the building is historical or no, plus she asked for a cost estimate for the existing City Hall building repairs.

Copier

Ivarson reported that he needs a copier for the DPW. He will be expending \$1,600-1,700 which will be coming out of the Equipment line item to purchase one.

Flusher Truck

Ivarson reported that the flusher truck is in just as bad shape as the street sweeper. Ald. Abraham inquired as to the cost and Ivarson said it is a very important piece of equipment; he will have a cost for it next month.

EMO

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Jones gave a brief history saying that FEMA dictated that by 2004, every municipality in the county must have a hazard mitigation plan (HMP) affected. Virtually no one has completed them, as the cost and manpower to do that is high. Jones stated that in 2005 you could no longer apply for two pots of money for hazard mitigation, and it prohibits participation in buyout programs (in an area where there are continual loss of homes). Jones said that this is important to us, because, as an example we have issues regarding the replacement of screw pumps with the WWTP (all three must be done, due to flood damage). Ivarson said that it cost \$500,000 to replace one screw pump (the city has three). Ivarson gave a brief explanation that he is required to have the capability of doing 12 million gallons of water per day with one pump and he only has three pumps. He noted that four submerseables versus three submerseables needed to be put in.

Jones said that it would be cost prohibitive for the city to undertake a municipal HMP, despite grants being available. Jones said that spurred by the latest flood on June and requests for buyouts throughout the county, the County is taking on the task of creating a HMP, which will include each municipality within it; at no cost to city (outside of time involved completing it). The County itself will get grant funding but total cost to them starts at ~\$100,000, which they will subsidize with some grants. Jones attended a meeting Tuesday and said he will be the point of contact within the city, and noted that quite a bit of work obtaining information will be needed to be included on the plan. Jones said that there are two-parts to the HMP: Volume One will cover the entire county and Volume Two will cover each municipality's own HMP. He suggested city Department Heads meet to discuss ways to reduce threats. The County hopes to have the plan written within six months.

Back-Up 911 Center

Jones reported that they while many have likely saw the article in the newspaper, the city has undertaken the project for the county, to build their back-up 911 Center in the EOC. This was an item that was discussed last year, when he gave a tour to committee members showing the location,

etc. Jones said that essentially to Project should be completed within the next two months and that some of the computer equipment is actually here, with much of the bigger pieces of equipment arriving in February, so that by mid-February it should really take shape. Jones said he's been spending quite a bit of time at the EOC.

FEMA Use of EOC

Jones reported that FEMA moved out of the EOC the first week of January, from the June flooding. He said that in the past, they have allowed FEMA to use the EOC, though this time, with the scope of the disaster, it became unmanageable (the EOC became unusable due to the amount of paperwork FEMA brought in). Now that they've moved out, there is extensive wear & tear of the floor; what with 14 FEMA representatives utilizing the EOC for 10 hours per day. Angelino said that there's about six years of wear in a few months. As a result of the November flood disaster, they moved to the Eaton Center. A brief discussion ensued as to how to handle the problem with the flooring. While Roberts sent FEMA an invoice for \$7500, for the rental of the EOC, Jones said the wear and tear on the center is likely not worth the rental income and he is not sure he would recommend the EOC for FEMA use in the future. He said when the actual plan is done it will go through the committees and the Common Council

Canasawacta Dam

Jones met with FEMA representatives last week to discuss this extensive project and gave a brief history of the 2005 flood damage. FEMA wrote up a project worksheet in the amount of ~\$19,200. There was more damage to the dam as a result of the June 2006 flood and they wrote up that damage as ~\$1,700, bringing the total close to \$21,000. Ivarson noted that estimate from the engineers is over \$50,000. Jones said that that has been a problem, as we have been balancing removal versus repair (which is considered an alternate project, and which would only yield 75% reimbursement from FEMA). Ald. Abraham asked about the benefits of removal versus repair and how it would affect the residents downstream. Jones said that the second engineering study of the downstream analysis found that removal had no impact, in terms of those flooding downstream. Jones said that there is a perception problem of those living downstream. Ald. Bresina said that the engineers made it pretty clear that there will be no flood implications whether we repair or remove.

Jones has been arguing with them over the removal project and he briefly explained that he went to the Head of Recovery for the State Emergency Management Office and managed to get it all worked out. FEMA subsequently approved \$25,000 additional plus \$21,000, so a total of \$46,000 to cover costs to remove the dam. Of all this, 75% will be covered by FEMA and the remaining entire 25% will be covered by the State (versus having a 12.5% local share).

Jones said the bottom line is that they are getting rid of the dam. Ald. Bresina asked whether it could be considered an attractive nuisance. Jones commented that the paperwork is en route to FEMA and the city is simply awaiting a payment. Ivarson mentioned that the DEC is fining heavily for non-compliance. The Mayor commented that Jones has been a great point man on this project and that his extra efforts should be commended.

Committee Concerns: Rental Registration

Ald. Williams wanted to confirm that the only reason the Rental Registry is not moving forward is due to the unset fees, and asked if there was a recommendation for fees. Angelino responded that not only had the task force recommended fees, he said that there must be fees in order to do the start-up. Aids. Williams and Schermerhorn agreed they saw no need for an annual fee. A brief discussion ensued as to strictly enforcing penalties for non-compliance. Angelino stated that these landlords are in business, period and they have to comply. City resident, Ed Morano, commented that there are several reasons why the city needs to impose fees, one being that the State says there must be a fee, another is that the city needs to recoup its costs. He pointed out that Binghamton initiated a points system with their nuisance law and indicated Norwich should institute the same type of system: Each time a landlord gets cited for a garbage violation he accumulates points. Ivarson said that we should be doing the same thing we do when people don't pay their water bills, by adding to the taxes at the end of the year. Morano said these landlords cannot be disrupting the neighborhoods with their businesses. Inspections will force landlords to make it safe and Morano suggested deeming them a business with a gross margin tax on their properties. He said the committee needs to refer this to the Common Council, as they've hashed

this out for a long, long time now. He added that this committee created an excellent task force, and the planning commission, as well, agrees this is the right thing to do. People need to listen to the recommendations.

Ald. Bresina said he feels this needs to be looked at again in Finance/Personnel for finalizing fees and the Mayor commented that he would like to see this on the February agenda. The Committee asked to confirm with City Attorney Patrick Flanagan whether or not an additional public hearing was needed.

Ald. Williams **moved** to forward this on to the Finance/Personnel Committee to set fees. Seconded by Ald. Bresina and duly adopted ayes all.

Executive Session to Discuss Labor Contract Negotiations

Ald. Abraham **moved** to enter into executive session at 7:38 p.m. to discuss labor contract negotiations. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted ayes all.

Ald. Williams **moved** to exit into executive session at 8:14 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Williams **moved** to adjourn at 8:15. Seconded by Ald. Abraham duly adopted ayes all.

Next Meeting – February 22, 2007