



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, July 28, 2020
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: Meeting was held remotely.

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Chair Jacobson, Vice Chair Zelinsky and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood and Watkins. Also present were Rep. Stella; Lou Casolo, City Engineer; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Dan Colleluori, Supervisor of Solid Waste & Recycling, and Jay Fountain, OPM Director.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Invitee(s) or Designee(s)
1. <u>O30.065</u>	REVIEW; West Main Street Bridge 12/04/2019 – Submitted by Mayor Martin 12/30/19 – Held in Committee 7-0-0 01/28/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee 8-0-0 02/26/20 – Held by Committee 5-0-0	REPORT MADE

Mr. Casolo reviewed the [attached power point presentation](#) regarding the Michael Baker, Inc. 90% report and proposal to build a pedestrian only access bridge north of the current bridge with the Committee. The next step will be the finalization of the report and then consideration of how to lower the ramps. One option would be the removal of the current bridge in order to lower the 100 year flood level.

Mr. Stein stated that the Mill River Collaborative has been kept informed. Their priority is to get this done and the funds are still available.

Committee members discussed the proposal with Mr. Casolo. Items discussed included the following:

- The sidewalks to which the bridge would connect are City property
- The Consultant provided 2 proposals – 1 parallel to the West Main Street bridge and 1 askew. The askew proposal was more complicated and less accessible. Baker felt the parallel proposal was better
- According to the report, a pedestrian bridge is the only option
- The final design will have to go out for competitive proposal (Baker will probably bid for this) and then after the final design, the construction will go out for bid
- There will still be engineering design work with prefabricated construction

- The design contract would most likely be over \$100,000 and require Board approval
- The \$2.1 M estimate includes “selective demolition” of the existing bridge, which would involve removing 10’ of decking on either end to prevent people from walking on the bridge
- The utilities would be responsible for moving their own utility cables
- It would not be possible to demolish and replace the current bridge for \$2M
- The cost estimate includes lighting on the bridge and landscaping; there will be no landscaping on the bridge itself
- There would be no vehicular access on this bridge because of the ramping. If the load bear were reduced to 10 tons, it would not be able to carry vehicles and would be too narrow
- WMC’s contract is over, because they were only involved in the design for the rehab of the West Main Street Bridge
- The cost of removing the existing bridge is not included in the estimate; the work would be greatly simplified if the bridge were removed
- The bids for a bare bones rehab were way over budget; the necessity of carrying an emergency vehicle added to the cost
- The Administration looked to Baker to come up with affordable alternatives
- There has been no examination of the cost of the rehab without emergency vehicle access; this design would have to be rebid
- The Administration is seeking a safer alternative to get pedestrians across the river; the current bridge is unsafe and needs to be closed at every major storm
- Having 2 bridges is an eyesore
- The temporary bridge proposed in the context of the rehab would have had a 2 year life span and was included in the cost of the rehab project
- The Board of Representatives wanted vehicular access on the West Main Street Bridge

2. O30.073 REVIEW: The Closing of the Katrina Mygatt **REPORT MADE**
 Recycling Center on Weekdays
 07/13/20 – Submitted by Rep. Zelinsky

Committee Members discussed this with Mr. McGrath, Mr. Colleluori and Mr. Fountain. Items discussed included the following:

- The City has tried to negotiate with all the unions to meet the budget cuts and retain services and is still negotiating with several unions
- The Mayor directed that there be layoffs in IOUE, which includes the highways and sanitation departments
- Picking up trash safely is a priority
- The recycling center is currently open 2 days per week
- Bins have been added to the transfer station
- There are too few people to manage the recycling, the transfer station and 45 dumpsters; the Tuesday operator is working on an OT basis
- People can deposit up to 200 lbs a day at the scale house and transfer station
- The priority is picking up and disposing of garbage and recycling
- The additional cost of having someone work OT at the recycling center is \$500/day
- Notice should have been sent to the members of the Board earlier
- The notice was sent out on 7/14. The layoff went into effect on 7/17.
- Keeping the recycling center open would cost approximately \$2000/day

- There is \$1.5 M in contingency, some of which has been earmarked for election expenses and salary increases
- There is \$26.4 in the rainy day fund; \$18.4 is earmarked for uncollected levies.
- The City should transfer from the rainy day fund to cover the recycling center
- The rainy day fund has never been used to cover operating expenses; this would affect the City's bond rating
- People need to be made aware that they can go to the transfer station
- 75% of the spaces are available
- If the \$75,000 were available, the employees might not be willing to work the overtime; an injured employee is currently out and will be back in 3 months; they might be able to open more at that point
- There is a concern that people will not pay their taxes in January
- Seasonal workers can't be used in place of laid-off workers under the IOUE contract
- There has been no obvious increase in street dumping at this point
- The surplus from last year will be used to replace the funds in the rainy day fund
- Picking up garbage every other week would create a health issue and picking up recycling every other week would create a volume issue; these are not viable alternatives
- There were a standard number of cars on Tuesday

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 9:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#)