



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

John Zelinsky, Jr., Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Tuesday, September 28, 2021
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This 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 Reps. de la Cruz, Di Costanzo, Morson, Nabel, Pavia, and Stella; Mayor David Martin; Michael Pollard, Mayor's Office; Mark McGrath, Director of Operations; Lou Casolo, Engineering Dept.; Tyler Theder, Operations Dept.; Tom Turk, Highways Dept.; Melanie Hollis, Parks & Recreation Commission; and three members of the public.

Chair Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
11. O30.098	RESOLUTION <u>and public hearing</u> ; BOR's Recommendation on the use of the Old Police Station to the Mayor. 07/06/21 – Submitted by Rep. Jacobson 07/27/21 – Held by Committee and public hearings approved, 8-0-0 08/24/21 – Public Hearing Held and Held by Committee 8-0-0	Motion to Call Special Board Meeting in October to Determine Recommendation to Mayor 7-2-0

There was discussion on the procedural options for Item #1. Discussion included the following:

- The Committee could recommend one option to submit to the full Board.
- The Committee could hold a special meeting in October to allow the full Board to decide on the recommendation to the Mayor.
- The Committee should move forward with what was started in the Spring, and that was to submit one recommendation to the Mayor.
- There are so many opinions on this issue, the full Board should be allowed to weigh in on it.
- The Committee could decide on a recommendation tonight, then new options will almost certainly explored at the Board Meeting, and the item will start at the same point as tonight's Committee meeting.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:45

- This resolution is different from other Committee resolutions as there are endless options as implied by Section “G” of the resolution.

A motion to let the full Board determine the recommendation to the Mayor on Item. #1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-4-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, and Curtis opposed).

- Chair Jacobson noted that this resolution needs to be approved at the November Board Meeting, as was recommended by Corporation Counsel as the last date to vote on this item per the Charter.
- Having a Special Board Meeting to discuss this resolution would allow for a singular meeting, instead of having a full discussion tonight at the Committee level, and again at the Board level.

A motion to call a Special Board Meeting in October to decide on the recommendation to the Mayor on Item. #1 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 7-2-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor; Reps. Zelinsky and Adams opposed).

²² . O30.065	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 12/29/20 – Report Made & Held by Committee 6-0-0 01/11/21 – Moved to Pending 05/25/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 9-0-0 06/29/21 – Held by Committee 9-0-0 07/27/21 – Report Made and Held by Committee, 8-0-0 08/24/21 – Report Made & Held by Committee 8-0-0	Held 9-0-0
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Mr. Casolo gave an update on Item #2:

- This is a proposed 10 foot wide pedestrian prefabricated bridge that will also allow for an ambulance emergency vehicle.
- The project is moving along on schedule. It is currently in the design phase.
- The next step will be to submit for local permit review in the first week of October.
- After approval the permits will be submitted to DEEP and the Army Corps, with anticipated approval in December.
- The plan is to advertise the project for bidding in December, with bids due two months later. It is expected by then the permits will be in place. After the bid is awarded, construction would start in the Spring of 2022.
- The duration of project is difficult to determine as there are supply chain issues right now, but a bridge project such as this usually takes a minimum of one

² Video Time Stamp: 00:00:51

construction season. It should be finished by mid-December, just before the winter construction shutdown.

- Since the September 2nd storm event, once the water levels were safe debris was removed and the bridge was re-opened following an inspection. Additional erosion has occurred, but not to the point where it is a danger to pedestrians.

Rep. Stella stated there is \$1.5 million in grant funds, approximately \$1.6 million from the Miller River Collaborative, and another \$690 thousand to put towards the bridge, but we seem to be no closer to resolving this than when discussion began in 2019.

Mayor Martin explained that the money given by the State to the Mill River Collaborative can only be used to rehabilitate the current bridge, and that is not an option he has been able to get support for or approved. The rehabilitation option turned out to be more costly than originally thought. He is looking for a way to get a pedestrian and ambulance bridge with utilities connections up as quickly and safely as possible, and which will last 50 years. Federal grant funds are not being used because those involve many bureaucratic delays. After this project is completed, the process can begin for taking down the current bridge. The next Board and Administration can decide how to proceed with that.

A motion to hold Item #2 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

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| 33. O30.102 | RESOLUTION; Sense of the Board Regarding Replacement of West Main Street Bridge.
09/09/2021 – Submitted by Reps. Nabel and de la Cruz | No Action Taken |
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A motion to take up item #3 was made and failed for lack of a second motion.

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| 44. O30.103 | REVIEW; Status of City of Stamford's Storm Management System Including Analysis of City's Response to Hurricanes Henri and Ida, to Determine how to be Better Prepared for Future Storm Events.
09/09/2021 – Submitted by Reps. Di Costanzo, Curtis, Stella, Sandford and Sherwood | Report Made |
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Reps. Curtis and DiCostanzo explained why they put this item on the Agenda, and there was discussion.

- Stamford needs to look into the Storm management system and responses. This is the second largest City in Connecticut and these issues need to be addressed.
- There should be a regular channel for all departments to communicate on where the problem issues are in Stamford for weather events.

³ Video Time Stamp: 01:08:30

⁴ Video Time Stamp: 01:08:50

- A solid understanding is needed of what actions are being taken in terms of funding and project planning as far as federal, state and city levels for storm management and relief.
- The City needs to be proactive with storm warnings and education on what residents can do to prepare.
- The storm on September 2nd was an unusually big storm. The City can prepare for most storms, but cannot always prepare for a 200 year event such as this.
- River overtopping is one of Stamford's biggest problems during a storm.
- Mr. Casolo is currently working with regulatory agencies to look for emergency declarations so his department can begin work on repairs that are needed most, without a protracted permitting process in areas that are highly regulated.
- Stamford can learn a lot by talking with other municipalities on storm management plans.
- An emergency notification system would be helpful for the public, such as signage and mobile message boards.
- Mr. Casolo will get flood mapping for the last three years to the Committee.
- There should be coordination between Stamford and the State so it is known what department or agencies are responsible for specific areas in the city.

⁵⁵. [O30.105](#)

RESOLUTION; Directing the Administration to Develop a Short and Long Term Plan to Mitigate the Impact of Severe Storm and Rain Events, including Keeping Rivers and Streams Free of Obstructions and Debris; Cleaning and Repair of Catch Basins; and Upgrading of Related Drainage Infrastructure.
09/09/21 – Submitted by Rep. de la Cruz

Held 9-0-0

Rep. de la Cruz explained why he put this item on the Agenda and there was discussion. There was a review item on storm Elsa and it was discussed. Then storm Ida was even worse. A short and long term plan is needed for these weather events.

- Connecticut has received \$7 billion for infrastructure funding. The intent of this resolution is to develop a written plan that can be presented to try to get some of that funding for Stamford to address long term issues.
- The water treatment plant spilled over one million gallons of partially treated sewage. Then another rainstorm after this caused another spill. Increasing the capacity of the water treatment plant is a long term project, not a quick solution.
- Rep. Watkins supports the City undertaking a resiliency study which is mandated by the State.
- The resolution should include verbiage that weather is changing and mean high water is going to increase. Plans need to be made according to that.

Rep. de la Cruz will work on improving the resolution, incorporating Rep. Watkins' comments, and welcomes suggestions from other Representatives.

⁵ Video Time Stamp: 02:12:40

A motion to hold Item #5 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0 (Reps. Jacobson, Zelinsky, Adams, Coleman, Curtis, Lee, Mahoney, Sherwood, and Watkins in favor).

Chair Jacobson adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Jacobson, Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).