



Operations Committee - Board of Representatives

Virgil de la Cruz, Chair

Carmine Tomas, Vice Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, June 29, 2023
Time: 6:30pm
Place: This meeting was held remotely

The Operations Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Vice Chair Tomas and Committee Member Reps. Boeger, Coleman, Sherwood, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins. Chair de la Cruz and Committee Member Reps. Ley and Stella were excused. Also in attendance were Reps. Matheny and Mays; Louis Casolo and Wareeya Sripa, Engineering Dept.; Chris Dellaselva, Legal Dept.; Tom Turk, Operations Dept.; Erin McKenna, Planning Dept.; and members of the public.

Vice Chair Tomas called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
¹ 1. O31.027	APPROVAL; Agreement between City of Stamford and Shock Electrical Contractors, Inc. for Street Light Maintenance and Administration under RFP No. 853. 05/19/23 – Submitted by Mayor Simmons 06/08/23 – Approved by Board of Finance 6-0-0	Approved 6-0-0

Mr. Casolo reviewed this item and there was a brief discussion.

This contract is for maintenance only. The BOR does not usually see these because maintenance contracts usually fall under \$100K, which is the threshold the purchasing ordinance requires for BOR approval. This contract is \$107,998.00.

One reason for the higher amount is that some of the photocells were aging and problematic.

Another reason is that the LED lights stayed on during the daytime. Eversource informed the City this has to be dealt with so electricity is not being used during the daytime. These repairs added to the cost of the contract.

The initial contract was competitively bid and had two one-year extensions. We are on the second year extension.

¹ Video Time Stamp: 00:00:20

The Fix It Stamford database takes the complaints about street lights and routes them directly to the contractor.

Rep. David Watkins stated that from his experience there are issues with Fix It Stamford street light complaints. Rep. Sherwood concurred that she has heard from constituents that there are problems with Fix It Stamford. Mr. Casolo will talk to the Administration about this.

A motion to approve Item #1 was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote of 6-0-0 (Reps. Tomas, Boeger, Coleman, Sherwood, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor).

²2. [O31.028](#) REVIEW; Operations Department Response to Roadside Overgrowth, Particularly Knotweed. **Recommitted to Steering 5-0-0**
06/07/23 – Submitted by Rep. Mays

There was discussion on this item. Some points discussed:

Rep. Mays explained that knotweed is very prevalent in North Stamford. It grows quickly and has large leaves. This creates safety issues with people having to walk around it on the streets with no sidewalks, and it creates blind areas while driving. It is difficult to eradicate. He suggested the solution is to cut it down every two weeks.

Mr. Turk explained that there is one machine for brush cutting. The old one finally failed and a new John Deere trackless machine was purchased that had many design flaws and had to be worked on frequently to get it up to speed. A second machine is on order.

Mr. Turk explained that cutting the same location every two weeks is not realistic. There are 300 miles of roads, times two considering both sides. North Stamford is about 100 of those miles. There are not enough machines or manpower.

Having a contractor do this work would require requesting money in the budget. It is possible that a capital project will be needed to get rid of knotweed.

Ms. McKenna explained that invasive growth is a problem at several parks. Stamford is contracting with a company to do a city-wide invasive species plan, starting with 32 of the parks that are larger than one acre. The contractor will devise a five-year maintenance plan and training. If a chemical solution is necessary, it needs to be extremely minimal.

A motion to recommit Item #2 to Steering was made, seconded, and approved by a unanimous voice vote of 5-0-0 (Reps. Tomas, Coleman, Sherwood, Dakary Watkins, and David Watkins in favor).

² Video Time Stamp: 00:13:20

3. O31.005 REVIEW; Implementation/Revival of a City-Wide **Held**
Adopt-a-Spot Program.
02/09/22 – Submitted by Reps. Sandford,
de la Cruz, Mays, Pratt, Adams and Roqueta
03/03/22 – Held by Committee 5-0-0
03/14/22 – Moved to Pending
10/17/22 – Report Made & Held by Committee
8-0-0
12/12/22 – Moved to Pending Agenda

Vice Chair Tomas stated that Item #3 was going to be recommitted to Steering at another time at the request of Chair de la Cruz.

Vice Chair Tomas adjourned the meeting at 7:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmine Tomas, Vice Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).