



Public Safety & Health Committee - Board of Representatives

Richard Lyons II., Chair

Committee Report

Date: Thursday, October 1, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor Government Center,
888 Washington Boulevard, Stamford CT

The Public Safety & Health Committee met as indicated above. Present were Chair Lyons and Committee Member Reps. Adams, Aposporos, Berns, Caterbone, Coppola, DePina, Pia and Zelinsky. Absent or excused were Committee Member Reps. C. Martin and Mirkin. Also present were Board President Martin; Dr. Johnnie Lee, Director of Health; Bill Callion, Director of Public Safety, Health and Welfare; Ben Barnes, Director of Operations; Joe Tarzia; and Philip S. Borba, 68 Hannahs Road, Stamford, CT.

Chair Lyons called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
2. PS27.049	REVIEW; well water contamination matter near Scofieldtown dump.	Report Made

The committee first considered item PS27.049. Chair Lyons explained that this is the third committee to consider this item, and that the committee would review it from a historical and current perspective. Mr. Barnes then explained the current situation as well as its history, noting that:

- The City was first notified of contamination at Scofieldtown Park and in the wells of homes at the northern end of Hannahs Road as a result of EPA CERCLA monitoring in the beginning of 2009 of soil, sediment and well water samples
- The substances found at levels above acceptable limits were Dieldrane and Chlordane, two pesticides banned on food in the 1970s but used for extermination purposes until 1984, as well as low levels of metals and VOCs.
- As a result, Scofieldtown Park was closed
- The City arranged for testing of nearby houses, and in response to resident requests, also tested on Very Merry Road, showing that there were contaminated wells on the Hannahs, Very Merry and Larkspur
- Testing revealed unacceptable levels of Dieldrane and/or Chlordane in 15 houses, but no unacceptable amounts of approximately 40 other chemicals or VOCs
- Over the last month the City has coordinated with DEP, which has agreed to provide bottled water and carbon filtration systems to the 15 homes (12 filtration systems completed so far)

- As a medium term solution, the City has been providing bottled water to any home awaiting test results and expanded the testing program and been providing carbon filtration systems to homes in the area requesting them. A new contractor will be providing the systems as of Monday and will be installing three per day.
- As a long term solution, the city has decided to connect the houses on Hannahs Rd., Larkspur Rd., Very Merry Rd., and Cousins Rd. to the public water system by extension of the water mains and lateral connections to each home.
- The system will be ready to proceed on 10/15, with an estimated completion date of 12/15. The connection of homes with contaminated wells should be completed by 12/1.
- The latest testing results show contamination further east than originally expected, and the City is looking at whether homes on Alma Rock Rd and Mary Joy Lane should also be included
- It is unclear at this point in time where the contamination comes from, although the Scofieldtown Dump is a possible source
- The City needs to determine the source of the contamination, as well as the direction in which it is moving in order to protect the public and has retained a firm to install monitoring groundwater wells in order to do this
- The dump was closed in 1970, but there was illegal dumping there both before and after it was closed

Dr. Lee stated that the City has been working with the Operations Department and the State DOH to get as many tests done as quickly as possible.

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In response to questions from the committee, Mr. Barnes explained that these 2 chemicals are not water soluble which were highly effective and widely used prior to being banned. The City will do more extensive testing of contaminated wells before completely shutting them down. The City will monitor the filtration systems at the homes with contaminated wells to be sure they are working effectively. The DEP has no records which would indicate other possible sources of the contamination, but the DEP did not exist at the time the dump was closed and may not have sufficient records.

Philip Borba read the [attached statement](#) into the record.

3. [PS27.050](#) [RESOLUTION](#); approving the connection of the designated area to the public water supply, including extension of water mains and service laterals; and waiver of all reimbursement by individual property owners for the costs of such extension (re: Hannah's Road, Very Merry Road, Larkspur Road and Cousins Road).

**Committee
Approved 9-0-0**

A motion to suspend the rules to take up item PS27.050 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (Reps. Lyons, Adams, Aposporos, Berns, Caterbone, Coppola, DePina, Pia and Zelinsky in favor.) Chair Lyons explained that this resolution permits the City to waive the fees for the connection of the homeowners discussed in item 2 from having to pay for the connection of their homes to public water, pursuant to the ordinance being submitted to the Board on Monday night by the Legislative and Rules committee. If the ordinance proposed by the Legislative and Rules committee is

not passed at the Board meeting, this item will remain in committee. A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 9-0-0. (Reps. Lyons, Adams, Aposporos, Berns, Caterbone, Coppola, DePina, Pia and Zelinsky in favor.)

1. [PS27.048](#) REVIEW; feasibility of a citizen review board for the Police Department. **Held in Committee 9-0-0**

Rep. Berns stated that there is a need to address where complaints regarding the police go and how they are handled. He stated that both Hartford and New Haven have citizen review boards. Copies of the enabling legislation for [Hartford](#) and [New Haven](#) are attached.

Mr. Tarzia explained why he requested the Board take up this issue:

- Hartford and New Haven have civilian review boards and he would like something similar to New Haven
- The Police Commission only considers items brought to it by the chief
- This is not prohibited by the Charter
- This would be beneficial for the community, the police department and the City of Stamford
- The public needs a venue for complaints and transparency
- This would serve the needs of our diverse community

Chair Lyons noted this item will most likely need to be addressed by the 28th Board. He stated that the police department has currently hired a consultant to review its procedures, and he has asked for a copy of the report when it is finished.

Committee members requested that research be done on the current complaint procedures and whether this would create a conflict with the Charter or the union contract.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Lyons, II, Chair