

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 2014

Present: Ald. Crossley (Chairman), Lennon, Albright, Gentile, Danberg, Laredo and Lappin; 1 vacancy

Also present: Ald. Sangiolo

City staff present: Bill Paille (Director of Transportation), Lou Taverna (City Engineer), and David Turocy (Commissioner of Public Works)

Chairman's Note: Transportation Director William Paille presented plans for the reconfiguration and addition of a traffic signal at the intersection of Grant and Beacon Streets. Mr. Paille explained that the project has been in the City's Capital Improvement Plan for a number of years and is ready to move forward. Although the Board of Aldermen does not approve this type of intersection reconfiguration, Mr. Paille wanted to make sure that the Board of Aldermen was aware of the planned project.

Mr. Paille reviewed the signal warrant analysis memorandum that was attached the Public Facilities Committee Agenda. The memo explains that there are nine criteria specified in the 2009 Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) for which a traffic signal might be warranted. A proposed traffic signal location should meet at least one of the criteria. The Grant/Beacon Street intersection meets four of the nine criteria for the addition of traffic signals. The new traffic signals will have either pavement loop or camera detection in order to control traffic back-ups during peak travel hours. Mr. Paille plans on observing the intersection once the lights are installed and, if necessary, will make timing adjustments to the traffic signals to ensure that the intersection is operating at optimum efficiency.

In addition, the City also plans to extend the curb lines at the Grant and Beacon Street Intersection to create corners that are closer to a 90° angle to slow down automobiles that are turning. The changes to the curb lines still allow for bicycle lanes and vehicles can still make a left hand turn from the eastbound lane of Beacon Street to Grant Street. The bicycle lane on Beacon Street will change to a dashed line across the intersection Grant Street to indicate the possible need to stop. The roadway will be restriped and additional signage will be added for motorists and cyclists.

The changes to the intersection will result in a safer intersection for pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobiles. The signal is expected to be installed between September and November of this year. The changes to the curb lines will follow in the spring of 2015. Mr. Paille reassured the Committee that he will be monitoring the intersection closely and make any necessary adjustments. With that, the Committee thanked Mr. Paille for providing the plans for the reconfiguration of the intersection.

- #259-14(2) CITY ENGINEER petitioning for the extension of four common sewers in:
- (1) STUDIO ROAD from an existing sewer stub in Woodland Road at Studio Road southerly for 950' ± to a proposed manhole in Studio Road
 - (2) ASPEN AVENUE from an existing sewer stub located in Lasell Village easterly for 240' ± within an easement thence turning southerly on Aspen Avenue for 1,160' ± to a proposed manhole in Aspen Avenue.
 - (3) HAWTHORNE AVENUE from a proposed manhole at 96 Hawthorne Avenue southerly for 160' ± thence turning westerly for 120' ± within an existing easement in Hawthorne Avenue thence turning northerly within an existing easement in Hawthorne Avenue 240' ± to a proposed manhole at the intersection of Hawthorne Avenue and Aspen Avenue.
 - (4) HAWTHORNE AVENUE from an existing manhole in Hawthorne Avenue southwesterly for 320' ± to a proposed manhole at 63 Hawthorne Avenue.
(Ward 4) [07/07/14 @ 9:50 AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: City Engineer Lou Taverna presented the request for the four sewer extensions in Aspen Avenue, Studio Road, and Hawthorne Avenue. The Department of Public Works has been working on these sewer extensions for a number of years. Therefore, the City will be using the old method to assess the sewer betterments, which is based on linear feet rather than the new uniform rate method.

The new sewers will provide service to approximately 40 houses that are currently on septic systems. The sewer extensions will come before the City's Conservation Commission in September, as a portion of one of the extensions is located adjacent to a pond at Lasell Village. The Conservation Commission will issue an Order of Conditions for that portion of the project. The City already has a sewer easement through Lasell Village, which makes the proposed sewer extensions possible. The City will bid out the project in the next month and construction should begin shortly after the City awards the contract.

The public hearing was opened and Richard Sewall, owner of 110 Hawthorne Avenue, stated that he strongly supports the sewer projects. Barry Robinson, 107 Hawthorne Avenue, requested that the City include language within the contract for property owners to have the contractor install the house connection (lateral connection) at the property owner's sole expense. Mr. Taverna explained that the City's consultant Weston and Sampson has recommended that the City not include that type of language in the contract. Each house connection is unique; therefore, costs for each connection would vary. A contractor bidding on the proposal would have to bid the house connections at the highest possible cost. However, the Public Works Department will work with property owners to facilitate house connections. John Aber, 101 Hawthorne Avenue, is also very eager to have the project completed.

Ned Holstein, 24 Hawthorne Avenue, informed the Committee that there is a grading issue that causes a drainage problem in Hawthorne Avenue at the end of his driveway. In bad weather water pools in the street and freezes in the winter, which creates a hazard for cars and pedestrians. Mr. Holstein requested that if the City determines that Hawthorne Ave needs to be

repaved once the sewer work is complete, that the repaving extend past his driveway to fix the grading issue that causes the water to pool. Mr. Taverna responded that the soonest the street would be repaved is in 2016 to allow the new sewer to settle but at that time he would look at the drainage and address any issues. Commissioner of Public Works David Turocy stated that he will look at the pooling and see if there is a temporary fix until the street is repaved.

It was pointed out that National Grid was working in Aspen Avenue and did not do a good job with the temporary patch. Mr. Taverna stated that National Grid will be called back out to provide a better patch. . The public hearing was closed as no one else wished to speak on the sewer extensions. Ald. Gentile moved approval of the sewer extensions, which carried by a vote of seven in favor and none opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Crossley, Chairman