

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE  
(RESCHEDULED MEETING)  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 2014  
6:00 PM**

ATTENDANCE: Co-chair Lyons; Co-chair Feliciano, Council members: Banta, Martinez-Walker, Salter

NON-COMMITTEE: Council President McCarthy, Council member Brannelly

OTHER(s): D. Ferris, Antinozzi; L. Schilling, O&G;  
P. Cates, P. Mize, Airport Manager

CITY STAFF: M. Anastasi, City Attorney; E. Schmidt, Asst. City Attorney

Co-chair Lyons called the meeting to order at 6:24 pm.

She introduced the committee members and requested that others in attendance introduce themselves for the record.

Approval of Committee Minutes: October 21, 2013 (Special Meeting)

Approval of Committee Minutes: November 4, 2013 (Special Meeting)

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCCARTHY MOVED TO ACCEPT BOTH SETS OF MINUTES**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**03-13** Request for an Executive Session Discussion and Potential Action as Appropriate concerning the Stratford ZBA's Granting of a Variance for the New Access Way Constructed by Mark IV Construction Co. Inc. on Sikorsky Memorial Airport Property.

City Attorney Anastasi gave some background information to update the new council members on the committee. He stated that Attorney Schmidt is the part time Assistant City Attorney and works for the state. He is also the lead in-house attorney and he supports the Zoning Board and the Planning & Zoning Commission. He stated that Attorney Schmidt has been working to resolve this matter. He went on to say that Pauline Mize is the newly appointed Airport Manager and he noted that Art Laske who has been working on the safety zone project, may attend the meeting tonight.

Attorney Anastasi stated that he was there to recommend approval of the settlement, because in his legal opinion, it would be in the best legal and financial interest of the City of Bridgeport. He reviewed the history of the matter and explained that Bridgeport was party to a major Federal Aviation Association and Department of Environmental Protection safety zone enhancement project. The project is being funded by the state and municipality between \$40k-50k. The project includes a portion of Route-113 at the end of runway 624 located at Sikorsky Airport that has a limited safety area. The significance of the safety zone is that it requires the construction of an E-mass system that will be a paved portion of the runway, but it's not an extension of the runway. The project also includes contamination remediation for lead and asbestos, cooper and soil in the wetlands. The project has a mandated conclusion date of 12/20/14.

Attorney Anastasi mentioned the tragedies that occurred on the runway in the past and he specified that the runway improvements will specifically improve the safety standards. He reiterated that there is no extension of the runway contemplated. The E-mass project requires the relocation of the state Route-113 by putting a jut in it and it will be moved a significant distance towards the waterfront. He commented that it's necessary to facilitate the overall project and the runway is being moved at the city's expense – *he distributed a copy of the deed- Exhibit-1.*

- \*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER EXHIBIT-1-ITEM 03-13-1-9-14 INTO THE RECORD**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Attorney Anastasi referred to and reviewed the highlighted portion of the deed as submitted.

*He submitted a portion of the DEEP environmental remediation permit (#201302507-MG) – Exhibit-2*

- \*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER EXHIBIT-2-ITEM 03-13-1-9-14 INTO THE RECORD**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Attorney Anastasi reviewed page-3 of the document under the topic of Roadway & Utilities – *he submitted a copy of the map that is part of the permit – Exhibit-3.*

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER EXHIBIT-3-ITEM 03-13-1-9-14 INTO THE RECORD  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Attorney Anastasi pointed out the dark section that was denoted on the map, noting the area is where Raymark Waste was removed.

He further continued to review the information that was outlined in the deed and he commented that they had a duty to replace the access way, because they can't take someone's property rights and not replace them.

Attorney Schmidt read a portion of the document that read "shall find it necessary to move aforesaid easement with the mutual consent of the grantor; i.e., the driveway can be moved as long as they have the consent of the property owners. He pointed out on the map the location of the condominiums in proximity to the factory and the five houses, to clarify where Route-113 will be moved and pushed back.

It was stated that flights are coming in, descending and landing on the runway to point out the importance of the protective zone. It was further explained that the driveway was brought in off of Sniffens Lane and it goes parallel from the runway – *a larger more detailed map was submitted denoting Sniffens Lane, the condominiums and the lagoon in relation to the access way– Exhibit-4.*

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER EXHIBIT-4-ITEM 03-13-1-9-14 INTO THE RECORD  
\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Attorney Schmidt offered further explanation to explain the merits of the driveway access way that he said was filled with gravel and not asphalt paving, noting that overall it's a pretty basic driveway.

Council member Feliciano asked about the gravel driveway. Attorney Schmidt replied that a gravel driveway is typically built to a lower standard. He noted that since it's an

airport access way, it doesn't have to be constructed to what's required for a municipality standard driveway.

Attorney Schmidt pointed out on the map, the area where the underground utilities were installed years ago. He pointed this out to emphasize that the location of the proposed access way was identified to be the best location years ago.

Co-chair Lyons asked who benefited from the utilities going in at the time the project was done. Attorney Schmidt said it was for the use of the five homes. He commented that where the access way is proposed, is the preferred location.

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER EXHIBIT-5-ITEM 03-13-1-9-14 INTO THE RECORD – *map outlining the Stratford site***  
**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Attorney Anastasi went on to review the information and he commented that the city received price quotes from three (3) vendors to do the work and then the city also received two(2) independent cost bids from P.J.'s Construction for \$515k and Epic Construction for \$805k.

He gave some information about the litigation matter in regard to the outcome of what was granted by Judge Radcliff. He specified that there was subsequently an appeal to the appeal – *as it was outlined in the document and read*. He relayed that this past Monday, there was a ruling granted to intervene for the appeal and all parties along with Attorney Schmidt who represented the city and the outside counsel firm of Berch, Moses & Devlin have reached a good faith comprehensive settlement in the best interest of all parties. The ruling was presented to the Airport Commission who authorized them to proceed with the settlement.

Council President McCarthy asked Pauline Mize from her airport knowledge and regarding the rules and regulations, what will happen if the city doesn't put the E-Mass system in. Ms. Mize responded that the airport would close because they won't be in compliance with FAA regulations. She further explained that the E-Mass system will prevent any further opportunity for people to access those particular areas that shouldn't be accessed.

Ms. Mize clarified that her experience with the FAA, is that they don't generally spend the type of money involved, which is (\$6 million). And for this to happen in this particular area, she said it means that there is a consensus of its importance for long term safety

measures to be implemented. She emphasized and reiterated that the money earmarked needs to be used by December 2014.

Co-chair Lyons asked what the benefit was of leaving the airport open for Bridgeport and Stratford. Ms. Mize stated that fuel sales for that come in for one month are extremely high; thus, the revenue serves a great benefit in many ways. She also noted the benefits that result, such as employment in Bridgeport and revenue from the airport rentals.

Co-chair Lyons made a request to submit the number of employees that have been hired and specifically the economic impact for Bridgeport. Ms. Mize agreed that she would provide the information.

Ms. Mize continued and mentioned NAPIS that calls for major airport hubs, noting that the smaller airports known as spokes. She explained that the FAA looks to relieve traffic that comes in from the larger hubs and diverts traffic to the less congestive air space.

Council President McCarthy questioned why they don't just close the airport, sell the land and generate a lot of money. Ms. Mize stated that the FAA isn't generally willing to give them up (an airport)...Attorney Anastasi interjected to say that everyone in Stratford has forgotten about the airport and the realization of its importance.

Ms. Mize shared some statistics to justify keeping the airport open, based on the amount of fuel sales that are generated.

- \*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE SETTLEMENT RELATED TO THE PENDING LITIGATION AND LEGAL STRATEGY: WITH CITY ATTORNEY ANASTASI, ASSISTANT CITY ATTORNEY SCHMIDT AND PAULINE MIZE, AIRPORT MANAGER**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER BANTA SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The committee entered into executive session at 7:20 pm.

The committee came out of executive session at 8:02 pm.

Co-chair Lyons reconvened the meeting at 8:05 pm.

It was stated for the record that NO ACTION WAS TAKEN and the following motion was recorded:

**\*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO AUTHORIZE, APPROVE, EMPOWER AND DIRECT THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND THE AIRPORT MANAGEMENT TO PROCEED TO FULL AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF ALL PENDING LITIGATION INVOLVING THE RELOCATION OF THE ACCESS WAY OFF OF ROUTE #113 TO OFF OF SNIFFENS LANE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE CITY'S AIRPORT COMMISSION**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER SALTER SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent calendar**

**01-13** Application for Waiver to Extend Driveway Width (4) Entrances located at the New Harding High School on Bond Street.

Attorney Raymond Rizio explained that this item pertained to the new Harding High School that will be constructed on 70-acres on Bond Street (near Yankee Discount Muffler). He stated that there will be four(4) driveways measuring 75 ft., 81 ft., 86 ft., and 75 ft. and all of them will have the appropriate turning radius. He explained that the reason for the driveways is to accommodate enough space for the school buses and emergency vehicles. He pointed out on the rendering all the amenities that will be included in the construction. He added that the school will be a state of the art certified school. He mentioned that construction is scheduled to begin in April 2014 with an expected completion date of December 2015. The school will house (800) students and there will be sufficient parking of (160) parking spaces, noting that there were formerly only (15) spaces.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ-WALKER MOVED TO APPROVE**

Co-chair Lyons asked about the parking. Attorney Rizio repeated the parking that was planned and further noted that parking would also be available at Marin School

Attorney Rizio commented that the student population was also going from 1,200 students to 800 students, so less parking is required.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*Consent calendar**

## ADJOURNMENT

- \*\* COUNCIL PRESIDENT McCARTHY MOVED TO ADJOURN**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER FELICIANO SECONDED**
- \*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Graham  
Telesco Secretarial Services