



PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES COMMISSION
Special MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, January 21st, 2026
TIME: 6:34 P.M.
Via WebEX.com
MIDDLETOWN, CONNECTICUT

Members Present: Councilwoman Leslie Spatola
Councilman Tony Gennaro
Councilman Darnell Ford
Councilman Grady Faulkner

Staff Present: Bob Russo
Brian Gartner
Rohan Manning
Marek Kozikowski

Public: Ed McKeon
Jen Schwartz
John Hall

- 1. Chairman opens meeting:** Councilman Darnell Ford called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
- 2. Chairman requests motion to amend the agenda for this meeting, dated Wednesday January 21st, 2026:** The request is to include three resolutions for The Call Center at the Cross Street Firehouse Project. Unfortunately, the agenda cannot be modified because this is a special meeting and its restrictions.
- 3. Chairman requests motion to approve minutes dated Wednesday December 10th, 2026:** Councilwoman Leslie Spatola made the motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting on December 10th, 2025 and seconded by Councilman Tony Gennaro.
- 4. Public Comment on Agenda Items:**
Ed McKeon: Resident of 76 Pearl St and would like to address the new contract coming before the member of this commission concerning the continuation of the Food Scraps Program, all the members of the Sanitation Commission voted unanimously on favor and they all support it strongly.
Jen Schwartz: Resident of 45 Jack English Drive and she would like to know if there any updates concerning her street and when the paving is going to be completed. Also, she is transmitted a

request from her neighborhood to turn the street lights, her understanding is that the lights are under the builders account name and they still owe money to Eversource and that is holding the up the turning on of the street lights. However, this is a safety issue since they have had some vandalism in the area, it would be appreciate if the town approves the lights to be turned on.

John Hall: Executive Director of Jonah Center and resident from Portland, and would like to update the commission concerning The Midden Trail Project.

5. **Correspondence:** None at the moment.

6. **New Business:**

a. **Update from Bobby Russo:** We are working through the bond issue, Rohan, Brian and himself, Bobby, are trying to move the department ahead at the best capability they can. We are getting about of one foot and a half of snow this coming Sunday, so we are trying to juggle everything this week in, move everything to the council, and get it passed or voted on to get us moving forward.

Smith Park is moving forward with the Gazebo, we are working on the McCutcheon Park waterline, the department has it up to Crystal Lake Road. We are hoping to have water crossing to Crystal Lake by the beginning or middle of March so they can have all their summer camps, we are still in track, depending on the weather, next to weeks will tell.

We've been working on the budget, I am trying to get situated as all this it had been new to Bobby, Brian had been teaching him a lot and they are getting through.

Brian and Bobby went through with the sanitation commission and they think that propels they are presenting are good and going to save the town money.

b. **Approval for 2026 Meeting Dates:** Councilwoman Leslie Spatola let everyone know that the only thing she could see that may be a problem was May 13th as the council has a budget adoption meeting that night and the meeting may be moved to the 20th at 6 pm. The commission decided to keep the date for the May meeting for now and decide if change it when the date is closer. Councilman Tony Gennaro moves the motion to accept the schedule as is and it was seconded by Councilman Grady Faulkner, and the motion carried.

c. **Sanitation Resolution:** The council decided to terminate the SAYT program and as a consequence we need to figure out where we are bringing our garbage and how our path is going to look like moving forward. The Public Works Department issued in RFP and we received several responses. The sanitation commission reviewed the proposals and found the best value in the proposal that the member of this commission can see on front of them this evening. The proposal is for us contracting with Murphy Road, which is in Middletown on Industrial Park, currently we are bringing our waste to either Southington or Berlin and it is a lot of wear and tear on the vehicles, we are going through approx. \$50,000 per year in just tires. So by going to Industrial Park road, a local business, reduces the exposure on our city forces, the amount of time that they are on the roads and out of highways. And as a plus the wear and tear of the vehicles would be also reduced. It is a fair deal, locks us for the same rate for three years. The previous agreement was up on December 31st of last year and Bobby Russo was able to negotiate an extension of three months with the company, expiring on March 31st, and this new contract would be in effect on April 1st with the approval and consent from the council, which we are presenting it on their February meeting. So this is a good deal for us to restore services back to where it was before the SAYT program.

We also have the proposal to do an organics program, the more people subscribe in, and the more the cost goes down. By shifting to an optional organics program the tipping fees are significantly less than mixed waste, so we can have savings there.

Councilwoman Spatola wanted to make a note on the communication to our residents as that was a big challenge with the SAYT program.

Councilman Tony Gennaro moves the motion to pass the proposal to the council seconded by Councilman Grady Faulkner, and the motion carried.

- d. Midden Trail- John Hall, Jonah Center:** John Hall brought some pictures to present them to the member of this commission and update them concerning this project.

John Hall mentioned he probably will need help from Public Works for removal of some trees that fell on the east trail but Bobby Russo let John Hall know that to do anything with our landfill he needs to clear with DEEP, technically they don't allow to plant tree on our cap because of erosion. John mentioned that when they got the permission or the Solar Aeration it was also included permission and authorization for the recreational area. They had one meeting with DEEP and they are planning to have another meeting with the Waste Enforcement Division of DEEP.

- e. Acceptance of a Temporary Construction Easement over the extension of Talia's Trail:**

There is a resolution for which the Director of Land Use, Marek Kozikowski, came to the meeting to speak for. Talia's Trail was a subdivision that was approved in the early 2010s, houses were build and the city acquire the roadway this past spring. After that we received a subdivision application from the property owner at the end of the road for six lot subdivision, which included the extension of Talia's Trail, about 200-250 ft. So final approval was given, but we can't use the bond unless we have a legal right to do the work.

The resolution will be going to finance and government which is due on January 28th, Councilman Grady Faulkner made the motion to the resolution and seconded by Councilwoman Leslie Spatola, motion carried on.

- f. Partial roadway abandonment at 334 and 344 Russell St:** Marek Kozikowski, Director of Land of Use, doesn't have a resolution completed for the meeting, it needed some edits and as a result we don't have a final map. At the corner of Russel Street and Farm hill Road there is a subdivision from the turn of the 19th century, the right away was very wide and essentially where for these lots, as a consequence most of the front yard is actually a city right away. Now owners of this properties are experiencing people cutting across their yard, taking in the shortcut off the sidewalk coming off of Kidney Field. They want to put a fence to help and prevent people from throwing trash in their yard. So we were able to determine that this would be an abandonment of a right away and bot a transfer of land to the property owners, Marek Kozikowski is hoping for a support from this commission and compromise to ring the resolution and final map of this project for next meeting.

Brian Gartner states that originally that intersection was configured to accommodate the local trolleys. So going back to the 1930s and 1940s. When trolley service was discontinued to Middletown, the intersection was just left in it with that configuration. And the reason why it had that sweeping bend in that area was to get up to Russell Street, so the trolleys could make it up the hill. And the intersection was reconfigured into the tea. But essentially the situations remained since that intersection was reconfigured and was rode right away that now is contiguously.

- g. Bid Waiver for United Concrete for Pre-Fabricated Restrooms:** United concrete is a local company that build the bathrooms, we are going to be buying structures that are pre-fabricated and we can go there are look at it and say we don't like this or we like that, it comes as a whole, so it's basically a plug and play. We bring electricity, water and sewer and they bring the building, they set put on a slab and it's done. The cost is about \$200,000 and the money will be allocated from the Parks Bond

Councilwoman Leslie Spatola made the motion to approve the bid waiver for Finance and Government, seconded by Councilman Tony Gennaro. It was approved unanimously.

- h. Grant Conformation for \$50,000 for Eversource:** Eversource worked on gas lines in some streets and they gave us \$50,000 instead of repairing the streets. Now we want to use that money to do necessary repairs on Broad Street, the little dead ends need to reconstructed, need engineering to redesign sidewalks and needs new drainage, and more.

Councilman Tony Gennaro made the motion to approve to accept the \$50,000 from Eversource and move it to Finance and Government and seconded by Councilwoman Leslie Spatola.

- i. **Projects: Crystal Lake:** The project is moving forward, we are almost up to Crystal Lake Road and we are working in conjunction with the water shop to get water to our facility so the summer camp can be carried on, otherwise we will have to bring in water and supply the camps with bottle water. Bobby Russo is anticipating by the end of Mar or April, depending on the water situation.

7. Old Business:

a. Projects:

- i. **Green Street:** The plan is to use the fund from the new infrastructure bond to make much needed repairs to the Green Street building. We are going out to have a RFP to have this extensive little project done.
- ii. **Saybrook Road:** The project that is going out to bid for Saybrook Road was submitted but we are doing amendments Tom to redesign and resubmit it to make it better in terms of proper sidewalks. So it is in the process of approval currently.
- iii. **Pavement Management:** We are trying to get a company for pavement management because Tom Nigosanti retired and he is only working between 15 to 20 hours a week doing the minimum, so when we have any engineering question we can have them backing up if Tom is not around.
We don't have a pavement schedule yet but we are going to have it soon, before the season starts in April.

7. Other:

- a. Department Updates: Concerning the roof repairs, while the council had approved a resolution where we got to use the LOSAP funding of \$180,000 for repair roof, and this was before we had the bond for just roof repairs that just got passed, which includes infrastructure repairs to city building. Broad Street is on the list of the resolution but the cost is a little bit higher so we need to make an amendment, in order to have Across Street done they are willing to reduce their approved LOSAP by \$100,000 so we can get the 3 projects done. Looking for a special meeting to get all this discussed and pass it to Finance and Government. Councilman Gennaro made a motion to send those directly to F&G and not having a special meeting, that way it doesn't hold the process.
- b. December 2025 Monthly Report – Highway Division
- c. December 2025 Monthly Report –Parks Division
- d. December 2025 Public Works Overtime Report
- e. December 2025 Building Permits
- f. December Recycling Coordinators Report

8. **Adjourn:** Motion to adjourn from Councilman Tony Gennaro, seconded by Councilwoman Leslie Spatola, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.