



CITY OF NEW BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING: SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

DATE: JUNE 09, 2026

TIME: 7:00 P.M.

PLACE: CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 214

PRESENT: COUNCILLORS IAN ABREU, CHAIR; LEO CHOQUETTE; BRIAN GOMES (7:07); RYAN PEREIRA; JAMES ROY (7:02)

ABSENT: NO ONE

Councillor Abreu called the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meeting to order, took attendance, and explained that the meeting was being recorded and live-streamed.

WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Choquette, requesting that the Special Committee on Environmental Affairs meet with Atty. Eric Jaikes, City Solicitor, along with the owner of A-1 Asphalt located at 1861 Shawmut Avenue, New Bedford, and the Owner of Pico Stone, located at 104 River Road, New Bedford, in order to discuss the status of the trucking/shipping agreement related to the transportation of materials through the Shawmut Avenue neighborhood behind the New Bedford Airport. (Matter ID #0645) (Referred – May 12, 2026.)

The Chair recognized Councillor Choquette who explained the reason for the motion was not to be adversarial, but to receive an update on the shipping and removing of construction debris on the property.

The Chair recognized Greg Sirois of 1930 Shawmut Avenue. As a resident in the area, he was aware of a cease to operate application that would have taken effect this past January. However, he is aware the yard is still moving contractors' debris. He asked if the contract had been extended by the Planning Board to continue to remove construction items from the property with the new owners, PICO Stone Imports. He also stated that he was aware that the owner of the property was looking to sell the property and was made aware of possible environmental issues.

The Chair recognized Tom Welsh of 1870 Shawmut Avenue. As a resident in the area, he stated he was aware that the property was used by A-1 Asphalt as an aggregate recycling facility for construction debris. He believed the company was denied that use by the Building Department, but that the company kept appealing the decision which allowed the company to continue to operate as is. He also complained about the dust and debris the trucks generate when driving by his residence.

Attorney Sean Hurley, of 432 Court Street, spoke. He was representing Pico Stone Imports and Supply, the current owner of the property in question since 2018. He went on to explain this is a zoning issue of which action was taken in court about eight or so years ago. Mrs. DaCosta the present owner, inherited the property. The property was previously used as an aggregate and there was an agreement with the City. However, a court decision did not allow any new materials to be brought onto the property and gave a four-year window to remove the debris. This window expired January 22, 2026. Since that time equipment has been sold and PICO Stone Imports and Supply has removed 40,000 yards of debris. There is approximately 3000 yards of debris left to be removed.

Atty. Hurley suggested that should an extension be granted they would be able to remove the remainder of materials off the property. They believe a six-month extension would suffice. He went on to say that trucks are allowed on the property as it is zoned for contractor materials.

Councillor Choquette asked if there was 7% of debris left on the property. He was told yes and that the estimated amount of time to fully remove it would be approximately 6 months. The Councillor asked when the final 7% was removed would that stop the truck traffic issue. He was told that it would, but that the property is allowed to have trucks on it as it is zoned for construction materials.

Paul Mattos, 8 Birch Street, Acushnet, MA, was recognized. He is the caretaker of the property for PICO Stone Imports and Supply. He stated that it is their goal to remove all of the materials from the property. He offered to visit the site with the Building Commissioner, if need be, to show the property and what is left to be done.

City Solicitor Eric Jaikes was recognized and stated that the grant to extend the clean-up period would fall to the Planning Board and the City. He stated that the Planning Board could give his office the authority to negotiate a removal extension. Solicitor Jaikes also stated that he had obtained a Superior Court Docket relating to this issue.

On motion by Councillor Pereira and seconded by Councillor Choquette, the Committee VOTED: to receive and place on file a Stipulation of Dismissal, a Civil Action filed in Superior Court on January 24, 2022.

Councillor Pereira asked Building Commissioner Danny Romanowicz if he had visited the site recently. Commissioner Romanowicz said his department had not. Councillor Pereira asked if he would be able to send someone from his department to view the property and report what is going on. The Commissioner said he would. Councillor Pereira said this may be the best way to move the process forward and allow the Committee to determine if any action should be taken.

On motion by Councillor Choquette and seconded by Councillor Pereira, the Committee VOTED: To table the matter at this time.

Councillor Roy made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Councillor Choquette.

The meeting adjourned at 7: 36 p.m.

ATTEST:

Denis Lawrence Jr.
Clerk of Committees