



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Bethel Municipal Center, 1 School Street
Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203) 794-8501

PUBLIC HEARING PHASES 2 and 3 STONY HILL SEWER PROJECT SEWER BENEFIT ASSESSMENTS

Monday, August 6, 2012
7:00 p.m.
Bethel Middle School Auditorium

RECEIVED
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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Present: First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Selectmen Richard Straiton, Selectman Paul Szatkowski. Also in attendance were Town Engineer Andrew Morosky, Town Attorney Martin Lawlor, Tax Collector, Ann Scacco and Town Comptroller Robert Kozlowski.

Absent: Commissioner's Peter Valenti and Michael Gribbin

Call to Order: First Selectman Knickerbocker opened the Public Hearing Meeting at 7:05 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Knickerbocker addressed the audience and introduced the panel. First Selectman Knickerbocker briefly reviewed the history of the Stony Hill Sewer Project. First Selectman explained the breakdown of the different phases and how the costs were determined. Each phase is billed separately and at the end of the project billing assessments are sent out to homeowners. Mr. Morosky gave an overview of the areas covered by Phase 3 and provided a brief presentation regarding the assessments and how they varied based on relative property values.

Mr. Miller, 1 Farmview, questions regarding how the assessments are determined. Also inquired regarding the Walnut Hill Bridge.

First Selectman indicated that the sewer assessments are determined by addition of a grand list charge (based on assessed value of the property) to a base charge of \$8,500.00 which results in the total sewer assessment. First Selectman indicated that the bridge located on Walnut Hill by Weed Road is a road project not affiliated with the Stony Hill Sewer Project.

Mrs. Geraldine Mills 4 Colonial Drive, gave a statement regarding the sewer project and her dissatisfaction with the overall handling of this project. Mrs. Mills had concerns of the cost of these assessments to the residents of Bethel. Mrs. Mills mentioned the poor condition of the roads in the sewer project.

First Selectman stated that the roads were never a part of the overall project, only temporary pavement would be completed. Mr. Knickerbocker stated that in previous years the funding for the road repairs

have been under funded and roads have suffered for this under funding. Mr. Knickerbocker noted that there is a road plan in place now and the Town is in the second year of the plan. The Town received a \$500,000 STEAP grant for repaving the roads. Mr. Knickerbocker also indicated that the interest rate for the sewer assessments will be 3.88%.

Mr. Kurt Conrad 4 Hillcrest Road, spoke of his dissatisfaction with the sewer project. He gave the Town an Easement through his common driveway.

Mr. Knickerbocker indicated that he will meet with Mr. Conrad to discuss further.

Mr. Mike Williams 51 Oak Ridge Road, spoke of his dissatisfaction with the sewer project and the notification process. Mr. Williams feels these assessments are a disadvantage to the homeowners.

Attorney Lawlor reviewed at length the Connecticut State Statutes regarding assessments. Mr. Lawlor explained the reasons why the sewer project started as well.

Mr. Charlie Smith 108 Walnut Hill Road, inquired to why one side of Walnut Hill Road is not being assessed.

First Selectman indicated that those properties are not in the sewer district and are R-40 lots. Mr. Morosky indicated that if one of those sewer systems fail they will have to appeal to the Public Utility Commission to hook up then if approved they will pay the assessment.

Mr. Frank Hislop 5 Evergreen Road, spoke of his dissatisfaction of the sewer project.

Mrs. Vickie Megibow 25 Adams Drive, had a question regarding the interest rate as well as when paving of the common driveway to 27 and 29 Adams would begin. Mrs. Megibow also had questions about the annual assessment.

First Selectman indicated he cannot give a specific date of when the paving will be done, he is hoping soon. Mr. Morosky indicated that there is additional work to be completed at 27 and 29 Adams Drive after which the driveway will be repaired.

Mr. Dan Dispenza 23 Budd Drive, spoke of his dissatisfaction with the quality of the work performed in the sewer district. Also Mr. Dispenza inquired to why the Commission is using the 2007 assessment date for interest.

Mr. Kozlowski explained that was the date it was used in the first phase. All the assessments will be using the same 2007 data.

Ann Scacco, Tax Collector, spoke explaining the assessment breakdowns and payments.

Mr. Rakesh, 41 Oak Ridge Road, spoke of his disagreement regarding the costs and his dissatisfaction with paying additional interest on the assessment.

Mary Wagher, 48 Weed Road, had questions about payment installments

First Selectman indicated there will be an annual bill which will be out over a 25 year period

Mr. Barry Kaplan of 13 Oak Ridge Road , inquired to the permit costs.

Attorney Lawlor indicated that if you have a well the permit is \$700 and if you are with the water company in the stony hill area the permit is \$550.

Mike Williams 51 Oak Ridge Road, spoke again.

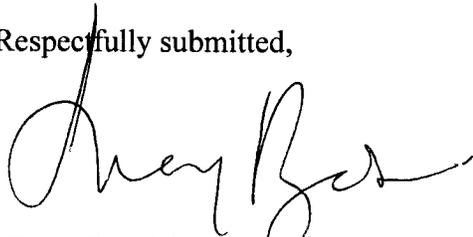
Mr. Rakesh 41 Oak Ridge Road, spoke again

Mrs. Mills 4 Colonial Drive, spoke again

Mike Williams 51 Oak Ridge Road, spoke again.

First Selectman Knickerbocker closed the meeting at 8:40p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Rogalski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "T" and "R".

Tracy Rogalski, Recording Secretary