



BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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

Robert Burke, First Selectman
Paul Szatkowski, Selectman
Kevin L. Cleary, Selectman

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FEB 11 2008

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 5, 2008
7:00 p.m.

CJH Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski, Selectman Cleary. Barry Curina, Comptroller, Andrew Morosky, Town Engineer, Chris Woodcock of Woodcock & Associates, William Hagan, Town Attorney and Len Assard from Heitkamp.

First Selectman Burke opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Various town representatives explained that the water rates have not been increased for approximately 20 years. The department runs at a deficit despite cost saving measures including staff reductions several years back. Mr. Woodcock had been commissioned by the town to review operating costs, revenues, projected capital repairs, etc. to come up with a method to operate the department while correcting the deficit. The recommendation is to increase the rates which will address the deficit and allow for ongoing operations.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Fand, Kayview Avenue – commented that he didn't think that there should be any vote until the reports were audited, questioned Mr. Woodcock and Mr. Curina regarding the costs, projections, fire suppression, etc.

Timothy Burke, Wooster Street – commented that the Water Department should be sold – privatized, thought there should be more of a cost burden on the commercial side versus the residential, and would like to see more efforts put forth to promote water conservation.

Lisa Bergh, Greenwood Avenue – commented that she is against the increase.

Robert Crnic, Old Hawleyville Road – commented that the justification for the increase is apparent.

Patrick Perrefort, Wooster Street – commented that as an owner of a multifamily house, he is concerned with the increase.

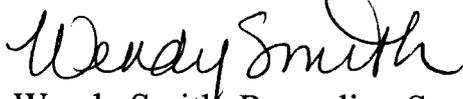
Kevin Cleary, commented that consideration should be given to add money for reserves and long term improvements.

Jason Foster, Farm Court – commented that residents may institute conservation methods to reduce their water consumption and that we are lucky that we have water available to us.

Tom Cummings, Brookwood Drive – questioned the formula – there should be no reduction for volume.

First Selectman Burke closed the Public Hearing at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Wendy Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary