



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, February 11, 2008 - 4:00 p.m.
Bethel Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski, Commissioner Gribbin and Commissioner Michaels. Also in attendance was Town Attorney William Hagan, Len Assard, Consultant from Heitkamp, Kelly Curtis, Utility Supervisor, Andrew Morosky, Town Engineer, Peter Sammis and Ken Kemp from URS.

CALL TO ORDER: First Selectman Burke called the Special Meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. and introduced William Michaels, the new member of the Public Utilities Commission.

PUBLIC INPUT: Robert Fand and Robert Legnard spoke.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Bill Scollon, Bethel Resident

MINUTES:

- *Meeting Minutes from January 7, 2008* – Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gribbin, to approve the minutes of January 7, 2008 as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Commissioner Michaels abstained from the vote as he was not a member at that time.

OLD BUSINESS:

- *Proposed Sewer Regulations* – Attorney Sienkiewicz was present at the meeting and while he did not have the proposed sewer regulations, he did share a draft proposal for the Sewer Assessment formula regulations. These were discussed at length. The Public Utilities Commission advised that they will take the draft report under advisement and will schedule another meeting to consider them further.
- *Interlocal Agreement with City of Danbury* – First Selectman Burke and Town Engineer Andrew Morosky attended a meeting and reported that there has been considerable progress and are almost at an agreement. Another meeting has been scheduled for February 26th.
- *24 Putnam Park Road – Easement Opportunity* – No action was taken; it was agreed to keep this item on the agenda.

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Financial Report:

- Water / Sewer Rates – The Board of Selectmen will consider the rate increase at an upcoming meeting; the Public Utilities Commission will consider the sewer rate increase following the Board of Selectmen's action on the water rates.
- Water and Sewer Financial Status: so noted.

Engineering / Utility Consultant Report:

- **Grants:** Town Engineer Andrew Morosky reported that Wright/Pierce is working on a hydraulic model
- **Stony Hill Sewer Project** – Peter Sammis and Ken Kemp from URS were present at the meeting. They explained that two situations requiring action were necessary:

Payne Road: Peter Sammis of URS indicated that, since before Phase 2 was bid, several residences on the west side of Payne Road intended to pump to the sewer main in Payne Road because they did not want to be responsible for deep excavations at the edge of the road. Several other homeowners in the same area have indicated their preference for a gravity connection, as originally planned when the pump station was proposed for Meckauer Park.

Mr. Sammis presented to the Commission a design alternative to serve the same houses in question by gravity with a new sewer alignment. With the new alignment, the sewer main will have to be lowered to approximately 17 feet deep while crossing under a large drain pipe near the proposed pump station on Payne Road. The Commission was reminded of the following:

- There is known oil contamination in this location.
- Crossing under this drain pipe will be a significant change to the work as bid by Lowell Construction.
- The cost of installing the sewer main in a deep trench under a drain pipe that will need to be supported (and possibly repaired) and may require remediation of oil contamination is unknown and may be very significant.

Mr. Sammis also displayed the design of a much shallower sewer main that runs over the top of the drainage pipe, but which will require the majority of the homeowners on the west side of Payne Road to pump to the sewer main. Mr. Sammis asked the Commission for guidance in terms of selecting a design with which to move forward.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to authorize URS to pursue the shallow sewer main design (going over the large drain pipe) that requires pumping of sewer laterals. Residents in this area would receive the standard credit towards the purchase of grinder pumps. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Commissioner Michaels abstained from the vote.

Hawleyville Road to Route 6: First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gribbin to pursue the alternate sewer line placement for Hawleyville Road to Route 6. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

- Easements for Phase 2 and 3 – work continues on obtaining the required easements.

New Business:

- **Toll Brothers – Reservoir Street** – First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the Toll Brothers Application with stipulations set forth in the Public Utilities Commission's October 15, 2007 meeting, the comments in Heitkamp's memorandum of January 18, 2008 and the following clarifications:
 - The Town of Bethel shall own the water and sewer mains and the fire hydrants within the development while the homeowners' association shall own and be responsible for the repair of the water and sewer service pipes from the mains to the buildings.
 - Utility easements shall be granted by the applicant to the Town of Bethel over the water and sewer mains to allow free access to the mains, including the right to excavate and repair mains when necessary.
 - Item 6 in the conditions of approval from the October 15, 2007 minutes (pumping station maintenance fee) has been waived.
 - Item 11 in the conditions of approval from the October 15, 2007 minutes (fire protection charges) has been waived.
 - Inflow and Infiltration fees of \$1,100 per unit are payable as Certificates of Occupancy are issued.
 - Sewer main (force main) and water main from the development shall connect to Town of Bethel sewer and water mains on Reservoir Street.
 - Detailed plans and shop drawings of the proposed water and sewer facilities and connections shall be submitted to the Public Utilities Commission for approval.Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. Commissioner Michael abstained from the vote.

Adjourn: As there was no further business on the agenda, Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Burke, to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary