



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

RECEIVED

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

FEB 29 2008

Tuesday, February 26, 2008
3:30 p.m.

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Bethel Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

PRESENT: First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski, Michael Gribbin and William Michaels. Also in attendance were Comptroller Barry Curina, Town Engineer/Public Works Director Andrew Morosky, Utility Consultant Len Assard, Attorney William Hagan and Attorney Jeff Sienkiewicz.

Call to Order: First Selectman Burke called the Special Meeting to order at 3:33 p.m.

- **Consideration of Proposed Sewer Assessment Formula**

Discussion took place regarding the (revised) Proposed Sewer Assessment Formula with Attorney Sienkiewicz. In accord with the comments from a previous meeting, Attorney Sienkiewicz had revised the proposed sewer assessment formula.

Public Utilities Commission members raised the point that the Stony Hill sewer project was always considered one project; it was presented to the voters at referendum and approved as one project consisting of multiple phases. As Phase 1 is virtually complete and has associated bonding and financing costs approaching, it is important to begin the assessment program in order to pay the associated costs. The concern was raised that there will be pump station costs in the Phases 2, 3 and 4 that the people in Phase 1 will be responsible for as well. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the Public Utilities Commission would establish the assessment billing for Phase 1 with an “interim assessment” for each applicable Phase 1 property. When all phases of the project are complete and all final costs are known, a supplemental assessment will be determined and that will be added to the interim assessment to make one final assessment. Phase 1 costs are approximately \$4.8 million and there are approximately 274 properties in Phase 1. The Commission directed Attorney Sienkiewicz to continue work on the formula, using a combination of an \$8,500 flat fee plus an “assessment fee” and including language to allow for a final adjustment to the assessments once all phases are complete. Attorney Sienkiewicz will incorporate this into a resolution for adoption by the Public Utilities Commission at a meeting in March.

- **Consideration of Proposed Sewer Rates**

After discussion of the existing and proposed sewer rates, including the fact that the recently implemented increase in water rates will result in a corresponding increase in the sewer collections, First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gribbin, to reaffirm that the sewer rate calculation is based upon 245% of the water rate, and, in accord with the proposed and published sewer rates, to increase the minimum sewer use charges. Public Utilities Commission members agreed to explore other billing options for the sewer, including a flat rate charge, in the upcoming months.

Voting in favor of the motion: First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski and Commissioner Gribbin. Voting against the motion: Commissioner Michaels. Motion passed.

Adjourn: As there was no further business on the agenda, Commissioner Michaels made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Burke, to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Smith, Recording Secretary