



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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
Monday, February 2, 2009
4:00 p.m.
Bethel Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

Present: First Selectman Burke, Selectman Szatkowski, Commissioner Billy Michael. Also in attendance Len Assard, Heitkamp; Andrew Morosky, Town Engineer; William Hagan, Town Counsel; Kelly Curtis, Utilities Supervisor.

Absent: Selectman Cleary and Commissioner Gribbin

Call to Order: First Selectman Burke called the regular meeting to order at 4:05pm

Correspondence: None

Public Input: None

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**TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK**

Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting January 5, 2009: Commissioner Michael made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries

Meeting Minutes from Special Meeting January 22, 2009: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Burke, to approve the minutes as presented. Commissioner Michael abstained from the vote. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries

Old Business:

Hydrant Rates: All public hydrants are currently billed with last year's rate because the hydrant rates were adopted after the Town Budget was set. First Selectman Burke indicated the Town's Fire Protection rates will also go up, starting July 1st. Commissioner Gribbin at the last meeting requested we keep "Hydrant Rates" on the Agenda. First Selectman Burke agreed. Andrew Morosky indicated he will be meeting with a homeowners' association president this week regarding the change in rates for private fire protection. Len Assard stated the fire protection charges were below average for years and now they will be closer to rates paid elsewhere in the region.

Proposed Sewer Regulation: Andrew Morosky indicated that he, Mr. Assard and Mr. Curtis are meeting regularly regarding the Regulations and they are making progress with proposed revisions. Discharge permits need further review as this section is extremely important. Len Assard discussed the various uses of the discharge permits; for example, a discharge permit for a single family home would have to be re-submitted for approval of a

redevelopment into a multifamily home or condominiums on the same parcel. The commission will have the authority to approve and rescind discharge permits. Andrew Morosky spoke regarding allocation usage, and how there is currently no provision in the proposed regulations for rescinding a discharge permit if a property owner exceeds their allocated amount of usage. Len Assard suggested being proactive with the sewage being discharged into Danbury and discussed inflows and infiltration into the system that need to be curtailed.

Water Main Extension - Grassy Plain Street : Andrew Morosky indicated the commission is still waiting for two responses. Selectman Szatkowski suggested carry on for next meeting.

Financial Report: Reports so noted. Selectman Szatkowski asked Mr. Morosky if he spoke to the Comptroller regarding receiving bottom line numbers for the Water and Sewer Department financials. Mr. Morosky indicated he did meet with the Comptroller and they both are in agreement with respect to producing a one page financial report giving a "snapshot" of the financials, including the bottom line for each fund balance, billings and projected revenues.

Engineering/Utility Consultant Reports:

Grants

Selectman Szatkowski asked whether Bethel has received their money from Danbury for the Interlocal Agreement. Mr. Morosky indicated Bethel has not received the \$175,000.00 but did speak to Dave Day in Danbury and he is well aware the money is due in the coming days. Mr. Morosky also indicated the money received will be used for the paving out in the Stony Hill area where the sewer project is underway.

Water Storage Tank: Mr. Morosky indicated the design report has arrived to the Department of Public Health for review before final design can begin. The approval process will be about three months. Mr. Morosky met with the Surveyor out at the Water Storage Tank.

Stony Hill Sewer Project:

Contract 2: Pump Station structure is completed and will be operational by the end of February.

Contract 3: Ludlow's surveyors have started work on Contract 3 in the areas of Hillcrest and Walnut. Andrew Morosky indicated the laid out for tree work will start this month.

Easements for Contract 3:

Attorney Hagan has no further easements to discuss, completed eleven (11) easements, eight (8) waiting for verification with a total of nineteen (19) easements for Contract 3. Andrew Morosky indicated URS representative Ken Kemp is assisting and making progress with negotiations with the remaining eight (8).

Supervisor's Report:

Kelly Curtis, Utilities Supervisor updated the Commission on the following:

Two sewer backups to report this month:

- 1) 29 Elizabeth Street, which unfortunately backed-up into a home. The problem was corrected and Mr. Curtis called ServPro to clean up the inside of the house where it was affected.
- 2) At the intersection of Plumtrees Road and Maple Avenue Extension; clean up within two hours.

Water usage is in the normal range for this time of year.

Mr. Curtis expressed concerns about the ground water issues accruing on Payne Road. Mr. Curtis contacted the URS representative; Ken Kemp and they both agree a solution needs to address this sooner rather than later, when the pump station is operational. Infiltration into the sewer system appears to be coming from two manholes before the pump station by Meckaur Circle where the ice and snow is melting and the asphalt is heaving due to the amount of water and ice in the road. Water puddling at the manhole frames is seeping in. Mr. Curtis suggests paving Meckauer Circle when paving Payne Road; he feels it would address the issue of the inflow into the sewers.

New Business:

101 Wooster Street Sprinkler Bill:

Andrew Morosky indicated the owner has been charged for a sprinkler that is no longer connected. Utilities Supervisor; Kelly Curtis indicated that his Inspector; Chris Hall, found the sprinkler has been capped. The owner is requesting reimbursement of the sprinkler charge, which they paid (as suggested by the Tax Collector).

Commissioner Michael made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Burke to reimburse Mulvaney Properties; 101 Wooster Street for \$952.00 for the bill dated January 1, 2009, pending the approval of Bethel Public Utilities that the sprinkler line has been properly disconnected from the public water supply. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Selectman Szatkowski suggested moving this subject to old business for next meeting.

First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Michael to add to the agenda "The Spot" located on Front Street. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

The Spot on front Street:

The property owner at this location is seeking to reduce his bill by \$338.41 for a water leak that occurred. The applicant's normal water/sewer utility bill is less than \$2,000 but his last quarterly bill was over \$11,000. His insurance company has covered approximately \$9,000 of the bill. First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to credit \$338.41 to the property owner of The Spot on Front Street. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Adjourn:

As there was no further business on today's agenda, Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Michael, to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Rogalski
Recording Secretary