



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

RECEIVED

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, December 14, 2009

4:00 p.m.

C.J. Hurgin Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

DEC 16 2009

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Present: First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Selectmen Richard Straiton and Paul Szatkowski and Commissioners Michael Gribbin and William Michaels. Also in attendance were Town Engineer Andrew Morosky, Utility Consultant Len Assard and Utility Supervisor Kelly Curtis.

Call to Order: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Special Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Public Input: None

Correspondence: None

Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting November 9, 2009: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Michaels, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved. First Selectman Knickerbocker and Selectman Straiton abstained from the vote.

Old Business:

101 Wooster: Town Engineer Andrew Morosky gave a brief description of the matter to the new members of the PUC including the fact that work was recently done on the lawn of 101 Wooster to help the Town resolve a drainage dispute across the street. Additional research needs to be done with the Fire Marshal and the property owner at 101 Wooster to confirm the fire protection needs for the building. Otherwise, there has been no new activity; the item will be continued on the agenda.

Financial Report:

Water and Sewer Financial Status Reports so noted. First Selectman Knickerbocker asked Mr. Morosky for a summary of the finances for the Water and Sewer Department. Mr. Morosky indicated he spoke to Barry Curina, Comptroller and the current “snapshot” indicates that the Sewer Department owes the General Fund approximately \$51,000 and Water Department owes the General Fund approximately \$1.2 Million. Commissioners Gribbin and Michaels had comments regarding information contained in the financial reports. Selectman Szatkowski indicated that he would like to see a month by month or quarterly report of the debt status for both Water and Sewer Departments. First Selectman Knickerbocker indicated that Mr. Morosky and Mr. Assard will prepare a sample format for the financials that can be filled in by Mr. Curina. First Selectman Knickerbocker indicated that he would like to see Mr. Curina attend at least one meeting per quarter. Selectman Straiton inquired as to why the Commission did not implement the additional increases as per the Woodcock Study. It was noted that the Commission previously approved two years worth of increases with the intent of monitoring the effect on the debt.

First Selectman Knickerbocker requested the Woodcock Study for himself as well as Selectman Straiton for review. Discussion took place over various line items in the Financial Reports.

Engineering / Utility Consultant Report:

Grants: Mr. Morosky reported that he was told by Danbury's Public Works Director on December 10 that Danbury's response to the engineering study by Wright-Pierce of the sites proposed by Danbury was forthcoming. First Selectman Knickerbocker inquired about the DPUC appeal time line and Mr. Morosky indicated he will be in contact with the Town's attorney and report back to the commission on the next steps in the process.

Stony Hill Sewer Project: Ludlow has essentially finished sewer main work for the year. Selectman Straiton would like to see the financials for the sewer project and asked about the Commission's decision to extend Phase 3 to include Birch, Garella and Maple Row. Mr. Morosky indicated that the town has done this successfully in the past with other phases and since Ludlow's unit prices were favorable, compared to other bidders for Phase 3, it made fiscal sense to extend the work to include roads that were once in Contract 4.

Easements for Phase 3: Discussion took place regarding the easement for the Adams Drive area and Attorney Hagan is working with the two families.

Supervisor's Report

Utility Supervisor Kelly Curtis reported that Plumtrees Road Pump Station is working but still needs major repairs as previously discussed. The repair plan is still in the development stages. Mr. Curtis indicated he would like to see URS as the Engineering Firm as well as Kovacs as the Contractor. Kovacs handled the Emergency repair of the Pump Station. Paul Street has Pump 1 out and Pump 2 back up and running. Pump 3 has never been rebuilt and will be the next pump to be pulled.

Mr. Curtis brought in a section of 4" water main from Grassy Plain Street that suffered a failure last month. The pipe contained a significant amount of tuberculation and was visibly thinner in spots around its circumference. The hole occurred in the thinnest part of the main. Mr. Curtis informed the commission that the State is looking at re-paving Route 53 in the next few years and he would like to change over that section of 4" water main to at least an 8" main from Cherry Lane heading towards South Street before the project takes place. If the work isn't done before the State paves, the Town will have to wait at least 5 years after the paving unless it's an emergency, because the State will have a moratorium in effect on the freshly paved road. First Selectman Knickerbocker would like Mr. Curtis to continue his research and add to agenda for next meeting.

Selectman Szatkowski questioned Mr. Curtis regarding his success with hiring a new employee. Mr. Curtis indicated he's still taking applications and as of now he'll wait until 2010 to conduct any further interviews.

New Business:

DEP Minimum Stream Flow Regulations: Peter Galant, P.E. Vice President of Tighe & Bond presented to the commission concerns of the upcoming regulations from the DEP on Minimum Stream Flow. Peter is working along with Connecticut Water Works Association to educate municipal and private water companies about this upcoming regulation.

The current draft regulations provide for stream classification system which will impose reservoir release requirements and groundwater withdrawal limits for existing public water supply sources based on the

stream classification. Some exceptions may be allowed where flow management plans are developed and approved by the Department but it appears Bethel will be somewhat affected by these requirements. Biggest concern relates to releasing water during periods of low flow, when the water is needed most. Besides water quantity, water quality is a concern as water being drawn from different levels of the reservoir can contain taste and odor issues not present at other levels.

Mr. Assard indicated that it would be in the Town's best interest to join together with Connecticut Water Works Association in general and particularly on this issue.

City of Danbury - Culligan Permit for Wastewater Discharge: Public Notice was received in November notifying the Commission that Culligan Water Conditioning of Fairfield and Westchester Counties, located at 5 Second Lane, is applying to the DEP for a renewal of their permit for wastewater discharge.

Adjourn: As there was no further business on the agenda, Commissioner Michael made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 p.m. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tracy Rogalski".

Tracy Rogalski, Recording Secretary