



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 5, 2009

4:00 p.m.

Bethel Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

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

Absent: Selectman Cleary and Utilities Supervisor, Kelly Curtis

Call to Order: First Selectman Burke called the regular meeting to order at 4:10pm

Correspondence: None

Public Input: None

Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting December 1, 2008: Commissioner Gribbin made a motion, which was seconded by Billy Michaels to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Commissioner Gribbin indicated the dated on the Agenda for Special Meeting on December 17, 2009 was incorrect on the agenda it stated December 16, 2009 not December 17, 2009.

Meeting Minutes from Special Meeting on December 17, 2008: Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gribbin to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Old Business:

Proposed Sewer Regulation: Mr. Morosky indicated that he, Mr. Curtis and Mr. Assard met to discuss the Rules and Regulations from Attorney Sienkiewicz. Additional review and discussion is needed on proposed policies and technical standards before a second draft version is released. Also, further review of permit fees is needed and may require having a separate fee schedule. Mr. Assard discussed a significant difference proposed with these regulations: sewer discharge permits. These proposed permits are different from the sewer connection permits that Bethel has issued in the past. The connection permit is anticipated to remain in place and the discharge permit will be a second form that will help the PUC administer the Water Pollution Control Plan by assigning allocations to new developments or for any change in use application.

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Commissioner Gribbin questioned item – 1.1.5.2 on Requirement for Separate Building Sewers. Commissioner Gribbin wanted to verify that if a two-family home was to convert into a condominium, the owner will be compelled to install separate utilities to each unit. Mr. Assard indicated the burden for connecting any new units would be on the homeowner.

Commissioner Gribbin also wanted to add the word “Residential” in paragraph 2 to go with Commercial and Industrial.

Commissioner Gribbin questioned page 17, section 5.0 – Community Sewerage System Serving Residential Development. Mr. Assard indicated his town has an ordinance against having any Community Sewer System. The regulations, as currently worded, do not allow for approval of a new community sewerage system that incorporates a septic system, leaching field or treatment plant. Mr. Assard reminded the Commission that discharges from a treatment plant are highly regulated by the DEP and water bodies cannot have their classification reduced by a sewage discharge.

Commissioner Michael questioned section 5.2 Application Form and Requirements. Asked if this section refers to what Toll Brothers is developing (Pump Station) on Reservoir Street and does it fall under this regulation. Mr. Morosky indicated Toll Brothers has ownership of the Pump Station and will operate it for (2) two years after completion of the project before handing it over to the Town.

Mr. Assard indicated the town shall continue to own the water and sewer mains and the customer shall own the laterals from the main to their house or business.

Commissioner Gribbin questioned page 26 under section 7.1 Use Charges. He asked whether the dates correspond with the correct billing dates the tax collectors use for billing. Mr. Morosky indicated that he would verify with the Tax Collector.

Commissioner Gribbin questioned page 27 under section 7.3 Inspection Fee. Is the amount correct on \$400 for commercial. Mr. Morosky indicated that it was not but that the correct amounts will be set forth in a schedule as the review continues.

Commissioner Michael, referencing Section 2.1.2 “Sewer Connection Permit. Abandonment of Septic Tanks”, wanted to know why a customer needed to collapse their septic tank when they connected to the sewer main. It was explained to Commissioner Michael that it is standard practice to collapse an abandoned septic tank once the sewer lateral to the sewer main is working. Primarily, the reason is reduced liability for the property owner.

Commissioner Michael, referencing Section 2.1.4 Sewer Connection Permit: FOG Interceptors and FOG Management Equipment wanted to know why local restaurants need to purchase grease traps, as it is an additional cost to them. Mr. Assard indicated it is a state mandated regulation and the town has no choice but to comply and that, over time, it saves the whole system not to have all that fat, oil and grease in the pipes. Commissioner Michael also asked who regulates the inspections of these grease traps. Mr. Assard indicated usually the Health Department inspects them while doing their yearly inspections. Mr. Assard also indicated it is an unfunded mandated that the towns are responsible for. It was suggested to continue further discussion for next meeting.

Interlocal Agreement: Agreement has been signed and Bethel will receive payment (90) ninety days after the date of the signed contracts.

Water Main Extension - Grassy Plain Street -Revised letter was sent out in the beginning of December. To date we have received six letters back in the affirmative and are waiting on one.

153 Grassy Plain Street: Completed.

Financial Report: Reports so noted. The commission discussed debt service and a flat rate for sewers. First Selectman Burke indicated the Water/Sewer Department should be out of the red in the years (5) five years. Mr. Morosky spoke to Comptroller Curina about revamping the monthly update on the financials for the water and sewer departments so that an approximate running balance was included. They will work on the format for this report in January 2009.

Engineering/Utility Consultant Reports:

Grants

Water Storage Tank: Andrew Morosky indicated he has received approval on the design report and hydraulic model from the Department of Public Health and will be meeting with Wright Pierce and the Surveyor tomorrow at the Eureka Reservoir to review the preferred area for the water storage tank.

Stony Hill Sewer Project:

Contract 2: Pump Station structure is complete, waiting for CL&P's completion and for the generator and controls to be hooked up. Once this is done the residents upstream will be able to connect to system.

Contract 3: Mr. Morosky met with Ludlow Construction for preconstruction meeting. First Selectman indicated the Highway Department's payloader broke and Ludlow Construction lent the Highway Department their payloader for loading sand/salt onto the Highway Department trucks.

Easements for Contract 2 and 3:

No further easements to discuss at this time. A total of (11) eleven completed and (8) eight still required.

Supervisor's Report:

Kelly Curtis, Utilities Supervisor was unavailable for the meeting.

New Business:

2009 Meeting Schedule

First Selectman Burke made a motion which was seconded by Billy Michael to approve the 2009 Meeting Schedule with the addition of a meeting on January 4, 2010. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Hydrate Rates: Commissioner Gribbin has concerns with the rates and First Selectman Burke indicated the Town Budget was past prior to these Hydrate Rates going out. Selectman Szatkowski suggested add to agenda under Old Business.

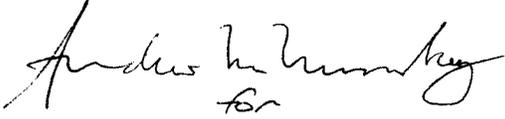
295 Greenwood Avenue:

First Selectman Burke made a motion which was seconded by Commissioner Gribbin to allow Alsa Associates permission to discharge to the Bethel Sanitary Sewer system from February 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009, to stay consistent with their permit from the DEP. Vote. All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Adjourn:

As there was no further business on today's agenda, First Selectman Burke made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Carries.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Rogalski" with a large flourish at the end. Below the signature, the word "for" is written in a smaller, cursive script.

Tracy Rogalski
Recording Secretary