



# PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 7, 2010

4:00 p.m.

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

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

**Call to Order:** First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input:** None

**Correspondence:** None

### Meeting Minutes from Special Meeting May 24, 2010:

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: all in favor, motion approved.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski, to add to the agenda the Meeting Minutes for the May 10, 2010 Special Meeting. Vote: all in favor, motion approved.

### Meeting Minutes from Special Meeting May 10, 2010:

Selectman Szatkowski made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes as presented. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.

### Old Business:

#### Adams Drive Easements – Weinkauf and Riley Properties:

Attorney Martin Lawlor informed the commission on the progress of the two easements. Mr. Lawlor is waiting for word on a summary appraisal for the Riley property. Selectman Szatkowski asked Mr. Morosky when Ludlow will be returning to complete Contract 3. Mr. Morosky indicated that when the easements are signed he'll contact Ludlow.

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TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK

**Hydrant Charges; Fire Protection; Water/Sewer Rate Charges:**

**First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton to adopt the Fire Protection rates in accordance with the schedule in the Woodcock Rate Study.** Commissioner Valenti expressed concerns about not metering the main line serving the condominium complexes, especially in the event of a break in the main. Mr. Curtis spoke about the pros and cons of installing a master meter. Mr. Curtis indicated there's an upfront cost to metering the lines for example \$20,000 for a pit and \$10,000 for the meter itself. Also, if the utility bill for the complex is based on a master meter it cuts down on readings, but it could cause the large user rate to kick in, which would impact revenue. First Selectman Knickerbocker indicated this water meter issue should be handled separately as it is not directly related to the hydrant rates. Selectman Straiton indicated his concern with the private hydrant owners in Stony Hill paying United Water over \$900 per hydrant fee; perhaps those charges can be appealed for the people in those areas. First Selectman Knickerbocker indicated that he would be in favor of this and he feels the Board of Selectman should appeal to United Water about the cost of the private hydrant charges. Commissioner Gribbin indicated perhaps the commission should appeal the State DPUC. **Vote: all in favor, motion approved.**

**Stony Hill Sewer Project; Manholes settling on Payne Road and clogged pipe lines on Walnut Hill:**

Mr. Morosky distributed an invoice to the commission from the Public Works Highway Department in the amount of \$3,901.50 for the work performed on the clogged pipe line on Walnut Hill Road. The commission indicated this invoice should be forward to Ludlow Construction Company for reimbursement. Commissioner Valenti questioned Mr. Morosky about the pictures of the clogged pipes and would like to have them distributed to the commissioners. Commissioner Gribbin had questions about the cause of the clogged pipe. Discussion took place about URS's design and the Ludlow's responsibility in handling this clog.

**Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Szatkowski to forward this invoice for payment to Ludlow Construction Company. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.**

Mr. Peter Sammis, URS Representative spoke to the commission about the road settlement and sinkholes that have arisen from the sewer project on Payne Road. Mr. Sammis indicated that URS will work with the Commission to find and correct any problems. First URS will gather all data for locations with occurring problems as well as similar areas which may or may not have the problem occurring. Mr. Sammis will present a report for the commission next month. Commissioners discussed ground water concerns throughout the project area, Mr. Sammis indicated that URS did perform soil borings prior to starting any design and no groundwater concerns arose. Also, during construction on Payne Road there were no reports of groundwater

in the sewer trench. Commissioner Gribbin inquired to Mr. Sammis about the low pressure force main on Payne Road and his opinion about the reason why URS went with a low pressure force main instead of having the homeowners be responsible for placing grinder pumps on their properties. Commissioner Valenti commented about the cost of the low pressure force main to the sewer project. Mr. Sammis indicated that the overall cost of the low pressure main was less than individuals connecting from below. Further discussion took place.

**Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Valenti to have URS/Town Engineer to investigate the cost analysis for individual grinder pumps for the lower portion of Payne Road as opposed to the common force main. Vote, all in favor, motion approved.**

**Mr. Tariq Wasti, 7 Wine Sap Run; Sewer line Extension:**

Commissioner Gribbin questioned Mr. Sammis about how the limits of the sewer line on Wine Sap Run were determined. Mr. Sammis indicated he'll review his notes and have an answer next month. With respect to the rules that govern requests such as Mr. Wasti's, First Selectman Knickerbocker instructed Attorney Martin Lawlor to work with Mr. Len Assard to rework the Sewer Regulations language in a way that allows for hardship and emergency situations.

**Financial Report:**

**Water and Sewer Financial Status** Reports not available. First Selectman Knickerbocker indicated the Town has received inquiries for the Comptroller's position and the Board of Finance will be interviewing prospective candidates soon.

**Engineering / Utility Consultant Report:**

**Grants:**

**Eureka Water Storage Tank:**

Mr. Morosky indicated the Danbury Planning Commission met last week in executive session to discuss the settlement worked out between the Town and the City Public Works Departments and will be holding a Public Hearing in Danbury either on June 24th or July 7th. Following this hearing, it is anticipated that Bethel will have an approval for the storage tank. First Selectman Knickerbocker indicated if a ruling isn't in our favor we will proceed directly to the DPUC for a resolution. Mr. Morosky indicated that Wright-Pierce is almost finished with the bid documents and the project should be going to bid soon.

**Stony Hill Sewer Project:**

Ludlow is off site. Mr. Morosky distributed the appraisal of the property located at 28 Stony Hill Road. Mr. Morosky informed the commission of the background regarding this easement. The total value of the appraisal is estimated at \$21,800. Mr. Morosky indicated that this property is already connected to the sanitary sewer on Route 6 and this easement does not benefit this property owner in any way.

**Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Valenti to authorize Mr. Morosky and Mr. Lawlor to negotiate with property owner of 28 Stony Hill Road for this easement and not to exceed more than \$21,800 in compensation. Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.**

Commissioner Gribbin asked Mr. Morosky about when the assessments for contract 2 will be going out. Mr. Morosky indicated that when a total cost of the Contract is decided upon, the assessments can be established.

Commissioner Valenti asked about the Grassy Plain water main extension with respect to the amount paid to date. Mr. Morosky indicated that several bills have been approved and paid in accordance with the Agreement between the PUC and FCI/Burndy. Commissioner Valenti indicated he would like to have all bills submitted to the PUC prior to being paid. First Selectman Knickerbocker agreed to have all bills presented to the PUC prior to being paid.

**Easements for Phase 3:** No new easements have been acquired.

#### **Supervisor's Report**

Mr. Curtis indicated that there are two service leaks; one on Willow Street and one on Maple Avenue. Mr. Curtis noted that on Tuesday night a high water alarm didn't notify until Wednesday at 9am. They had Pembroke pump out the clog and found a bed sheet in the pipes. A new pump is now on order and they have one running.

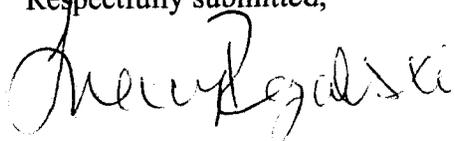
Route 53 Grassy Plain Street Water Extension is now completed. The main is live and all will be tried into the system, all meter pits are installed. Mr. Curtis explained the job in detail.

**New Business: None**

#### **Adjourn:**

As there was no further business on the agenda First Selectman Knickerbocker made a motion, which was seconded by, Selectman Szatkowski adjourn the meeting at 5:40pm  
Vote, all in favor, motion unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Tracy Rogalski, Recording Secretary