



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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

MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, April 4, 2011

6:45 p.m.

Bethel Middle School - Auditorium

RECEIVED
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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Present: First Selectman Matthew Knickerbocker, Selectman Paul Szatkowski, Selectman Richard Straiton and Commissioner Michael Gribbin. Also in attendance were Town Comptroller Robert Kozlowski, Town Engineer Andrew Morosky, Utility Consultant Leonard Assard and Town Attorney Martin Lawlor.

Call to Order: First Selectman Knickerbocker called the Public Hearing Meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Knickerbocker began by referring to the Proposed Amendment to the Sewer Regulations, copies of which were available at the hearing. The amendment would allow homeowners with hardship cases meeting criteria set forth in the amendment to claim an exception to the sewer regulations and allow the subject parcel to connect to the sanitary sewer system in the subject Sewer District. First Selectman Knickerbocker opened the meeting for public comment and discussion.

Mr. Tariq Wasti, 7 Wine Sap Run, spoke in favor of proposed regulation.

Mr. Bill Hillman, 6 Walnut Hill Road, questioned if this amendment will increase the cost of the entire sewer project?

- Comptroller Kozlowski indicated that the costs of hooking up to the sewers for a hardship case would be held to the resident applying for the connection to the sewer system.
- Selectman Szatkowski noted that the only way the applicant can connect is due to a failing septic issue *and* the Health Department deems it a health hazard and again ALL cost are borne by the applicant.

Frank Hislop, 5 Evergreen Drive, questioned section 4.4.d.2.i relative to proposed fees. Attorney Martin Lawlor indicated how the fees were established in determining the \$12,500 fee for residential properties, which doesn't include the cost of the sewer work itself.

Mr. Hislop also questioned section 4.4.a.2 regarding the district boundary and felt there was no end to extending sewer once it is extended outside the district. Mr. Lawlor indicated that the amendment states "the real property...must be located within 250 feet of the sewer district boundary."

Mr. Hillman questioned how many homes can hook-up to the system? Mr. Knickerbocker indicated that they cannot answer this particular question at this time and will get back to him.

Mr. Lawlor stated that properties next to the Sewer District cannot simply connect and noted several criteria that apply to applications for hardship cases:

- Septic System has to be failing;
- Health Department requires proof of inability of site to handle septic;
- Only area in which to locate a reconstructed or repaired septic system is within 100 feet of designated inland wetlands or water course;
- Public Utility Commission approval

Selectman Paul Szatkowski indicated that the Town of Bethel has a limited amount of gallonage in its contract with Danbury; the Town cannot go over that number without having its costs rise with a penalty.

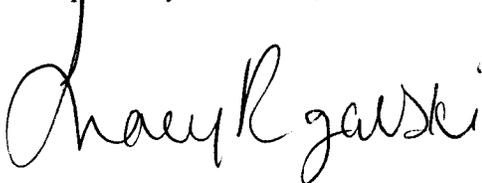
First Selectman Knickerbocker noted that section 4.4.b indicates the following: "The proposed expanded sewer use will not result in exceeding the public sewer capacity allotment for the sewer district affected by the expansion petition." First Selectman asked whether there were any other comments or questions on this proposed amendment.

Tim Bott, 29 Meckauer Circle, spoke regarding his disagreement with the placement of sewers in Meckauer Circle but understands why they were included in the sewer project. Mr. Bott would like a better understanding and clarity of the assessments also about costs related to the sewers and costs related to hooking up to the system.

First Selectman Knickerbocker asked if he can hold this question for the next Public Hearing regarding the Sewer Assessments.

First Selectman Knickerbocker closed out the Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracy Rogalski". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Tracy Rogalski, Recording Secretary