



PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center
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AUG 11 2006

TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 7, 2006
4:00 PM

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center – Meeting Room "A"

Present: Chairman Burke; Commissioners Szatkowski, Wild, Gribbin and Valenti; Town Engineer, Andrew Morosky, P.E., Town Attorney, Bill Hagen, Utility Consultant, Len Assard.

Call to Order: Chairman Burke called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM.

Public Input:

- Geraldine Mills- 4 Colonial Drive – Expressed her concern with the proposed sewer line for Colonial Drive and also spoke on behalf of Stacey Bureau of 49 Taylor Road and his proposal to connect to the sewer system.
- Beth Hubert – 27 Castle Hill Drive – Wanted to know when Phase 2 would be starting. Currently, bids are going out mid-August with construction commencing in September or October, with a 500+/- day contract.
- Pat Heinzer – 7 Hillcrest Road – Interested in the status of the Colonial Drive / Hillcrest Road Sewer Issue.

Correspondence:

- Deanna Piera – 137 Walnut Hill – Requested exemption from connecting to proposed sewer - Noted as received. Commissioner Gribbin made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Valenti to table this until the September meeting and forward the request to Peter Sammis of URS for review. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.

Minutes:

- Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2006 – Commissioner Wild mad a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Gribbin to accept the Meeting minutes with the following changes; Last page- remove "his" and insert "read". Vote: Chairman Burke and Commissioners Wild, Gribbin and Valenti in favor; Commissioner Szatkowski abstained; motion carries.

Old Business:

- Hillcrest/Colonial Drives – Proposed Sewer Main – It was noted that Chairman Burke and the Town Engineer met with both groups of neighbors on July 20, 2006. Both groups were receptive to additional discussion regarding alternatives to resolve issues. Due to the drainage problems in the area between the two streets and other concerns, Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Szatkowski to carry this item on the next agenda under Old Business and to stay in contact with the residents of both streets. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- 31/33 Hearthstone Drive – The Town Engineer spoke to the homeowner of 33 Hearthstone Drive and will meet with him on August 9, 2006. Commissioner Gribbin made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to carry this on the next agenda.

- 24/26 Nashville Road Extension – Water Disconnection Request – All parties have reached an agreement to disconnect 26 Nashville Road Extension from the Town water system and 26 Nashville Road Extension has agreed to drill a new well according to the regulations set forth by the Health Department. The Town Engineer will stake out three points for the Town of Bethel right-of-way closest to the proposed well location to ensure that the well is installed on private property. Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to remove this item from the agenda as the issue was settled between the referenced parties. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- Phase II Easements – To date, there are 20-signed easements, with 15 more in various stages of completion. The remaining 4 still have more work to be done before they can be finalized. Commissioner Szatkowski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to continue this under Old Business. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- 217 Old Hawleyville Road – Shady Acres Subdivision / 153 Grassy Plain Street / Apollo Road – Chelsea Heights Resubmittal - As no new information had been submitted, Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to continue these applications under Old Business to the next meeting. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- Water Department Fire Hydrant Fee – Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Szatkowski to accept and adopt this Water Hydrant Fire Fee Schedule. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.

Financial Report:

- Chairman Burke presented a memorandum from the Comptroller, Barry Curina, to the PUC. Len Assard then briefed the PUC on the nature of the financials to date. The audit for the Town has been completed and a final draft will be released in early September, once the fiscal year has been closed for sixty days. Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Szatkowski to add to this agenda under New Business to set up a special meeting to discuss the finances of the PUC. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.

Engineering/Utility Consultant Report:

- Revised Rules and Regulations for Water Connections – Continue on next agenda under New Business
- Proposed Sewer Regulations – Continue under New Business on next agenda.
- Water Main Break on Judd Avenue -This untoward event was not covered by the Town's insurance. Mr. Curtis has been in contact with the affected homeowner and he will be having his driveway repaired by a local firm. The Highway Department will then repair the road damage. To be continued on the agenda for the September meeting.
- Stony Hill Sewer Project
 - 23/25 Ridgedale Road – Grievance over Sewer Line Depth - The Town Engineer, Chairman Burke, Commissioner Wild and Peter Sammis of URS visited these properties on July 20, 2006 and observed the measurements indicating that there was adequate pitch for the subject sewer laterals. Chairman Burke pointed out Mr. Morosky's memorandum that discussed the measurements taken and his analysis to the PUC that addressed the homeowners' issues. The Town Engineer was asked to send each of the homeowners a letter indicating the results of the findings, that is, that both have enough pitch for their respective sewer laterals. To accommodate these homeowners' requests would add an additional \$17,000-\$20,000 to the total cost of the project, not including final paving. This item will be removed from the agenda.
 - Update from Peter Sammis – Memo from Peter Sammis with his status update for each of the phases of the sewer project.
 - Adam's Drive / Weed Road – Similar issue to Hillcrest Road and Colonial Drive. There are drainage issues in this location. The residents in this area would like these issues addressed as part of the easement process.
 - Westview Drive - This sewer main installation is now complete. Laterals are scheduled for completion by the end of this week.

- o Manholes and Risers for Contract 1 – The manufacturer of the manhole frames and covers, Neenah Foundry, changed the diameter of the frames by reducing them 1/8 of an inch but apparently did not inform the customers of this change and shipped them out under the old part number. Chairman Burke asked if there is adequate retainage from M. Rondano for this problem. Mr. Morosky indicated that there was sufficient retainage to cover the costs for which M. Rondano was responsible.
 - o Road Moratorium for Contract 1 Roads – The roads in Contract 1 are now freshly paved and Chairman Burke indicated that he would like to prohibit excavations in these roads, unless it is an emergency, for a period of three years. It was noted that the Board of Selectmen would be the responsible party for this policy. To be continued on the agenda.
- 2 and 4 South Street, Danbury - Mr. Curtis brought to the PUC's attention that these addresses may not have been connected to the Danbury system as approved by the Commission. Mr. Curtis saw no evidence of an excavation in the sidewalk, which would have indicated that these services were switched over. The services may have been reconnected in the street. Mr. Curtis will follow up with his counterpart in the City of Danbury, David Day.
- Sewer Moratorium Committee: Chairman Burke and Commissioner Valenti will meet next week to discuss this issue as well as the Sewer Moratorium issue in general.
 - o Commissioner Valenti noted the large new project that is going in on Payne Rd. Danbury had approached the Town of Bethel about connecting the Bethel's sewer line at the last Interlocal Committee meeting but have never followed through with keeping the discussions going as far as the Interlocal Committee for water and sewer.

New Business:

- 59 Taylor Avenue – Bureau – Connection to Municipal Sewer System Request – Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to accept:
 - o Plan A – Connecting to the Town's sewer line with written permission from the neighboring condo association stating that they agree to granting Mr. Bureau the easement to go across their property and/or,
 - o Plan B – The proposal as presented, both subject to the approval of the Town Engineer. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- Interlocal Agreement with City of Danbury – Chairman Burke sent a letter to Mayor Boughton of the City of Danbury on August 3, 2006 requesting a meeting to discuss the Interlocal Water and Sewer Agreements. He has not heard back from the City to date. To be continued on the agenda.
- Old Hawleyville Road Sewer Fee – It was brought to the Commission's attention that the sewer connection fee for homeowners on Old Hawleyville Road is \$500.00. Mr. Morosky pointed out that this amount only covers the cost of the meter installation, which is why the PUC had raised the regular connection fee to \$700.00. Mr. Morosky indicated that the fee on Old Hawleyville should also be in line with the current fee structure. To be discussed at the next Special Meeting concerning the Financials. No action taken at this time. The Public Works Office will send a notice to all affected property owners informing them that the former connection fee will be increased in the near future.
- Rector Street – Services to be switched – There are four services to be switched and one disconnect for this street. No action taken and to be carried on agenda at next meeting. Special Finance Meeting – Commissioner Gribbin made a motion that was seconded by Chairman Burke to set the date for the financial meeting to discuss all aspects of finances for of the Public Utilities Commission including the proposed budget for September 7, 2006 at 4:00 P.M. The Public Works Department will provide a complete fee schedule for this meeting. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- 31/33 Ridgedale Road – The Town Engineer reiterated his discussion earlier with the now-present homeowner of 31 Ridgedale Road, Mr. Lambertson.

Adjourn: Commissioner Valenti made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 PM.