

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
**Bethel Municipal Center, 1 School Street**  
**Bethel, Connecticut 06801 Telephone: (203)-794-8549**

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**MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, September 11, 2006

4:00 PM

Bethel Municipal Center – Meeting Room “A”

**Present:** Chairman Robert Burke, Commissioners Paul Szatkowski, Mike Gribbin, Peter Valenti and Patrick Wild; Town Engineer Andrew Morosky; Water and Sewer Supervisor Kelly Curtis and Director of Public Works Operations Clarence Rees.

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

**Public Input:** PUC Secretary, Laura Nowack submitted a memorandum to Chairman Burke summarizing her conversation with the property owner of 217 Old Hawleyville Road- Shady Acres for the record. – No action taken.

**Correspondence:**

- From Richard Leiter & Irene Levanos – Thank You - Noted as received.
- From John W. Deering – Inadequate Water Pressure for Spring Hill Lane Area – Noted as received. Town Engineer to draft a response to this letter.

**Minutes:**

- Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2006 – Commissioner Szatkowski made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to accept the Meeting Minutes. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.

**Old Business:**

- Deanna Piera – 137 Walnut Hill – Request to be Exempt from Connecting to Proposed Sewer Line – Town Engineer Morosky briefed the PUC on a discussion that he had with Utility Consultant Peter Sammis of URS who indicated that the lots in the R-40 zone on the south side of Walnut Hill Road were typically not to be served by this project and only to be allowed on a case by case basis to connect to this project. For reasons that are not entirely clear, the schematic mapping used during the sewer referendum indicates proposed sewer connections to these parcels. After much discussion the following motions were made:
  - Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Szatkowski to exempt this parcel from the sewer project. If in the future, the owners of this parcel would want to connect to the sewer system, they would have to pay an assessment. Commissioner Gribbin stated for the record that legal counsel would need to be involved with this motion and that the homeowner, Deana Piera would need to put language into her land records stipulating that this land would never be developed in the future because it is considered wetlands and it is unsuitable for building on. After additional discussion with Ms. Piera, Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Szatkowski to withdraw the motion as previously stated.
  - Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Szatkowski to refer Ms. Piera's request onto legal counsel for any judgments and stipulations. During the discussion, Ms. Piera reiterated that her understanding is that because her lot is an R-40 zone, it is not part of the sewer project along with the other lots along the south side of Walnut Hill Road and that she would like the PUC to state that as such. Mr. Gribbin again stated that he did not feel comfortable granting her the exemption for her land. After more discussion, Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Szatkowski to withdraw that motion as previously stated.
  - Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to send this item to Town Counsel for clarification as to whether the R-40 lots on the south side of Walnut Hill Rd. are in Phase 3 of the Stony Hill Sewer Project. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.

- Hillcrest/Colonial Drives – Proposed Sewer Main - The drainage and easement width issues are still a concern with the residents of both of these streets. Town Engineer Morosky informed the PUC that he had spoken with URS about the drainage issue from the pond to the outlet and that URS will draft a proposal for him to review. If the drainage issue can be rectified when the sewer line goes in, the residents would be more agreeable to having the sewer line installed. Mr. Valenti asked where the additional funding would come from for this drainage study and that the sewer project could not continue to absorb the additional cost for unanticipated drainage repairs that should be resolved by the Town. To be continued on the agenda.
- 31/33 Hearthstone Drive - To be continued on the agenda.
- Phase II Easements - Town Engineer Morosky informed the PUC that, in addition to the easements identified in the spreadsheet from Town Counsel, the town had reached a verbal agreement with the owners of 28 Payne Road. Currently there are 23 property owners who have signed their easement paper work or are in the process of signing the final documents for Phase 2. There is also a proposed sewer easement that crosses an easement occupied by CL&P that is not shown on the spreadsheets but is under review by CL&P. To be continued on the next agenda.
- 217 Old Hawleyville Road – Shady Acres Subdivision – Michael J. Mazzucco, P.E., on behalf of the applicant, gave the PUC revised plans for this proposal. In addition, he submitted a memorandum for the record to the PUC, outlining his response to Len Assard's Memo dated June 23, 2006. Commissioner Gribbin made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Valenti that sewer is available for 217 Old Hawleyville Road- Shady Acres and to send notice to Planning and Zoning that sewer is available to the site. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- 153 Grassy Plain Street – No new information has been submitted. Continue on the next agenda.
- Apollo Road – Chelsea Heights Resubmittal – Chairman Burke made a motion that was seconded by Commissioner Wild to remove this item from the agenda until the applicant has secured the necessary approvals from Planning and Zoning and to have the applicant respond to the PUC with more detailed plans at the appropriate time. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.
- Interlocal Agreement with City of Danbury. Chairman Burke has not heard back from Mayor Boughton in response to the August 3, 2006 letter. To be continued on the agenda.

#### **Financial Report:**

- Chairman Burke has not received the necessary information from the Comptroller and will follow up with him at the end of this week. Continue on the agenda. Chairman Burke made a motion to schedule the Financial Special Meeting including a complete breakdown of contracted services for September 19, 2006 at 6:00 PM in Meeting Room A. Vote: All in favor, motion carries.

#### **Engineering/Utility Consultant Report:**

- Grants - Town Engineer Morosky spoke about the two grants that the town was recently awarded. The Department of Environmental Protection, which is administering the STEAP grant for the Bethpage Drive water main replacement indicated that they are awaiting comments from the Department of Public Health (DPH) before the grant can be released to the Town. DPH is the State agency in charge of the technical review for this particular project. Utility Consultant Assard has drafted an RFP for the design work on this project. His draft may have to be forwarded onto Town Counsel for review.  
The Manufacturer's Assistance Act awarded a \$600,000 grant to the Town to install a water tank at the Eureka Treatment Plant to benefit, among other things, F.J. Clarke Park. The total cost of the storage tank is approximately \$1,200,000. The Town of Bethel's EDC has agreed to fund a portion of this project as well, leaving the Town and the PUC to come up with approximately \$500,000 to cover the rest of the cost. To be continued on the agenda.
- Water Main Break on Judd Avenue – The PUC directed Mr. Curtis to draft a memorandum to Mr. Germinaro of the Bethel Public Schools concerning the work done on the sprinkler system during the break and to send copies of the memorandum to Chairman Burke, the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Schools.
- Stony Hill Sewer Project
  - Bid Opening for Phase 2 is scheduled for September 19, 2006 at 2PM.
  - Adams Drive/Weed Road Drainage Issue – The Town is working on securing the necessary easements in this area but there is an issue with the watershed upstream of the area and the Town drainage system at the end of Adams Drive. It appears that the drainage issues extend from Route 6 and have affected the area since the subdivision was developed. Commissioner Valenti raised the issue as to why the PUC should pick up the cost for rectifying this issue now, as this appears to be more of a Town issue. A large part of the problem may be due to the fact that the residents along this drainage area are dumping leaves and yard debris into the area, which in turn causes flooding. He asked how improvements to the drainage system are going to be paid for. He thinks that the residents hold some responsibility for this issue as well. Increasing the flow to Dibble's Brook may inadvertently result in flooding on Walnut Hill Road. To be continued on the next agenda.

- Manholes and Risers for Phase 1 – Mr. Curtis pointed out some of the problems that he has witnessed and they are: No mortar on the bricks around the manholes. The contractor installed these incorrectly. They are not sealed and would let water into system eventually. Hot asphalt was directly applied to wet mortar, which creates a strong bond and makes road repairs messy. When the asphalt is taken up as it was by the reclaimer on Redwood Drive, the mortar comes up with it, creating an issue with infiltration around the manhole. The contractor also did this incorrectly. Hot asphalt should never have been applied on top of wet mortar. And the third issue is that the actual frames were dislodged during road reclamation by graders and reclaimers. These will have to have new mortar applied and will all have to be resealed. Mr. Curtis then pointed out that all the manholes; lids and risers in Phase 1 would have to be inspected for the above-referenced flaws and to ensure that they are the correct size and for any other issues that may crop up. He also would like to see that the project has an inspector for every work crew that is out installing sewer mains. In Phase 2 the cones will have 30-inch openings with a 26-inch frame. To be continued on the next agenda.
- Mr. Curtis also stated, that a truck in his department needs to be replaced. The transmission is failing and other systems are coming apart as well. It is really beyond repair. He would like to order another vehicle to replace this aging one. He was asked by the PUC, to write up a special requisition for this purchase and bring the information to the special financial meeting.
- Rector Street Services. These still need to be switched over. He would like to know if he could rent machinery to do the work since the Highway crew is already encumbered by other projects. He would like to complete this project as soon as possible.
- Spring Hill Lane and Winthrop Road need to have 23 manholes rebuilt. He would like to know if he could rent the equipment to do this since the Highway Department is already encumbered by other road projects. He also would like to know if there is adequate funding in the PUC budget for this and if it can be done soon sometime this fall preferably, or early next spring. Mr. Curtis praised the effort and the quality of the work that the Highway crew does in reclaiming and paving the Town Roads.
- 9 Westview Drive – Mr. Kemp of URS discussed his rationale for extending the Sewer Lateral beyond the property line for this residence. Mr. Valenti raised the issue that this is an expense that was not planned on and was made to accommodate the needs of an individual homeowner and will end up costing the project in the long run. He asked what was the cost to do this and Mr. Kemp responded that it was approximately \$1,000.00. Mr. Valenti wanted it known that he does not approve of this expense. Mr. Valenti pointed out that someone would have to pay for this and it should not be the Sewer Project. No action taken.

### **Sewer Moratorium Committee**

- The Sewer Moratorium Committee had planned to meet today, but since an agenda was not filed in time, the meeting was canceled. Town Engineer Morosky presented a draft of the issues that this committee will need to discuss. Chairman Burke, Commissioner Valenti and the Town Engineer will reschedule a new meeting for sometime in the near future and report back at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

### **New Business:**

- Revised Rules and Regulations for Water Department – Mr. Valenti indicated that he has concerns with the Town being responsible for maintenance of the individual lines between the main and the curb box, especially since financial status of the Water and Sewer Department is unclear. To be continued on the next agenda.
- Proposed Sewer Regulations – To be continued on the next agenda.

**Adjourn:** Chairman Burke made a motion to adjourn the PUC meeting at 6:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Laura Nowack, Secretary