



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

**REGULAR MEETING**

Thursday, November 9, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Meeting held in Meeting Room A and remotely via Zoom Technology

**Present:** First Selectman Daniel Carter, Selectman Bryan Terzian, Selectman Richard Straiton, and Commissioner Deno Gualtieri. Also in attendance, Public Utilities Director Thomas Villa, Comptroller Brad Heering and Town Attorney Martin Lawlor

**Absent:** Commissioner Peter Valenti and Utility Supervisor Kelly Curtis

**Call to Order:** Selectman Terzian called the Regular Meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Input:** None

**Correspondence:** None

**Minutes:**

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 12, 2023:

*Commissioner Gualtieri made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Carter, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 12, 2023, as submitted. Abstentions: Selectman Terzian and Selectman Straiton. Vote, Motion Approved. .*

**Financials:**

- 1. Financial Report:** Comptroller Heering reviewed the Financial Report, dated October 31, 2023, with the Commission. Director Villa will be submitting or EAP grants for water projects.

*Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gualtieri, to approve the Financial Report, dated October 31, 2023, as presented. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.*

- 2. Invoices:**

<b>Invoices for PUC Approval - Regular Meeting November 9, 2023</b>							
#	Vendor	Inv. Date	Inv. #	Amount	% Complete	Description	Account
1	Wright-Pierce #1024	11/02/23	231834	\$2,326.15	62.50% as of 10/27/23	Water System SCADA Upgrade	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
2	Wright-Pierce #1024	11/02/23	231850	\$47,759.62	39.57% as of 10/27/23	Bergstrom Field Test Well Construction Administration	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
3	Kovacs Construction	11/01/23	6	\$285,211.55	22.67% as of 11/1/23	Bergstrom Well WTP	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
4	Schmidt Electric	10/06/23	19577	\$21,789.00	100% as of 10/6/23	Clarke Park 2 Pump Station	Sewer Dept. #0340235-5405
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$357,086.32</b>			

Selectman Terzian made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the invoices, dated November 9, 2023, in the amount of \$357,086.32, as submitted. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

**New Business:**

1. **Consideration of Water Rates:** Director Villa reviewed the Bethel Water Department Water Rate Review and Proposed Increase, dated October 2023, Rev 11-3-23, with the Commission. Comptroller Heering and Director Villa reviewed all the options for rate increase. Discussion ensued.

Selectman Terzian made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the 8.5% water rate increase over the next five years. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

**Director's Report:** Director Villa reviewed the following with the Commission:

- PFO's Class action suit. Director Villa will fill out the claim forms.
- PFO's samples taken for testing this week.

**Old Business:**

1. **PUC Capital Project Status Summary:** Director Villa reported the following:
  - **Bergstrom Wells:** Under slab piping and footings installation being done. The Commission reviewed color selections for the siding and roof and choose ash gray for the siding and rustic red for the roof.

**Utility Supervisor's Report:** Utilities Supervisor Kelly was absent. No report was given.

Director Villa requested approval to setup schedule for water rate meetings.

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Terzian, to forward the Public Utilities Commission's acceptance of the water rate increase to the Board of Selectman to schedule the proper meetings. All in Favor, Motion Approved.

**Adjourn:** As there was no further business on the agenda, Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gualtieri, to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 p.m. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Galbis  
Recording Secretary