



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

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, November 14, 2024
 3:30 p.m.

Meeting held in Meeting Room A and via Google Meet

Present: First Selectman Daniel Carter, Selectman Straiton, Selectman Bryan Terzian, Commissioner Deno Gualtieri and Commissioner and Peter Valenti. Also in attendance, Public Utilities Director Thomas Villa, Town Counsel Melanie O’Brien and Comptroller Brad Heering

Absent: Utilities Supervisor Kelly Curtis

Call to Order: First Selectman Carter called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input: None

Correspondence: None

Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting of September 12, 2024:

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Valenti, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 12, 2024, as submitted. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting of October 10, 2024:

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gualtieri, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 10, 2024, as submitted. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

Financials:

- 1. Financial Report:** Comptroller Heering reviewed the Financial Report, dated October 31, 2024, with the Commission. He reported the Town refinanced outstanding debt yesterday to capture savings due to a lower rate. The Tax Collector’s office is switching to new software for the sewer assessment bills and bills will be sent out soon.

2. Invoices:

Invoices for PUC Approval - Regular Meeting November 14, 2024							
#	Vendor	Inv. Date	Inv. #	Amount	% Complete	Description	Account
1	Kovacs Construction	11/01/24	18	\$246,815.65	66.71% as of 11/1/24	Bergstrom Well WTP	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
2	Weston & Sampson	10/14/24	10240273	\$3,989.14	38.41% as of 10/14/24	Professional Services SSES Sub Area 13	Sewer Dept. #0340235-5405
3	Weston & Sampson	10/30/24	11240118	\$50,042.87	45.52% as of 10/25/24	Professional Services SSES Sub Area 13	Sewer Dept. #0340235-5405

4	Wright-Pierce #1024	11/05/24	240006	\$21,585.39	75.31% as of 10/25/24	Bergstrom Field Test Well Construction Administration	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
5	Wright-Pierce #1024	11/05/24	239916	\$3,623.89	94.70% as of 10/25/24	Water System SCADA Upgrade	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
6	Law Offices of Melanie P. O'Brien, LLC	10/12/24	2024-08-W	\$98.70	N/A	Professional Services Water Invoice 8/1/24 to 8/31/24	Water Dept. #0210160-5352
7	Law Offices of Melanie P. O'Brien, LLC	10/12/24	2024-08-S	\$176.25	N/A	Professional Services Sewer Invoice 8/1/24 to 8/31/24	Sewer Dept. #0310160-5352
TOTAL:				\$326,331.89			

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Gualtieri, to approve the invoices, dated November 14, 2024, in the amount of \$326,331.89, as submitted. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

New Business:

1. Consideration of Bethel Health Department – Bethel Public Utilities Department Policy for Septic Systems Parts Replacement in Public Sewer Areas:

Laura Vasile, Director of Health, reported resident Linda Pelletier had a licensed installer inspect her septic system and holes were found in her septic tank which would require replacement of a part of the septic system but the rest of the septic system was working as it should. Town Counsel reviewed the Town Ordinance and Sewer Regulations with the Commission. Discussion ensued.

Commissioner Valenti made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the Bethel Sewer Department Policy Septic Parts Replacement and Relocation for Functioning System in Sewer District, effective today November 14, 2024. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

Director’s Report: Director Villa reported the following to the Commission:

- Lead and copper rule revisions – inventory is completed and submitted to DPH. Zero lead services found to date, 35 galvanized, and 1,396 unknowns. Letters sent out to galvanized that require a replacement to set up an appointment to confirm and letters sent to unknowns to either forward information to Public Utilities or set up an appointment to have a technician check. Town has 7 years to determine the unknowns and 10 years to replace lead/galvanized. Discussion ensued.
- Dam inspections for Chestnut and Eureka done today.
- Sanitary survey – completed last month.
- Governor declared drought stage 2 – awareness level.
- Reviewing Sewer Rules & Regulations and Water Main Policy for main extensions.

Dan questioned how to find out the condition of the East Lake Dam in Danbury. Director Villa will check.

Selectman Straiton questioned how the facilities handled the flood. K. Curtis gave a brief overview.

Old Business: Director Villa reported:

1. **MIU Replacements:** There are 193 to do. Sending out appointment letters.
2. **PUC Capital Project Status Summary:**
Bergstrom: Project is scheduled to be completed in April. Roof done, filter tank set and phase piping has begun. Electric gear is being delivered and the motor control should arrive 11/21. There will be extra costs associated with the Construction Administration.
3. **SCADA:** Plans and specifications submitted to DPH. Approved to go out to bid on December 3 with bid opening January 23, 2025.

4. **PFAS Class Action Update:** No update.

Utility Supervisor's Report: Director Villa reported the following:

- Midway Drive permanent patch completed.
- Working with Highway on roads to be paved.
- 112 Nashville Road has a main break.
- 11 Grand had a service leak.
- Deepwood/Berkshire sewer line had a break.

Adjourn: *As there was no further business on the agenda, Commission Valenti made a motion, which was seconded by First Selectman Carter, to adjourn the meeting at 4:09 p.m. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Unanimously Approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Galbis
Recording Secretary*