



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

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 TOWN CLERK
 BETHEL, CT.

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, December 14, 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, Commissioner Peter Valenti and Commissioner Deno Gualtieri. Also in attendance, Public Utilities Director Thomas Villa, Utility Supervisor Kelly Curtis, Comptroller Brad Heering and Town Counsel Melanie O'Brien

Call to Order: First Selectman Carter 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

Approval of the 2024 Meeting Schedule:

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule.

Selectman Terzian stated he could attend meetings at 3:30 p.m. in 2024. The Commission agreed.

First Selectman Carter amended his motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the 2024 Meeting Schedule with the time change from 4:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved

Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting of November 9, 2023:

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of November 9, 2023, as submitted. Abstentions: Commissioner Valenti. Vote, Motion Approved.

First Selectman Carter welcomed Melanie O'Brien to the Commission.

Financials:

1. Financial Report: Comptroller Heering reviewed the Financial Report, dated November 30, 2023, with the Commission.

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Terzian, to approve the Financial Report, dated November 30, 2023, as presented. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

2. Invoices:

Invoices for PUC Approval - Regular Meeting December 14, 2023							
#	Vendor	Inv. Date	Inv. #	Amount	% Complete	Description	Account
1	Wright-Pierce #1024	12/04/23	232675	\$46,517.58	43.54% as of 11/24/23	Bergstrom Field Test Well Construction Administration	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
2	Kovacs Construction	12/01/23	7	\$788,985.93	30.54% as of 12/1/23	Bergstrom Well WTP	Water Dept. #0240235-5405

TOTAL: \$835,503.51

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the invoices, dated December 14, 2023, in the amount of \$835,503.51, as submitted. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

New Business: None

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

- 82 Payne Road – Casey Energy - property is in Danbury and part of the interlocal agreement with Danbury. They are adding a building and two fuel tanks. Requesting to tie into the lateral and estimating a 300 gallon per day for sewer allocation.
- City of Danbury Plant – Director Villa spoke to David Day and the plant is nearly complete and he requested an update. First Selectman Carter will reach out for a tour and Comptroller Heering will reach out to the Finance Department. Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to accept the Director's Report. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

Old Business:

1. **Discussion of Proposed Water Rates:** Director Villa reported Public Hearing held last week with a good discussion and an understanding of the reasons for the proposed increase. First Selectman Carter reviewed some Public Hearing comments with the Commission. Selectman Terzian suggested a shorter term of three years versus five. Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, that the Public Utilities Commission through correspondence recommend to the Board of Selectman a three-year rate increase, for discussion. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

2. **PUC Capital Project Status Summary:** Director Villa reported the following:
Bergstrom Wells: Received the loan subsidized agreement from the State for 2.8 million with a loan amount of 7.8 million. Signed and mailing tomorrow. Will apply for a 1.6 million grant from EPA next week. Gave an update on the construction progress.

Utility Supervisor's Report: Utilities Supervisor Kelly Curtis reported the following:

- Sewer – new pump at the Summit and sending the second pump to be refurbished. Grinders at Paul Street needed a gear box replaced. Starting quarterly cleaning.
- Water – Tax Collector put a notice on all estimated bills to set up an appointment to replace MIU's. Doing high reads in between MIU replacements. Discussion ensued on ways to facilitate MIU replacement. Approximately 1500 need replacement. Communication issue with wells and Eureka resolved. Backflow testing is nearly complete. Three hydrants out.

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Terzian, to accept the Utility Supervisor Report. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

Adjourn: As there was no further business on the agenda, Selectman Terzian made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Valenti, to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathy Galbis
Recording Secretary