



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

REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, April 10, 2025
 3:30 p.m.

Meeting held in Meeting Room A and via Google Meet

Present: First Selectman Daniel Carter, Selectman Straiton, and Commissioner Valenti. Also in attendance, Town Counsel Melanie O'Brien, Comptroller Brad Heering, Utilities Supervisor Kelly Curtis, and Public Utilities Director Thomas Villa

Absent: Commissioner Deno Gualtieri and Selectman Bryan Terzian

Call to Order: First Selectman Carter called the Regular Meeting to order at 3:33 p.m. and led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Input: None

Correspondence: None

Minutes:

Meeting Minutes from Regular Meeting of April 13, 2025:

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the minutes of March 13, 2025, as submitted. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

Financials:

- 1. Financial Report:** Comptroller Heering reviewed the Financial Report, dated March 31, 2025, with the Commission. He reported the sewer number does not include the sewer assessment numbers. He reported on a few areas that will be over budget, water maintenance, overtime and electric.

2. Invoices:

Invoices for PUC Approval - Regular Meeting April 10, 2025							
#	Vendor	Inv. Date	Inv. #	Amount	% Complete	Description	Account
1	Kovacs Construction	04/01/25	23	\$271,870.96	81.75% as of 4/1/25	Bergstrom Well WTP	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
2	Wright-Pierce #1024	04/03/25	242694	\$34,217.10	88.94% as of 3/28/25	Bergstrom Field Test Well Construction Administration	Water Dept. #0240235-5405
TOTAL:				\$306,088.06			

Selectman Straiton made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Valenti, to approve the invoices, dated April 10, 2025, in the amount of \$306,088.06, as submitted. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

New Business: None

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

- Working on the budget and will have something for the May meeting.
- Wright-Pierce is working on a grant application for Maple Avenue Wells PFAS.
- 15 Great Pasture – working with City of Danbury on an Interlocal agreement for the sewer flows coming from the Danbury portion of the property.
- 53 Taylor Avenue – Applicant is revising plans with Planning & Zoning to approximately 20 units. Will need to come back for water main extension policy and sewer extension.

Old Business:

1. **Consideration of Request to Extend Water & Sewer Mains to 9 Putnam Park Road:**

Town Counsel M. O'Brien reported speaking with the Health Department about previously raised issues. Also, the Applicant had a pending application in with the State of Connecticut for a septic system which was initially denied by State of Connecticut. The Applicant resubmitted to the State of Connecticut and it was approved as of March 31, 2025 for six units with conditions.

First Selectman Carter stated given the circumstances our hands are tied to extend the sewer district itself because of the lack of hardship and the Applicant has an approved plan.

Applicant Tim Draper spoke on his behalf. Amongst other things, he reported he has spoken with neighbors and he has, also, spoken with counsel other than Neil Marcus. Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Valenti, to deny the request to extend the water and sewer mains to 9 Putnam Park Road. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

2. **MIU Replacements:** T. Villa reported down to 91 left to do.

3. **PUC Capital Project Status Summary:**

Bergstrom: Reported 82% pay level and making progress with installations. Starting discussion on start-up procedures.

SCADA: Bid opening was extended to April 22nd. Four contractors came to pre-bid meeting. There may be a need for a special meeting on May 1 in advance of the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 6. Will need some numbers from Wright-Pierce on bidding process for resolution. Approximately 1.2 million total with an EPA Grant \$640,000.00.

Sub Area 13: Weston & Sampson draft report provided and will be reviewed. To reduce inflow and infiltration Weston & Sampson will submit an engineering proposal and a construction estimate.

First Selectman Carter mentioned doing a sewer capacity review. Director Villa stated the need to look at where we currently are before considering opening up any districts.

4. **PFAS Class Action Update:** Received a call from the accounting firm. Should receive payment in the next few weeks. Second lawsuit with Tyco & BASF and submitted to them, as well.

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

- MIU – Downtown is a 91 left to do, Stony Hill has 11 left. Another letter was sent to try and schedule appointments. Readings will be done next Monday.
- Sewer backup at 10 Cole Lane. ServPro came in to repair.
- Main break at Midway at same time as the fire on Taylor Road. A six-foot chunk blew out and flooded three homes. This is the 4th running break in this area within 5 years.

First Selectman Carter was there that night and commended Santos and Tinker Excavating on an excellent job.

Director Villa stated he will meet with the Comptroller to review budget numbers to repair the main. Will have a firm number for the May meeting. Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to add to the agenda under New Business the Replacement of Water Main Pipe on Midway Drive and Short Drive. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

New Business:

1. **Replacement of the Water Main Pipe on Midway Drive and Short Drive:**

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to approve the not to exceed amount of \$250,000.00 for the Replacement of the Water Main Pipe on Midway Drive from Milwaukee to Short Drive and including Short Drive. Vote, All in Favor, Motion Approved.

Discussion ensued.

First Selectman Carter made a motion, which was seconded by Selectman Straiton, to authorize First Selectman Daniel E. Carter to do anything necessary to contract or approve the repairs to water main pipe on Midway Drive from Milwaukee to, an including, Short Drive. Vote, 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 Valenti, to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 p.m. Vote, All in Favor, Motion, Unanimously Approved.*

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathy Galbis
Recording Secretary*