

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

# Town of Trumbull

CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL  
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET  
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

**Water Pollution Control Authority**  
**February 27, 2008**

In attendance:

George Biagioni, Chairman  
Donald Aiello  
Jack Goncalves

Also In Attendance:

Joseph Solemene, Assistant W.P.C.A. Administrator  
Neil Lieberthal, Esq., Town Attorney  
David Bjorklund, President, Spath Bjorklund Associates

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Pursuant to Section 7-247a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority hereby gives notice of its intention to conduct a Public Hearing regarding the proposed sanitary sewer extension to an existing project labeled Phase IV – Part B – Contract III. The original contract was approximately 15 miles serving 556 homes. The proposed extension is approximately three miles providing service to 121 homes on all or portions of Classic Drive, Daniels Farm Road, Green Acres Lane, Hurd Road, Marathon Road, North Green Acres Lane, Nuthatch Hill Road, Ranch Drive, Whitney Avenue, and Wildfire Lane.**

Chairman Biagioni called the Public Hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Biagioni stated that the purpose of the public hearing is to gather information from the residents who are involved in the extension to determine if they are in favor or opposed to sewers. Mr. Biagioni introduced Joseph Solemene, W.P.C.A. Administrator, to present the proposal. Mr. Biagioni stressed that this is an informational meeting and we will not debate sewers.

Mr. Solemene stated that this proposed sewer work would be a contract extension to an existing job that is in place. Mark IV Construction Co., Inc., was the low bidder, at approximately \$2M lower than the next lowest bidder and almost \$6M less than the highest bidder. The rate to put this sewer line in is very competitive. Sewers normally have been very popular and when we have proposed sewer extensions in other neighborhoods traditionally there has been overwhelming support for them. But as the cost of diesel fuel, pipe and asphalt continue to skyrocket, the cost for the assessments is also going up. Mr. Solemene feels the bid price is very good and we would be getting the sewers as cheaply as possible for this time. Mr. Solemene then invited comments from the audience.

Jim Sciortino, 1240 Daniels Farm Road

Opposed because of high taxes. Septic systems have served us well in the past and will continue to serve us well in the future. We don't know what the actual assessment will be.

- Mr. Solemene responded that the W.P.C.A. was not obligated to circulate letters to inform every resident in this area of the public hearing. They were obligated simply to run an ad in the newspaper and hold the public hearing. The reason that we notified everyone on the list individually is because if you don't want the sewers we won't force them on the residents. We are here to get your feelings and there is no profit to be made in sewers. We look at providing sewers as a public service and that is the spirit that this extension was offered. Mr. Solemene also stated that we are estimating the sewer assessments to run around \$20,000, payable over 18 years at a bonded interest rate of approximately 5%. There has been speculation about the cost of connecting. The average cost to connect a house, which is an out of pocket expense not included in the assessment, runs around \$2,500. There is a sewer user fee on top of the cost of the assessment and the cost of connecting.

Pete Juleson, 19 Marathon Road

Opposed, because taxes are increasing and home values will start dropping as foreclosures work our way. Doesn't see an advantage of going to sewer over septic. If you do the proper maintenance to your septic system you should be pretty much trouble free and it can last indefinitely. Doesn't think the cost of sewers outweighs the slight gain.

Norman Labrecque, 14 North Green Acres Lane

He is also against sewers. He has three major issues with it: one is cost, since they are very expensive; they are expensive to what little wetlands that we have left in the green space; and they solve a lot of problems but bring up other problems when you get to the sewage treatment plant with what to do with this mixture of waste that has been created from all the various sources which cannot be very well identified. There are thousands of chemicals that can wind up there and there is no way to test for that. Mr. Labrecque asked if the sewers are not approved tonight would you still need to run a line over to Marathon and Ranch?

- Mr. Solemene replied that we have designed a line that is going to run over to Ranch Drive.

Mr. Labrecque asked how the line is funded.

- Mr. Solemene replied that it has been funded by the original project.

Ed Finkenstadt, 62 Marathon Road

In favor. Asked about the timing of the project.

- Mr. Solemene replied you would see construction in approximately six months. The system would have to be designed and that would take a little time. We expected this job to take about two to three years to complete but it looks like it will be finished by the end of this year.

Does Mark IV do the follow-up on repairing the roads?

- Mr. Solemene replied that yes, we do a temporary overlay, then six months later we do a curb-to-curb. The Town also contributes 25% of the cost of the sewer job. Everyone who has sewers has been compensated 25% of the cost of the assessment. The reason the Town does that is we also do things like curbing upgrades, storm drain work, putting sewers next to public property.

When would the work be finished?

- Mr. Solemene replied that he estimates the job will be completed by Spring 2009.

Elaine Friend, 15 Green Acres Lane

Definitely in favor of sewers. Replaced septic system three times at a cost of \$36,000. On Green Acres Lane the water table is very high. During spring rainy season, summer rain and during winter thaw you can smell the leaching fields.

Rhonda Capuano, 1210 Daniels Farm Road

Undecided. If expansion is not approved at this time, what is the timeline for sewers for this area?

- Mr. Solemene replied that this contract is part of Phase IV, Part B which has five contracts. Jog Hill is contract #3. After we finish this contract we will be going to North Nichols, which consists of 850 homes, and we anticipate that to take a couple of years to complete. After that we have South Nichols, contract #5. That will complete Phase IV, Part B. The Sewer Commission would then decide where to approach sewers next. It would be on an on-demand basis. But he can guarantee it will cost more money. It would be about seven to eight years before this area would be revisited for sewers.

Kim Aquino, 1166 Daniels Farm Road

Definitely in favor of sewers. Has lived with both and prefers sewers. Frustrated with restricted water usage during periods of rain for fear of septic backing up. She maintains her septic system and only uses septic safe products. Sewers are forever. She is under the understanding that you do not have to hook up to the sewers.

- Mr. Solemene replied that no, you do not have to tie in, but you are obligated to pay the sewer assessment whether you are connected or not.

Barbara Giaquinto, 17 North Green Acres Lane

Against sewers. Has lived in Trumbull 24 years, original septic system, has never had a problem.

Pat Kissinger, 184 Hurd Road

In favor of sewers. Asked if the decision will be made based only on the amount of people in attendance.

- Chairman Biagioni replied that there are far more people who did not attend and that will be taken into consideration.

Constantine Vlachos, 591 Whitney Avenue

Undecided. Asked how connection is made from the rear of the house to the front.

- Mr. Solemene replied that the connection would be brought around the house. Mr. Solemene introduced Mr. John Guerra, a registered sewer installer. Mr. Guerra said the connection runs \$20-25 per foot.

Mr. Vlachos then asked if he would be able to connect his basement.

- Mr. Solemene explained that we measure the first floor elevation of the lowest house, then try to put the sewer line deep enough to accommodate the house. Some houses are too low and we can't get a gravity flow. The Town compensates the residents by putting in a pumping system so you can pump up to the sewer. The cost requires you pay an additional \$3,000+/- in addition to the assessment but that includes the connection. He further explained that the sewer main is placed in the street and the lateral connection is placed approximately 10 feet in from the curb and capped. It is then the homeowners' responsibility to disconnect the septic system and connect to that capped line. Most go around the house.

Isabel Lacy, 17 Green Acres Lane

New septic system at a cost of over \$28,000. In favor of sewers.

Ed Cizmar, 18 Ranch Drive

Had a question with regard to residents who are required to have a pump system. From where the sewer terminates to the septic system, is that the owner's responsibility?

- Mr. Solemene replied yes it is the owner's responsibility unless you need a pump. If a pump is required, the Town hires a subcontractor to install the pump.

Mr. Cizmar stated he feels the water table is too high for his septic system. He contacted the Town last spring to find out what the plans were for a sewer system in his area. He was told there was no consideration at that time. Based on that he contacted a couple of contractors who did perc tests. He discovered he cannot put another septic system. He is in favor of sewers.

Mike Cerulo, 156 Hurd Road

In favor of sewers. Feels home with sewer has higher value than home with septic. Asked if assessment is tax deductible.

- The answer is no, the assessment is not a tax.

Josephine O'Meara, 123 Hurd Road

In favor of sewers. House is only about 15 years old, leaching fields in front of home, water table very high. Strong septic smell.

Luciano Sclafani, 12 Wildfire Lane

In favor of sewers. Lived in Stamford 20 years ago and had to replace septic system for about \$35,000, and there is no such thing as a long-term guarantee on a septic system. He would rather spend the money on sewers and increase his property value.

Tony Capuano, 1210 Daniels Farm Road

When he arrived he was against the sewers, but now is in favor. Has a 46 year old system and a high water table. Questions: What is failure rate in our area? Why didn't sewers go in when federal reimbursement rate was 80%?

- The Health District would have the answer to the question on septic system failure rate. The Commission does not have an answer as to why the sewers did not go in when the federal reimbursement rate was 80%. Mr. Solemene replied that the W.P.C.A., for the last five or six contracts, has been taking larger and larger pieces of town. The goal is to eventually have everyone who wants sewers able to achieve them. We used to do contracts of 3-4 miles, and now have opened it up. The current contract is 15 miles, North Nichols is 837 homes/18 miles.

John Eck, 1089 Daniels Farm Road

Against sewers for two reasons: Taxes are high enough and this will add to the burden; about a year ago when this Commission was approving this 500 home extension the budget for this Commission was about \$1,000,000 off. He feels that the scheduled projects should be completed and then see what the revenues and expenses are. He questions what the budget for 2008 will look like. These capital expenses are bonded by the Town and the Town's bond rating is already taking a little bit of a dive.

Craig Hunter, 1075 Daniels Farm Road

Undecided. Concerned that the Commission is not re-bidding this extension. Is there any relief for people on fixed income who would have to assume this assessment and may not be able to pay it. Also asked that Daniels Farm Road be paved immediately rather than a temporary patch, since it is a heavily traveled road.

- The reason for the temporary patch is the soil must settle before permanent paving. It takes approximately six months for proper settlement. Attorney Lieberthal stated there is a provision in the Town Code for those that qualify for elderly tax relief that allows the Town to forego the interest payment until the property is sold. In answer to the question about re-bidding the project, Mr. Solemene replied that if the project were re-bid the cost would be higher because of the increased cost of fuel as it is a petroleum based industry.

Roman Czernik, 15 Ranch Drive

Has lived in his home 30 years, concerned that the life of a septic system is limited. In favor of sewers. Feels it increases the value of the house and is a permanent solution. Asked how the decision will be made.

- Chairman Biagioni replied that the Commission will take into consideration what transpires at the meeting, the Commission will have their own internal talks and then make a decision.

Jack Bundschuh, 1150 Daniels Farm Road

He has replaced a septic for \$25,000 at his last house and does not wish to do it again. In favor.

Elizabeth Miller, 5 Classic Drive

Against sewers. Prohibitive cost, destroying wetlands, ripping up roads.

Joseph Buzzanca, 25 Nuthatch Hill Road

In favor.

Bob Paquette, 56 Marathon Road

In favor. Has been in his home 41 years with no problems, feels he is on borrowed time, would like the sewers.

Ann Eck, 1089 Daniels Farm Road

Against sewers. If you look at an aerial map of the area you will see that this is the largest undeveloped privately held piece of land left in Trumbull. How many affordable housing units could be built there? What would that do to our infrastructure, our tax base? The Commission's decision will affect this piece of land.

Florence Berta, 131 Hurd Road

In favor of sewers.

Ed Molloy, 26 North Green Acres Lane

In favor of sewers.

Alberto Aguillon, 1140 Daniels Farm Road

In favor of sewers.

Hugh Humphrey, 21 Nuthatch Hill Road

Is in favor of sewers. He has had a damp basement over the last 20 years, put in French drains and sump pumps. House built on hard pan soil, no where for water to go.

- Mr. Solemene commented that during the current construction, we have been installing 8" lines to the storm drains and it's amazing the amount of water we have been draining off of the properties that have the hard pan. Jog Hill has been on the waiting list for sewers over 15 years. Sewers will help the lots dry out. In addition, where necessary we have been putting in catch basins, curtain drains and storm drains.

Benjamin Johnson, 5 Green Acres Lane

In favor of the sewer installation.

Carol Roosevelt, 124 Hurd Road

In favor of sewers.

Steve D'Amico, 571 Whitney Avenue

Against sewers because of the cost. Taxes in Trumbull are very high, and an assessment on top of a mortgage makes it unaffordable for some people.

Norman Rouleau, 14 Classic Drive

Against sewers because of cost. Asked about pumping system.

- Mr. Solemene replied that the Town provides the pumping system. A pump is placed in the existing septic tank, as long as the tank is sound. The control panel is placed in the house at the homeowner's discretion, the force main line is run from the pump in the tank to the main line in the street. It is a complete system. If there are two septic tanks, one would be eliminated, and run to the main tank where the pump is located. If the pump needs service, the septic system serves as a backup until the pump is repaired. The septic tank stays intact. The pump is guaranteed for one year, after that the homeowner is responsible.

Craig Hunter, 1075 Daniels Farm Road

Is the pump an option in lieu of a gravity feed?

- Mr. Solemene replied no, only if the house is too low to achieve a gravity run.

Tony Capuano, 1210 Daniels Farm Road

Asphalt plants will be opening soon, what is the timeframe to pave Daniels Farm Road?

- Approximately third week of March if it passes a moisture content test.

Carmen Loschiavo, 157 Hurd Road

Home built in 1948, had tank collapse last year, in favor of sewers.

Milla Stelman, 1021 Daniels Farm Road

In favor of sewers.

With no one else to speak, the Commission moved on to the next public hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Pursuant to Section 7-247a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority hereby gives notice of its intention to conduct a Public Hearing, Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 5866 Main Street, Trumbull, Connecticut, regarding the proposed sanitary sewer extension of approximately 1,105 linear feet of 8" PVC sanitary sewer main line from an existing manhole located at the intersection of Booth Hill and Strobel Roads, serving an eight (8) lot subdivision labeled Hidden Pond Development located at Booth Hill Road and Hidden Pond Lane, Trumbull, Connecticut. Applicant: Hidden Pond Development LLC**

David Bjorklund, President of Spath Bjorklund Associates, presented the application. The application has been modified since it was presented as new business in January. The residents of Hidden Pond Lane, especially those in Shelton, do not want the road connection to be made. The new plan is now a private road, a gate will be installed separating the Trumbull and Shelton ends of Hidden Pond Lane. The engineering is the same; the difference is nine lots vs. eight lots. An easement between Lots 1 & 2 will be granted to the Town, including an 8" line and a manhole at the end for future sewers on Shadowwood Lane. James Fracker Construction has verbally agreed to grant an easement at the culvert on Booth Hill Road, said easement will then be granted to the Town. The whole system will be dedicated to the Town of Trumbull. An unidentified attendee asked if the Commission approves the application, how does that affect Inland Wetlands or Planning & Zoning approval? Chairman Biagioni stated that W.P.C.A. approval has no bearing on those commissions. Attorney Lieberthal stated that the application will be received at the March 4<sup>th</sup> IWWC meeting and there will most likely be a public hearing at the April 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The application will be presented to Planning & Zoning after Inland Wetlands. There being no one to speak for or against the application, the Commission moved on to the next public hearing.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

**Pursuant to Section 7-247a of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Trumbull Water Pollution Control Authority hereby gives notice of its intention to conduct a Public Hearing, Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers, 5866 Main Street, Trumbull, Connecticut, regarding the proposed sanitary sewer extension of three (3) lateral connections from the existing main line on Williams Road to serve a proposed three-lot subdivision on the corner of Williams and Frenchtown Roads. Lots 1 and 2 can be served by a 6" gravity connection. Lot 3 will require a forced main pump system. Applicant: Estate of F. Francis D'Addario**

David Bjorklund, President of Spath Bjorklund Associates, presented the application. The proposal is to connect all three lots to the existing sewer main on Williams Road, Lots 1 and 2 by gravity and Lot 3 with a pump through an easement between Lots 1 and 2. There is no other way to connect Lot 3 because of its proximity to the Merritt Parkway. Owner of Lot 3 will be responsible for the force main. There was no one present to speak for or against the application.

There being no other questions or comments,

- **Motion to close the Public Hearing (GONCALVES), seconded (AIELLO). Motion carried unanimously.**

The public hearing was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

## REGULAR MEETING

### MINUTES TO PREVIOUS MEETING:

There being no changes, deletions or additions to the minutes of the previous meeting,

- **Motion (AIELLO) seconded (GONCALVES) to accept the minutes of January 23, 2008, as written. Motion carried unanimously.**

### PROGRESS REPORT:

Mr. Solemene distributed a map and gave the following report:

Crew #1 started at the bottom of Greenbrier Road and is currently at the intersection of Pam Bar Road; Crew #2 completed the easement run from Oldfield to Towerview; Crew #3 was in deep rock, started at Greenbrier, completed Greenhaven Road and started on Split Rock Road; Crew #4 started on Shelter Rock Road, completed Hill Brook Road and continued onto Stoneleigh to the intersection of Cobblers Hill Road. Laterals completed on Stoneleigh, Hill Brook, Shelter Rock, and all but one on Greenhaven. Masons currently working on the inverts in the easement from Oldfield to Greenbrier.

Mr. Solemene reported that the City of Shelton wanted to stop construction on the roads that go through their town, but he was able to produce a copy of their approval to begin construction. The City also wanted to make sure that we are offering their residents on affected streets access to our sewers. Mr. Solemene has advised the Shelton residents they are welcome to connect to our sewers but they would be required to pay their assessment up front.

### INVOICE APPROVAL:

Mark IV Construction Co., Inc. – Phase IV, Part B, Contract 3 – Application #9: \$802,746.20

Quantities verified by Public Works Inspector. Chairman Biagioni questioned the amount of changes orders this month totaling \$199,156. Mr. Solemene explained that there has been a lot of drainage work, the areas are wet, the design calls for putting the main line next to existing storm drains which are inevitably in conflict and have to come out. Mr. Biagioni asked if there was an amount in the bid for storm drains. Mr. Solemene replied yes, but more storm drain work is needed. Mr. Biagioni questioned the amount of \$57,056 for gravel. Mr. Solemene explained the gravel is used for the cross country line which is a very wet area, and if we have to drive a truck in there to maintain a clogged line, we have to be able to support the weight of the truck. Regarding the change order for 10” PVC sanitary sewer 20’-25’, the bid spec did not have this category, therefore it was added as a change order because we are deeper than we thought we would be.

- **Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO) to approve Application #9 in the amount of \$802,746.20 for payment. Motion carried unanimously.**

### NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business.

### OLD BUSINESS:

#### Unit Charge Policy Change

Mr. Solemene reported that he and Chairman Biagioni met with the First Selectman and the Finance Director earlier this month. They agreed to try to find a way to separate the unit charge from the assessments. A stumbling block is how to determine the added cost of immediately depositing the funds into the retained earnings account, while it will take the Town of Trumbull 18 years to collect it.

#### Retained Earnings Balance

There was a loss of \$24,435.23 resulting in a balance of \$1,195,151.77 in retained earnings.

Tax Collector Report

Mr. Solemene distributed the following report submitted by the Tax Collector:

Number of Accounts as of 2/19/08: 8,775  
Number of Units as of 2/19/08: 232,315  
Number of Delinquent Accounts: 1,475      Value of all delinquent accounts: \$432,211.89  
7% (109) of the delinquent accounts carry a balance greater than \$1,000  
Total of the above 109 = \$197,453 or approximately 45% of the delinquent amount owed.

Receipts by Month 2007

December	\$826,082.83
November	\$304,237.94
October	\$119,140.81
September	\$847,393.11
August	\$293,253.73
July	\$ 64,216.63
June	\$713,122.64
May	\$451,323.85
April	\$528,694.23
March	\$487,206.84
February	\$ 29,822.96
January	<u>\$ 87,129.80</u>
Total	\$4,751,625.37

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**Hidden Pond Development**

Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO) to approve the proposal by Hidden Pond Development LLC to extend approximately 1,105 linear feet of 8" PVC sanitary sewer main line to serve a nine (9) lot subdivision labeled Hidden Pond Development, according to the requirements of the Trumbull Engineering Department and the Water Pollution Control Authority, and with the following conditions:

- a 20 foot wide sewer easement to be awarded to the Town of Trumbull between lots 1 and 2 Hidden Pond Lane and an 8" PVC main line extension approximately 300 linear feet with a 48" sanitary sewer manhole installed in line with the easement in order to provide a future connection for a sanitary sewer extension on Shadowwood Lane.
- an easement at the culvert on Booth Hill Road to be acquired from James Fracker Construction LLC and awarded to the Town of Trumbull.

No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**Williams & Frenchtown Roads**

Motion (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO) to approve the application by the Estate of F. Francis D'Addario to extend three lateral connections to serve a proposed three lot subdivision on the corner of Williams and Frenchtown Roads, saddling the existing 12" Williams Road main line. Approval is granted in accordance with the requirements of the Trumbull Engineering Department and the Water Pollution Control Authority and the following conditions:

- Lots 1 & 2 will be served by a 6" gravity connection;
- Lot 3 will be connected with a force main through an easement between Lots 1 and 2 and will be the responsibility of the owner.

No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.

**Phase IV, Part B, Contract 3 Expansion**

**MOTION made (Commissioner AIELLO) 2<sup>nd</sup> (Commissioner GONCALVES) to approve the proposed expansion of Phase IV, Part B, Contract III. Discussion followed. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

There being no other business before the Authority,

- **Motion to adjourn (GONCALVES) seconded (AIELLO). Motion carried unanimously.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Francese  
Clerk of the Commission