

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Town of Trumbull

CONNECTICUT

TOWN HALL
(203) 452-5048



5866 MAIN STREET
TRUMBULL, CT 06611

Minutes
Water Pollution Control Authority
Public Hearing
July 1, 2010

In attendance:

Ennio De Vita
Jack Goncalves
Paul A. Kallmeyer, Vice Chairman
Jeanine Maietta Lynch, Chairman
Laura Pulie
Karen Egri, Alternate
Tim Hampford, Alternate

Also In Attendance:

Joseph Solemene, Assistant WPCA. Administrator
Stephen M. Savarese, PE/LS, Town Engineer/WPCA
Administrator
Dennis Kokenos, Esq., Town Attorney
Robert Nicola, Esq., Town Attorney
Timothy M. Herbst, First Selectman
Maria Pires, Finance Director
Daniel Nelson, Chief of Staff
Joseph Fasi, Esq., Bond Counsel
John Marsilio, Director of Public Works

Chairman Lynch called the public hearing to order at 7:30 p.m. and read the public hearing notice (attached). Chairman Lynch asked that anyone wishing to speak sign in, state name and address, limit comments to three minutes, and keep the discussion polite and respectful. Chairman Lynch stated she and Commissioner Pulie are residents of the Jog Hill Project and affected by the sewer assessment. Chairman Lynch also stated the purpose of this public hearing is to allow the public to speak on the Jog Hill Project and its assessment, all comments, questions and concerns will be taken under advisement and the Commission will have further discussion in another meeting. She stated the Commission is unanimously committed to looking into every reasonable and legal avenue possible to decrease the burden on the rate payer of this Jog Hill Project by trying to reduce the assessment, based upon extraordinary and excessive change orders and additional work which was done outside the scope of the sanitary sewer system. Chairman Lynch thanked her fellow Commission members for their tremendous effort and hard work to come to a unanimous consensus to find a satisfactory resolution to alleviate the burden of these assessments.

First Selectman Herbst gave a brief overview of the assessment process for the Jog Hill Contract, beginning with the first public hearing held April 22, 2009 to the present.

Chairman Lynch invited those desiring to speak to come forward.

1. Alfred Mally, 864 Daniels Farm Road
Frustrated with assessment, keeps going up, why?
2. Al Ornitz, 7 McGuire Road
How was interest rate determined? Joe Fasi, Bond Counsel, explained it is a blended interest rate based on two bond issues; one \$17,374,000 at 3.91% and one \$4,150,000 at 3.36%.

3. Bob Mastroni, 26 Stoneleigh Road
\$500 unit charge, is this a one-time charge? Chairman Lynch replied yes, this is a one-time charge.
4. Lukaszewski, 875 Daniels Farm Road
Are these concrete figures? Will there be any more changes that would affect the assessment? Chairman Lynch replied the only change would be a reduction.
5. Tom Bianco, 27 Towerview Road
At meeting in 2002 assessment estimated at \$15-18,000; five years later estimated at \$20,000, in 2009 \$25,000, in 2010 expected a reduction but increased again. 58% increase over 2002 estimate. Requests that the assessment be reduced to what it was in 2009. Assessment is too expensive and unaffordable and unacceptable.
6. Roger Michaels, 67 Jog Hill Road
Schedule for paving roads? His road has not been paved since 1964 and Mark IV did a terrible job. Mr. Marsilio explained there is a combination of capital programs going on which affect the roads in town. Two major projects, almost \$50 million of sewer installation. Beyond that there is one-half to three-quarters of a million dollars a year that we dedicate to road resurfacing and repair. That is an inadequate amount. The average life of a road is 20 years. There are over 200 miles of road in Town. We are developing a long-range capital plan. We are assessing the condition of the roads and the availability of funds, the calculation should be done by the end of the summer. We will have a program by the end of the summer. The next question becomes the willingness of the community to fund roadway repair and rebuilding. We will be discussing with the Board of Finance and Town Council at that time.
7. Frank Nyitrai, 761 Daniels Farm Road
Pipe goes 25' in front of his property, assessed for 158'.
8. John Ferrante, 11 Fairway Lane
Was the entire project bonded? Is there retainage left? Complicated formula of assessment, when does it start? Maria Pires explained the entire cost of the project was bonded, \$21,986,120. There is \$100,000 left in retainage. There is a performance bond. Donna Pelleteri of the Tax Collector's office stated the July 1 payment will be due in October with no penalty, along with the October payment, both payable no later than November 2.
9. Robert Cavaleri, 626 Booth Hill Road
First time hearing of this, new resident, moved in October 2009. How likely is it the cost will go down? Chairman Lynch replied the Commission is looking at all costs and making a determination based on legality.
10. Dale Barcham, 472 Daniels Farm Road
Is the cost per foot the same as other projects? If the answer is no, because we were selected to go not first or second doesn't seem fair.
11. Richard Martorano, 34 Clarion Place
Questioned the methodology of the front footage determining the assessment.
12. Bill Roman, 27 Marigold Lane
If the Town had chosen to set the assessments last year, would the numbers be lower? Issues with Mark IV. They did not go the proper depth in the street, necessitating a pump, which added cost to his assessment. First Selectman Herbst stated a very thorough review of the project would be conducted, and asked that any issues with Mark IV be emailed to Mr. Herbst.

13. Thomas Bianco, 27 Towerview Drive

Was this a fixed price contract? Commissioner Kallmeyer replied the contract is based on unit prices.

14. Bob Verna, 12 Brookside Drive

Commended the Commission and the Finance Director. Talked about review and audit of 59 account. Thinks method of assessment should be changed to number of homes divided into total cost for equal assessments.

15. Juan Bianco, 16 Greenbrier Road

Question about use charge. Cost of paving should not be part of assessment. Chairman Lynch stated that the user fee is separate from the assessment and would be addressed at a regular meeting. Mr. Herbst invited Mr. Bianco to contact his office to set up an appointment to discuss sewer use fees and our contract with Bridgeport.

16. John Ferrante, 11 Fairway Lane

Questioned unit pricing, asked for explanation. Commissioner Kallmeyer explained there are many items in the bid, each one has its own unit price.

17. Jack Ferguson, 75 Grayrock Road

Will we get an amortization schedule? Mr. Herbst stated he would speak with the Town attorneys, bond counsel and the Finance Director and get back to Mr. Ferguson with an answer.

18. Tony Bien, 32 Nuthatch Hill Road

Unhappy with lateral placement. Mark IV broke a curtain drain on North Green Acres Lane, has not been repaired, causing water problems. Mr. Herbst asked Mr. Bien to leave his contact information.

19. Thomas Bianco, 27 Towerview Drive

Is the assessment based on the number of hook-ups? Mr. Verna replied the calculation is based on the total number of home sites served by the system. It has nothing to do with who has hooked up.

Mr. Herbst again asked that anyone with documented issues or concerns with the quality of construction, please call his office directly or email on the Town website. Mr. Herbst introduced two District 1 Town Council representatives, Mr. Rappa and Ms. Testani.

There being no other business before the Authority,

- **Motion made (LYNCH) seconded (KALLMEYER) to close the public hearing. No discussion. Motion carried unanimously.**

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Francese
Clerk of the Commission