

EMERGENCY MEETING

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION/WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

December 20, 1996

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In accordance with the State of Connecticut General Statutes, notice is hereby given that:

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1) Discussion And Action: Public Utilities Commission will discuss and act upon a budget appropriation/amendment for additional funds necessary for emergency repair of the Quinnipiac trunk sewer.

TOWN COUNCIL

2) Discussion and Action: Town Council will discuss and act upon a budget amendment/appropriation for additional funds necessary for the emergency repair of the Quinnipiac trunk sewer.

The meeting will be held in the Town Council Chambers, 45 S. Main Street and will commence promptly at 5:30 P.M.

EMERGENCY JOINT TOWN COUNCIL/P.U.C. MEETING

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1996

5:30 P.M.

An emergency joint meeting of the Wallingford Town Council and the Public Utilities Commission was held on Friday, December 20, 1996 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 5:35 P.M. Answering present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati were Councilors Center; Doherty; Farrell; Papale; Parisi and Rys; Councilors Knight; Renda and Zappala were unable to attend due to work commitments. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr.; Asst. Town Attorney Gerald Farrell, Sr., and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also in attendance.

Public Utilities Commission Chairman David Gessert called the Meeting of the P.U.C. to Order at 5:38 P.M. Commissioners Cooke and Papale were in attendance as well as Public Utilities Director Raymond F. Smith and General Manager of the Water/Sewer Divisions Roger Dann.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

Motion was made by Commissioner Cooke to Approve the Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$110,000 to Increase the Maintenance Collection System Acct. #673-000 to Accommodate the Repairs Necessary for the Sewer Trunk Line in the Quinnipiac River Adjacent to Allegheny Ludlum, seconded by Commissioner Papale.

Mr. Gessert informed the Council that the alternative route that was previously proposed to the Council, specifically the relocation of the sewer main in conjunction with the installation of rip-rap to prevent further erosion of the river channel, was closely reviewed. Upon further discussion with Allegheny Ludlum, however, their corporate branch in Pennsylvania was a little less than enthused about the Town digging across their property where there was an old abandoned industrial sewer line. Allegheny Ludlum felt that there was an element of risk for their attorneys worried about the possibility of pollutants being discovered on site. If, in fact, it did exist the company would then be responsible to rectify the problem.

Mr. Gessert also stated that the two pumps currently running down there are doing so at full bore and there is no backup system. The meter is running to the tune of \$7,000 per week for the two pumps. If we get into a protracted legal discussion with Allegheny over the use of the right-of-way, even condemnation (should the town decide to exercise the option) would take quite a while. Even if the town decides to exercise that option there is no plan in effect to protect the river from traveling another twenty feet in to attack a new location due to bank erosion.

Mr. Gessert explained that Roger Dann, General Manager of Water/Sewer Divisions, devised a second option, steel sheeting driven into the ground for a good distance and the placement of rip-rap in front of the sheeting in an attempt to detour the river somewhat. There would have to be fill placed behind the sheeting and replacement of the concrete pipe with iron pipe.

Mr. Dann informed the Council that the design, as it is shown, does not include one element that is being investigated which is the potential that the sheeting will need to be tied into the bank some distance back to make sure it remains stable. An amount for that element is included in pricing, however, they are continuing to investigate the issue. He noted that an attempt will be made to save the existing pipe under this scenario, if possible. There is a concern that it may not be possible and therefore the pricing has included the replacement of pipe over one hundred eighty feet (180') in length.

Mr. Rys asked, where did this design come from?

Mr. Dann responded, we looked at a number of options. It was somewhat of a collaborative effort utilizing Water & Sewer's staff in conjunction with discussions with the contractor who would be responsible for constructing it. We had quite a bit of discussion on a number of options and this is the one that we reached a consensus on as the most effective combination of protection and cost.

Mr. Rys stated, we all know how bad the Quinnipiac River flows in that area and I don't want to go into this project, spend a couple of hundred thousand dollars and wind up having to come back and spend another couple of hundred thousand dollars six months from now to put this all back. I would hope that a hydrologist would be involved in this matter.

Mr. Gessert responded that the river spreads out and covers the island, however, by spreading out the speed of the flow of the water is reduced.

Mr. Parisi stated, having the benefit of experiencing what amounted to as the worst season in the last twenty-five years we should find it easier to solve this problem because we have seen what the most outrageous problem could be. This, (proposed solution) in fact, should be a very strong effective recommendation.

Mr. Cooke responded, the original plan with Allegheny was correct and time is of the essence. Although this is a second plan being offered, it is an excellent plan.

Emergency Town Council/P.U.C. Meeting 3

December 20, 1996

Mr. Rys asked, are D.E.P. permits required?

Mr. Gessert responded, Mr. Dann has had extensive discussions with D.E.P. and Inland Wetlands.

Mr. Dann added, Mr. Kirkland of the Sewer Division has had discussions with Brent Smith, Environmental Planner, as well as the D.E.P. and has forwarded correspondence to both entities describing what it is that the Town is intending to do and has received verbal approval to proceed with the work. No written authorization has been received as of yet. We do not anticipate any issue.

Mr. Parisi wanted to make sure that a price comparison was being conducted for the work to make sure the Town is getting the most bang for its buck.

Mr. Dann answered, we obtained quotes from three contractors for the option that we initially selected. We obtained quotes from two contractors for the steel sheeting option. A contractor was selected on the basis of moving forward with the initial alternative. That contractor was considerably lower than the other two quotes received. When the Town had to change directions with which option to go with it continued to work with that contractor and did not pursue additional quotes from other contractors. The reason being that it would be difficult to obtain multiple quotes from multiple contractors on multiple options. Mr. Dann did not feel that the pricing was inappropriate.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Cooke to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Papale.

VOTE: All ayes; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting of the P.U.C. adjourned at 5:58 P.M.

The Town Council reconvened its meeting at 5:58 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$110,000 Increasing the Maintenance Collection Systems Acct. #673-000 and Increasing the Maintenance Reserve Acct. by \$110,000., seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mayor Dickinson stated, there has been a lot of discussion, the issue has been going back and forth and if this could have been handled differently we would have. I could not have told you yesterday how this issue was going to turn out. It is late breaking news and your participation, along with the P.U.C.'s is appreciated.

Mr. Doherty asked, if this latest option does not work out can we go back to the first option and condemn property as originally proposed?

Mr. Gessert responded, yes, but there are severe risks. We could walk away clean or we can get burned very badly. We would rather err on the side of caution. When you get into environmental damages settlements could be huge.

VOTE: Knight, Renda and Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Knight, Renda and Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Mr. Parisi took a brief moment to extend appreciation to those Councilors who were able to attend this meeting on such short notice. The commitment and effort is duly noted.

Mr. Gessert thanked the Council for their time and patience in the matter.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:01 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:

Kathryn F. Zandri
Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

Approved by:

Robert F. Parisi
Robert. F. Parisi, Chairman

1-14-97
Date

Rosemary A. Rascati
Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

1-14-97
Date

Michael Papale, Secretary
Public Utilities Commission

Date