

WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY PUBLIC HEARING-APRIL 9, 2008

The Public Hearing of the Water Pollution Control Authority was called to order by Chairman Michael DeAngelis at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 09, 2008 in the auditorium of Shelton City Hall, 54 Hill Street, Shelton, CT 06484.

The following Commissioners were in attendance to constitute a *quorum*:

Michael DeAngelis  
Bronislaw Piotrowski  
Anthony Presutto  
Stephen Morse  
Regis Dognin  
Todd Dowty  
Richard Jager

Absent was: Edwin Hellauer

Also attending was: Thomas Sym, Sewer Administrator

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Commissioner DeAngelis read the call of the meeting as follows:

**George Washbish**  
**55 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT 06484**

Mr. Washbish indicated he found a lot of addresses that were not on this list. One is 35 Spoke Drive - it is an empty house.

Mr. Sym said it is owned by United Methodist Homes at 580 Long Hill Avenue.

Mr. Washbish asked where does the sewer come out? Rocky Rest?

Mr. Sym said no Long Hill Avenue.

Mr. Washbish asked if 580 Long Hill Avenue will have to pay taxes?

Mr. Sym replied "yes".

Mr. Washbish said he has a whole list of numbers that are not on the list on Rocky Rest. One is 11 Rocky Rest Road.

Mr. Sym replied that we are not in that area - the sewer is not in that area.

Mr. Washbish said try #32. The sewer runs right down the road.

Mr. Sym said the numbers on Rocky Rest Road begin with #99 and go up.

Mr. Washbish asked what about #103?

Commissioner DeAngelis said first he would like to hear from the general public on questions and then we can go over Mr. Washbish's list.

Mr. Washbish said that is OK.

Mr. Sym said 103 and 111 Rocky Rest have access to the rear of the property to the existing sewer line that went in.

Mr. Washbish said OK # 115.

Mr. Sym said that is an interior lot that has access to the rear of the property in the open space area.

Mr. Washbish asked "then they are going to the sewer down in the back then?"

Mr. Sym said "right".

Mr. Washbish said the name Argraves somewhere around #120.

Mr. Sym said that is way in off the road and is deferred, as it is not accessible.

**Randall Lavender**  
**119 Rocky Rest Road**  
**Shelton, CT 06484**

Mr. Lavender said the Argraves are already hooked up.

Mr. Sym said not a sewer line.

Mr. Lavender asked what did they dig for?

Mr. Sym said he did not know - maybe a water line?

Mr. Lavendar said you are going by footage on the road and I have extra paving - people next to me have twice the property and twice the people and they are all paying \$8K and have more property than I do and I am paying \$13,988.97 and he wants to know why.

Mr. Sym said because of the footage on the road.

Mr. Lavendar said you are saying the people with the driveway because they just have the driveway and twice my acreage that the formula benefits them - that is not right - I have half the property and they have the same access to the road and I have three properties in a row and I am paying 3/4 of the total of them. You cannot go by the footage. That is wrong. You need to divide it equally along the whole road. They have 3.4 people. Gardener Heights should be paying a big chunk.

Mr. Sym said it is lot size. Gardner Heights has a building lot period.

Mr. Lavendar said and he is only paying \$1K more than I am.

Mr. Sym said they are already connected.

Mr. Lavendar said then what is the Gardner....Oh, OK, I see it is Gardner Heights Realty.

Mr. Sym said by Ordinance it shows how the assessment came out.

Mr. Lavendar said then the Ordinance formula is wrong - it is for a normal road and this is not a normal road. This is a cul-de-sac road. I cannot pay more for less use and less property than my neighbor. My neighbor has higher property value, more property and I live alone and have less use - I have to pay more just because I have more footage? It is not right. I will be seeing my lawyer. I am paying more and all my neighbors can pass my house - nice guy I am paying for everyone.

Commissioner DeAngelis said this Ordinance has been on the books for thirteen years. Write a letter to us, the WPCA and we will look into it.

**Mr. Washbish**  
**55 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

What about Argraves?

Mr. Sym said deferred assessment for now, as it is considered no benefit.

Mr. Washbish asked where does the money go that you collect?

Mr. Sym said into the Revolving Sewer Account.

Mr. Washbish asked if that is free money to the town?

Mr. Sym said no - this money has been deducted off this price. This entire project has a set cost of \$828K and the city absorbed one third of that cost. There are a couple of properties that did not have access to the line, they may or may not in the future use the line, I reduced that amount by an additional \$40K for deferred assessments (\$10K for each property).

Mr. Washbish said then you took off what they should be paying and you took off of the total bill?

Mr. Sym said correct, off the total bill.

Mr. Washbish said thank you. How about 137 Rocky Rest Road?

Mr. Washbish asked about a mailbox with 137 on it - how come there is no access to the property?

Mr. Sym said it is a back lot in back of open space and there is no frontage on Rocky Rest Road. They are 500 feet off the road.

Mr. Washbish asked how they can have a mailbox and no access?

Mr. Sym said it does not show an access on the map. It is possible they have an access way - but that is a deferred property - they are 500 feet off the road.

Commissioner DeAngelis said #'s 137, 125, 143, 115 are deferred and off of your list.

Mr. Sym said access in back to other sewer line.

Mr. Washbish said OK I got it. Thank you.

**George Gulish**  
**24 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton**

Mr. Gulish asked do we get assessed for the whole property?

Mr. Sym replied yes. That is the way the ordinance calls for it.

**Robert Slowik**  
**66 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton**

Mr. Slowik asked how do you get the value per linear foot - how is that determined.

Mr. Sym said we go with the entire cost which is bid out, and two thirds of that after I reduced it by \$40K, what is left is \$12K and that gets divided by four. One quarter each for linear footage, square footage, each house/unit. I have to add the entire footage throughout the entire project and divide that into one fourth = \$16.40 linear foot x the entire project frontage = 1/4 of that \$512K. It would be easier if everyone pays the same, but I have to go by the way the Ordinance is written.

**Gail Washbish**  
**55 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mrs. Washbish asked if we can opt/vote to change that? It never occurred to me until Mr. Lavendar brought it up.

Mr. Sym said it would have to go before the Board of Aldermen.

Commissioner DeAngelis said to his recollection no one has ever asked to do that.

**Mr. Lavendar**  
**119 Rocky Rest Road**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mr. Lavendar said the fire hydrant is on my property and I am providing for everyone else. I am paying for everyone on my street - sewer and fire hydrant. I am paying for it all.

Commissioner Presutto said the fire hydrant is not on your property - the city has use of it.

Mr. Lavender said then deduct it - if that is not my property you need to deduct it. It is against my rights.

Commissioner DeAngelis said we can sit here all night long and argue it.

Mr. Lavendar said who do I write to?

Mr. Sym said to the WPCA here, the sewer department indicating you want some consideration and indicate you feel the assessment is unfair.

Commissioner DeAngelis said to also copy the Board of Aldermen and ask them to consider changing the ordinance.

Mr. Sym said it is easier for me to divide the total project by the number of houses. Now is the time to change the ordinance.

Commissioner DeAngelis said we are going to vote on this and you will have the right to appeal it.

Mr. Sym said the bills won't go out until September 1st, so you have some time before the first payment is due.

**Mr. Washbish**  
**55 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mr. Washbish said he is concerned with my neighbors now since Mr. Lavendar brought up a good point. And, there are some neighbors who live on the corner of Wagon Road and Spoke Drive. Are they paying to run up both streets?

Mr. Sym said no, one corner with the shortest distance.

Mr. Washbish said thank you.

**Patricia Smith**  
**122 Rocky Rest Road**  
**Shelton, CT**

Ms. Smith asked if she has to hook up to the sewers?

Mr. Sym said no and there is no sewer tax until you connect and unless we have to enforce it if someone is having a problem.

Commissioner DeAngelis said but you have to pay the assessment.

Mrs. Smith said she did not say anything about that.

Commissioner DeAngelis said he just wants her to know that.

Mrs. Smith asked if you get a discount if you pay in cash?

Mr. Sym said yes - there is no interest if you pay in cash.

Mr. Sym said we are going to try to lower the interest rate. I am going to talk to the Finance Director about this.

**Mr. Lavendar**  
**119 Rocky Rest Road**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mr. Lavendar asked about the \$2500 pump up - when is that deducted?

Mr. Sym said if you need a pump up consider it deducted.

Mr. Lavendar said that is a little better.

**Linda Wronski**  
**99 Rocky Rest Road**  
**Shelton, CT**

Ms. Wronski said they will require a \$2500 reduction for a pump up system.

Mr. Sym said OK.

**Joanne Slowik**  
**66 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

Ms. Slowik said that in regard to the interest - people over 65 should not be subject to the interest - it is a hardship - or at least lower it. I think that is unfair. And we never asked for this.

Someone said "you sure did - you signed the petition".

Ms. Slowik said we never asked for this and did not sign the petition. We have an adequate septic system and have for forty years.

Mr. Sym said someone did.

Commissioner DeAngelis said once the line goes past your house you have to pay for it. You came to us and asked for the sewers - we did not come to you and the majority rules. The City takes a third off. We don't want any more sewers and we loose money when we take part in a project. This does not benefit us or the treatment plant. You guys have been good tonight.

**Linda Wronski**  
**99 Rocky Rest Road**  
**Shelton, CT**

Ms. Wronski asked how many interior lot people who are not paying a dime are the ones on that petition who signed that petition and said yes - and when you have that fact, you can make that statement - before you make a general commitment. Your argument is that the majority rules and we came to you. I am saying the people here are the ones who most likely did not want it but you allowed the vote to count for the interior lots and for the people who have been waived and allowed their vote to count.

Mr. Sym said there is only one person from those interior lots - only 1 of the four voted for it - three did not.

Ms. Wronski said she figured you would not know that until now until afterwards.

Mr. Sym said the original contract low bid was rejected and was rebid and it was reduced by \$95K. Those who attended the original public hearing were told the estimated assessments would be \$12K.

**Mr. Washbish**  
**55 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mr. Washbish said I am hearing tonight that you represent the town and the town did not want a sewer system. I am hearing that for the first time tonight. If I heard that at the beginning, I wonder if I would have voted for it.

Commissioner DeAngelis said he did not say we don't want it.

Several people interrupted him and said yes you did.

Commissioner DeAngelis said we don't come knocking on your doors saying do you guys want a sewer? We are not looking to take on additional sewage to the plant. We do not aggressively go out and look for it.

Mr. Washbish said a few minutes ago you said the town does not want additional sewer systems and I am saying I am hearing that for the first time tonight. Had I heard that at the original meeting, maybe I would have voted against it.

Mr. Sym said we are not out looking to put in sewer systems because we loose money every time we do it.

Mr. Washbish said that is news and asked where do you get the money you have to provide? From taxes?

Commissioner DeAngelis said your property taxes do not pay for the sewers - the sewer user fees do. If you are up in White Hills and you are on a septic system you are not paying \$173 right now only the people that are using it are paying for that new plant.

Mr. Washbish asked who is paying the money you have to reach back into your account and get?

Mr. Sym said we collect connection fees from developers around town - about \$2K each and that is what supplies our Revolving Sewer Account, which is where this money comes from.

Mr. Washbish said thank you, now I know.

**Mrs. Washbish**  
**55 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mrs. Washbish said we opted not to go with a pump up system and dug deeper - can we get the \$2500 credit for a pump up?

Mr. Sym said no. You have gravity sewer system and if you needed a pump up - it is not like you have an option.

There was some discussion of rock.

**Mary Gulish**  
**24 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mrs. Gulish asked if they are supposed to pave the street?

Mr. Sym said yes they are.

Mr. Gulish said don't let them pave over the manholes. Every time they pave the roads they fill in over the manholes.

Mr. Sym said you mean catch basins.

Mr. Gulish said - I mean the catch basins.

**Mrs. E. Wonneberger**  
**28 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton, CT**

Mrs. Wonneberger asks who sends the bill?

Mr. Sym said the Tax Collector does. You have 60 days to pay with no interest.

Mrs. Wonneberger asked if I can pay off in full the second year?

Mr. Sym said yes.

**Karen Oko**  
**82 Spoke Drive**  
**Shelton**

Ms Oko asked about the two families - do they get a free ride as far as the hook-up?

Mr. Sym said they get a deferred assessment until such time they want to connect to the line then we will put a lateral to their property.

Ms. Oko said she is talking about the Evans's property.

Mr. Sym said they got a full assessment and easement consideration because we used their property and a connection and we planted grass and trees. This is #40 and #60 Spoke Drive.

Tape 1 Side B 6:45 p.m.

There being no further questions, Commissioner DeAngelis thanked everyone for coming and said to Mr. Lavendar that we will be expecting his letter.

He closed the Public Hearing.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct this evening,

The Public Hearing closed at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda M. Hooper, Clerk

1 tape on file with the City Town Clerk