

, CITY OF MILFORD
SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING FOR INFILL NO. 2 SEWER PROJECT
NOVEMBER 20, 2013

The Public Hearing for the Infill No. 2 Sewer Project by the Board of Sewer Commissioners was held on Wednesday, NOVEMBER 20, 2013, in Conference Room "C" of the Parsons Complex, 70 West River Street. Chairman Carroll called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Robert J. Carroll, Vice-Chairman Donald Anderson, Commissioner Lee Cooke, Commissioner Edmund Collier and Commissioner Bradford Hubler

OTHERS PRESENT: Consultant Raymond Macaluso, of Westcott and Mapes, Inc., James Cooper, Superintendent of Wastewater, Gary Wassmer, City Engineer

EXCUSED: None

Chairman Carroll opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 pm. and stated that statements from the public will be limited to this project only. The time granted to each speaker shall be three minutes. Residents, taxpayers or electors may address the Commission. Chairman Carroll read the Legal Notice to those in attendance as follows:

The City of Milford, Connecticut, hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Parsons Complex, 70 W. River Street, Milford, Connecticut, in Conference Room "C" by Mayor Benjamin Blake and the Sewer Commission with reference to the Infill No. 2 sewer project. The sanitary sewer Infill Project No. 2 will construct approximately 5,000 linear feet of 8 inch and 12 inch gravity sanitary sewer and 1,200 linear feet of 4 inch force main. This project will provide sewer service to a portion of Plains Road, Raton Drive, Wilson Street and a portion of High Street from Interstate 95 South to the Boston Post Road.

Chairman Carroll then asked that Mr. Macaluso of Westcott and Mapes give a presentation for everyone. Westcott and Mapes is the consulting engineer to the Sewer Commission and also the designers of the sewer main projects.

Mr. Macaluso of Westcott and Mapes, Inc. opened his presentation stating that this is the second public hearing for this project. The first public hearing was an informational meeting. He gave a description of the Infill No. 2 sewer project and a display of maps for everyone to see. Mr. Macaluso informed the audience that this project is in two sections. The first section is Plains Road to Raton Drive. The second section is Wilson Street and High Street.

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Mr. Macaluso informed the public that they have designed the project so that it would not need a pump station as was projected in the prior public hearing. He continued that with the elimination of the pump station the sewer main is now required to be 24 to 25 feet deep in sections of High Street. Westcott and Mapes looked at different alternatives including going through the Black Swamp through to the car dealership. They felt that Wilson Street to High Street to White Oaks Terrace Pump Station was the best design. They determined that they do not have to go to the Boston Post Road because they found that those properties are already being served by sewers. The majority of the work will be on White Oaks Terrace up High Street to I-95 exit ramps to service the property over the overpass and the surrounding properties. Mr. Macaluso stated that they have tried to get into most of the properties to design basement service as well. A letter went out to the property owners telling them that we need to see the basement to determine if we can serve the basement with sewer service. All properties will be served by gravity sewer; no grinder pumps or pump station will be required. The other area is Raton Drive, Plains Road and Tranquility Way. This section will be serving Raton Drive, Tranquility Way and Plains Road to the railroad tracks to serve properties over there. The area near the railroad will be a force main and those properties will need some sort of ejection system to serve their properties. Raton Drive, Plains Road and Tranquility Way will all be gravity sewer and will connect into Shelland Street. This will take care of this infill area.

Chairman Carroll asked the Commissioners if they had any questions for Mr. Macaluso.

Commissioner Cooke asked Mr. Macaluso if the D'Amato buildings would need ejector pumps. He didn't think so because they were all on a slab.

Mr. Macaluso responded that he hasn't gotten into those buildings yet but they felt that they would probably need a grinder pump as there is no pitch at the railroad tracks.

Commissioner Cooke asked if we were servicing Tranquility Way which is a private street. Mr. Macaluso responded that prior Mayors have said that they need to be included in the sewer projects as they are taxpayers too. There are only 4 houses on that street. When the Sewer Commission presented their Capital Improvement Plan they were instructed by the previous Mayors to include the private streets i.e. Riveredge Drive that was part of the Infill No. 1 project.

Chairman Carroll asked if the Commissioners had any further questions; hearing none he asked for questions from the public.

Mr. Rahgo of 90 Wilson Street asked if the end of Wilson Street will be gravity fed. Mr. Macaluso responded "Yes they will. There will not be any pumps."

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Mr. Gordon Levi of 79 Wilson Street asked the Commission about accessing their basements.

Mr. Macaluso responded that we try to serve the basements in case someone has a finished basement and they want to put a toilet down there. We always try to design it to serve the basements. Sometimes we can't but we try. Worst case would be you would have to install a little grinder pump in the basement if you decided to install a toilet.

Mr. Levi asked "Are the stakes with the orange ribbons on them associated with this project?"

Mr. Macaluso responded "yes they are".

Mr. Levi asked who could tell him the dollars and cents involved with the hook up. He asked if you hook up during the construction or after.

Mr. Macaluso responded that they would be assessed \$15 a linear foot for their frontage along the new sewer line with a minimum charge of \$400 plus the lateral fee. The sewer would be measured to the end of the cul-de-sac to the end manhole. User fee?

Ms. Lynch responded that the annual sewer user fee this fiscal year is \$300.60. Half is due July 1st and the second half is due January 1st.

Mr. Levi asked if he had to hire a contractor to connect him.

Mr. Macaluso responded that he would go through the process for him.

- First we have a public hearing.
- Second, the Sewer Commission has to apply to the Planning and Zoning board for an 8-24 approval to install the pipes in the ground.
- Next we go out to bid.
- Then the Mayor will bond the project which will require going before the Board of Finance and the Board of Aldermen. He usually bonds once a year.
- Contingent on the project receiving funding, we then award the contract to the prequalified low bidder. He then gives the Commission a schedule of work.
- He does the work, we TV the lines and air test them for acceptance by the Commission. Asbuilts are done and accepted by the Commission.
- Then you will be allowed to connect and can hire a licensed, bonded sewer contractor to connect your house. Robin can give you a list of licensed sewer contractors.

Mr. Levi asked if it would benefit him and his neighbors to get together and have them all connected at the same time. Would he get a better price?

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Mr. Macaluso responded that he believed so.

Mr. Rahgo asked what the sewer user fee cost was based on. Was it water usage? He asked if he had to pay the same amount as a family of six when he is only one person.

Mr. Macaluso responded yes they would pay the same amount.

Mr. Rahgo responded that isn't very fair.

Michael Kross of 29 Wilson Street responded that it is the same as him having a longer frontage and having to pay more assessment than someone who's frontage was only 25 ft or 50 ft. He has 100 ft and would have a higher sewer assessment. He didn't think that was fair either.

Mr. Rahgo responded that the point he was trying to make was of usage. He feels it should be based on water usage.

Ms. Lynch responded that we calculate the commercial accounts by water usage and occupancy. There aren't any meters on the sewer pipes so the city has no way of knowing how much water went into the sewer vs. the water used to water the lawn or wash the car. So they made the residential rate a flat rate for all houses.

Mr. Rahgo asked what other cities do.

Ms. Lynch responded that she did not know what other cities do.

Chairman Carroll stated we don't know what other cities do. You have to pay the same taxes as someone with children in the school system even if you don't have any children in school.

Mr. Rahgo said it wasn't the same and it should be based on water usage.

Mr. Levi responded that some people water lawns and wash cars so it isn't going into the sewer system. He would be willing to pay sewer usage based on his water bill meter reading even though it would include watering the lawn.

Chairman Carroll responded that they could contact their alderman and suggest it. This board has to follow the rules and regulations that they are given. The Board didn't decide this.

Mr. Macaluso responded that every year we have a Public Hearing to set the sewer user fee and they are all welcome to attend and voice their concerns.

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Michael Kross of 29 Wilson Street asked what the average depth of the line was from the back of the street to the front of the street.

Mr. Macaluso responded approximately 8 feet deep down the end and about 25 feet deep near High Street. He explained that we require 7 feet of cover over a sewer main.

Mr. Kross stated that the installer will have to use a trench box. Who will absorb that cost?

Ms. Lynch responded that OSHA rules require a trench box for any depth more than 5 feet deep. Like Mr. Macaluso stated we require 7 feet of cover so they would need a trench box no matter how deep the sewer line is.

Mr. Macaluso stated that the lateral won't be 25 feet deep. They will install a chimney to bring the lateral up to around 7 to 8 feet deep.

Mr. Kross asked if the clean out on his property will be a certain depth.

Mr. Macaluso stated contractor will put in the lateral up to their property line. That is why we ask to get into the basement so we can take elevations on the house.

Mr. Kross responded that no one asked to get into his house.

Mr. Macaluso stated we sent out letters and asked that everyone call the Sewer Commission office to schedule an appointment for them to get into the basements.

Resident stated that he got a letter and that it asked him to call but he didn't.

Mr. Macaluso stated that the letter said to call Robin to schedule an appointment to let them get into the basement to take elevations to design the lateral depth to try to serve the basements.

Ms. Lynch responded that not everyone got a letter for basement access.

Mr. Macaluso responded that if you didn't get a letter then that means we can serve your basement.

Mr. Levi asked if the homeowner has any say in where the sewer pipe from the house to the street goes.

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Mr. Macaluso responded yes we contact you to make an appointment for our engineers and the representative from the City Engineering Department to go out to your house. You tell us where you want the sewer lateral to be left and you put a stake in the ground at that point, you sign the lateral location sheet so that you are responsible for the location. This way if you want to save a tree or something you can.

Mr. Levi asked once you hook up to the sewer what do I do with the septic tank.

Ms. Lynch responded that the sewer contractor will do both. He will apply to the Health Department for a septic tank abandonment. He will empty the tank and then crush or fill it. This will be done the same day that he connects you to the sewer system.

Chairman Carroll asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Cooke made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 pm with Vice Chairman Anderson seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the Public Hearing adjourned at 6:18 pm.

Chairman Carroll informed the audience that the Commission would take a three minute recess and then the regular meeting of the Sewer Commission would be called to order.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Lynch
Recording Secretary
Sewer Commission