

**SEWER COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING
NEW HAVEN AVENUE, ROSEMARY CT, GROVE ST INFILLS PROJECT
INCLUDING THE GROVE STREET PUMP STATION**

DECEMBER 2, 2010

The Sewer Commission of the City of Milford held a Public Hearing on Thursday, December 2, 2010 in Conference Room A of the Parsons Government Center, 70 West River Street, Milford. Chairman Robert J. Carroll opened the public hearing at 7:00 p.m.

The following Commission Members were present:

Chairman Robert J. Carroll, Vice-Chairman Donald Anderson, Commissioner Louis D'Amato, Commissioner Michael V. Brown, and Commissioner Lee Cooke

Excused: none

PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Carroll announced the meeting was being held per the legal notice published in the New Haven Register on November 16, 2010. Chairman Carroll read the following legal notice as it appeared. "The City of Milford hereby gives notice of a public hearing to be held on Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room "A" on the second floor of the Thomas Parsons Government Complex at 70 West River Street, Milford, CT. 06460 by Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr. and the City of Milford Sewer Commission with reference to consideration of installing a force main and sanitary sewers on the following streets: A portion of New Haven Avenue from Anderson Avenue to the West Haven Municipal boundary, including Grove Street and Rosemary Court. The City of Milford is also giving consideration to constructing a sanitary sewer pump station at the north end of Grove Street." Chairman Carroll instructed the audience that anyone wishing to speak to the Commissioners should state their name and address and limit their comments to 3 minutes. He then turned the meeting over to Mr. Macaluso, President of Westcott and Mapes for a presentation regarding the Grove Street Pump Station and the other alternate locations.

Mr. Macaluso stated his firm, Westcott and Mapes, is the consultant for the City of Milford Sewer Commission and explained tonight's meeting was to present this project to the public and to answer any questions they might have. Mr. Macaluso then presented the project to everyone with maps on story boards as he explained the design and construction. He explained that the new sewer line would start at the intersection of New Haven Avenue and Anderson Avenue and continue on New Haven Avenue until the West Haven Town Border and that all the properties would be served by gravity sewer including Rosemary Court and Grove Street. It would all flow into the pump station and then be pumped down Grove Street to New Haven Avenue and up to Anderson Avenue from the pump station. The proposed location for the new pump station is at the very end of Grove Street at the end of the pavement. This property is within the 100 ft upland review area for tidal wetlands not Inland Wetlands but it is within the water courses review area. He explained that they would only be removing 3 trees and that the pump station would have a 6' high vinyl fence around it and arborvitaes surrounding the fence. He went on to tell everyone that he couldn't move the pump station back because it would be 2 feet into the wetlands and you would have more exposure to the Inland

Wetlands and Tidal Wetlands and you would have to remove 18 trees. There is also a major drop off. If we move it back it will require major excavation and sheeting to stabilize the slope. This pump station is a compact size and is only 13 feet high. This is the best location at this time and no one will have to have grinder pumps on their property. He went on to explain that the plans and documents will be ready for bid by December 20, 2010 with a return bid date of no later than January 14, 2011. Then the project would go before the Board of Finance and the Board of Aldermen for funding by February 2011. This project could start construction by the spring of 2011.

Chairman Carroll thanked Mr. Macaluso for his presentation and asked if anyone would like to address the Commissioners and that they should state their name and address for the record.

Silva Albrecht of 1604 New Haven Avenue – questioned about the noise, trucks, and air quality during construction.

Mr. Macaluso responded the trucks will park on the street. The only noise would be the generator after construction which is run once a month to check to see that it is working in case of a power failure so that it could run the pump station if necessary. The exhaust is out the back of the pump station there should not be any air pollution. This is a state of the art pump station. The Superintendent of Wastewater, James Cooper explained that service crews visit the stations 2 to 3 times a week. Their vehicle is a little bigger than a pickup truck and they are there for about 20 minutes each time and then a couple of hours a couple of times a year to check on the pump station. There would not be any noise.

Maria Vitagliano of 10 Grove Street – questioned if the generator would be on all the time.

Mr. Macaluso responded no, it would not. It is only tested once a month to insure that it is working in case of a power failure and it would be tested by Wastewater crews during the normal work day not on weekends.

Ms. Vitagliano stated “what about daily workings?”

Mr. Cooper again stated the time schedule of his crew and that they only visit the station 2 to 3 times a week to check on the pump station. He also explained that the pumps are underground in water and that muffles any noise from the pumps.

Ms. Vitagliano stated she would like to go on record that she is against this location for the pump station.

The next speaker was Thomas Vinci of 18 Grove Street – Mr. Vinci stated that the pump station is only 30 feet from his bedroom. He asked the Commissioners if they would like it next to their bedrooms. He stated that he felt that the presentation pictures showed more trees than what is really there at the end of Grove Street. He also stated that the end of the street was 50 feet from his driveway and he would like to know what the city would do with the snow when they plowed the street because they would not be able to pile it up at the end of the street if the pump station was there and he didn't want his driveway blocked. He stated that he thought the pump station looked like a small jail and he wanted to know why the pump station got moved from Rosemary Court and why he wasn't notified of any of the meetings. He stated that no one on Grove Street knew about the meetings that is why they weren't there to complain.

Chairman Carroll explained to Mr. Vinci how it came about to be changed to Grove Street from Rosemary Court. He went on to explain that we are presenting it to the public and that was the purpose of the meeting tonight. Chairman Carroll told Mr. Vinci that the Commission was there to listen to the comments and concerns of the property owners that is why we mailed each property owner a letter informing them of the meeting tonight.

Mr. Vinci asked the Chairman why they moved the pump station location from Rosemary Court to Grove Street and he stated that he did not receive a letter about the meetings.

Chairman Carroll responded that there was too much chance for a bad storm to damage or destroy the pump station if it was on the beach so they chose a safer location. Chairman Carroll reiterated again that he personally signed the letters that went out to the property owners informing them of the public hearing tonight.

Jonathan Jeffery of 17 Grove Street – Stated that his wife’s family has lived on Grove Street since 1925. He felt that the pump station would be too close to their front door and backyard. He went on to say that they recently saw Egrets in these trees at the end of Grove Street. He was afraid that the construction would kill the tree root system and the trees would die. He was also concerned that if they cut down the underbrush that the kids would return to this wooded area and party in the back lot as they had in the past. He felt this would cause an increase in the need for the police department to monitor the area.

Mr. Macaluso responded that he used an actual photograph of the end of Grove Street in his presentation and that these trees are on Grove Street. The picture he showed everyone was a real rendering of what it will look like when the pump station is constructed. It will have a vinyl fence 6 feet high with arborvitaes surrounding the fence. Mr. Macaluso stated that they already removed the three trees from the photograph that they planned on removing and the rest would stay there.

Commissioner D’Amato asked Mr. Macaluso if you eliminated the pump station how many houses would have to have a grinder pump to pump their sewage to the city sewer system.

Mr. Macaluso responded that at least 15 houses along New Haven Avenue and Rosemary Court would require a grinder pump be installed at their houses to pump their sewage to the city sewer system, but if you construct a pump station then no one would need a grinder pump as they would all be served by gravity sewers.

Sean Dolan of 4 Grove Street – stated that he is not in favor of any pump station and that he lives on Grove Street. He has 4 people in his house while other houses have fewer occupants of their homes. He explained to everyone that his wife has to go out to do laundry and they have to stagger showers because their septic system cannot handle the load. He told his neighbors that he lives there and they don’t and he needs this sewer and he is in favor of it.

Chairman Carroll thanked Mr. Dolan and told everyone that Mr. Dolan has been to every Sewer Commission meeting where this project was discussed to talk about the conditions that his family has had to live with. Chairman Carroll addressed the audience and explained to them that the Commission is trying to find the best way to solve this problem.

Maria Vitagliano of 10 Grove Street asked if there were any other sites considered.

Chairman Carroll asked Mr. Macaluso to please explain the other 4 sites that were explored to Ms. Vitagliano.

Mr. Macaluso explained the other 4 sites that were explored as possible pump station sites with one of them being Rosemary Court on the beach. The second site was on Pent Road at the end of Rosemary Court. The third was between 2 houses with an easement to build the pump station behind 1622 and the neighboring property on New Haven Avenue. The fourth proposal would eliminate the pump station and the residents of Rosemary Court would have to install grinder pumps at a cost of \$15,000.

Chairman Carroll then explained to Ms. Vitagliano that the grinder pump would not work in a power failure and would also require backup generators too.

Susan Milne of 1630 New Haven Avenue – inquired about the site further in where the UI has property. She stated that the land was open on the left side.

Mr. Macaluso replied that the city is trying to serve all properties by gravity sewer. He continued that you would need to install grinder pumps and extend the sewer along the back properties thru the wetlands to Anderson Avenue.

Silvia Albrecht of 1604 New Haven Avenue – stated that she has lived in this area for 11 years and it is a very quiet area. She feels like the city has moved into their area and taken it over. She feels this project is being put upon them and she would like to see the pump station on Rosemary Court Beach.

Commissioner D'Amato asked Ms. Albrecht if she would rather have 15 houses have grinder pumps instead of the pump station.

Ms. Albrecht responded “No, but you are sticking this on us and we are opposed to it. I want it on record that I don't love it”.

Jonathan Jeffery of 17 Grove Street – stated that he is a librarian and he has looked at environmental standards and open space areas. There is an order of priority. He told the Commission they might want to look at these standards. He went on that tidal wetlands feed ocean and marine life and birds. They are trying to repair some of the damage and return these areas to their natural state.

Mr. Macaluso responded that this project is in the review area but that it is not in the tidal wetlands. He went on to explain the storm sewer in Grove Street and the design to cleanse the wetlands and that he has already met with Mary Rose Palumbo of the Milford Inland Wetlands Agency and John Gaucher of the State of CT DEP. He informed Mr. Jeffery that there is an Inland Wetlands Public Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parsons Complex in Conference Room A if they are interested in going.

Attorney Christopher Carveth who is representing Mrs. Jeffery stated that he reviewed the Sewer Commission minutes of the previous meetings. His question was he wanted to know what has changed that this street has become the preferred site. He stated that he understood this is a new

model and he wanted to know the decibel level of the constant sound of sludge into the pump station. Is this the test mule?

Mr. Macaluso replied that this is a smaller pump station and that they already put one on Cricklewood Road. He offered to get the decibel levels for Mr. Carveth. He went on to say that the vinyl fence and trees will absorb any sound coming from the pump station and the difficulty that was stated in the minutes has since been reduced since they went into the houses and found that the depth would not be 25 feet as earlier thought. Westcott and Mapes has learned where the laterals will be located and the depth at which they would be located is more like 20 feet deep not 25 feet deep. We have a sewer job going on right now in Silver Sands Park area and we are going down 22 feet deep. Mr. Macaluso explained that the estimated cost at Rosemary Court will be more because they would have to install storm protection around the pump station if it were located there.

Robert Kerin stated he had 2 questions. He wanted to know what the time frame was from tonight until the sewers would be installed and the second question was how long before the contamination into the Oyster River would be a problem from failing septic systems.

Mr. Macaluso responded that the time frame to go out to bid is the week of December 20, 2010 with a return of bids no later than January 14, 2011. Then the project would have to go before the Board of Finance and the Board of Aldermen for financing in February 2011 and to award the bid and possibly start construction around March 2011 and have the project completed by the fall of 2011.

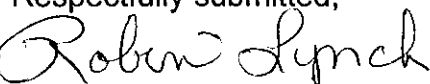
Robert Kerin asked if that was realistic to which **Mr. Macaluso** responded "yes".

Thomas Vinci of 18 Grove Street – stated that the pump station was supposed to go on Rosemary Court and if you use yellow brick on the shore you won't even notice the pump station because of the sun shining on the sand it would blend in just like the West Haven Treatment Plant.

Chairman Carroll declared the Public Hearing closed at 8:00 p.m. and asked for a motion.

Commissioner Cooke made a motion to end the Public Hearing at 8:00 p.m. with Vice Chairman Anderson seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Carroll thanked everyone for coming and announced that the Commission would be taking a 5 minute recess before they held the regular Sewer Commission meeting which was to be held after the Public Hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Lynch
Recording Secretary