CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Aldermanic President John Anglace opened the Public Hearing at approximately 7 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Aldermanic President John F. Anglace, Jr. – present
Alderman Lynne Farrell – present
Alderman John “Jack” Finn - present
Alderman Stanley Kudej - present
Alderman Eric McPherson – absent
Alderman Noreen McGorty - absent
Alderman John P. Papa – present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti – absent

1. WATER MAIN EXTENSION FOR 599-615 BOOTH HILL ROAD AND 10 OXFORD DRIVE

Alderman Anglace stated, first we’ll take up the water main extension for 599-615 Booth Hill Road and 10 Oxford Drive. This is a continuation from a public hearing back on November 29th. Mr. Kulacz, will you bring us up to date on where we stand?

Bob Kulacz, City Engineer

We finally have a ruling from the Corporation Counsel in regard to where the City is limited in participating on any water main extension. Basically he ruled that our construction activities have to be limited to the public right of way or City-accepted and maintained streets. So in reality, we cannot participate in any way, shape or form on the long service lines that will bring the public water to the front of the homes at 605, 599 Booth Hill Road and 10 Oxford Drive.

What we did was revise the cost estimate as well as the plan to show that we’re limiting our activities to solely installing the main on Booth Hill Road and the five water connections and meter pits on Booth Hill Road at the edge of the properties. The revised cost estimate reflects those changes and I’ll be waiting for any questions that you or the public may have.
Alderman Anglace stated, Bob, looking at your map and following it here, can you answer these questions? How many homeowners are affected by the water main installation from the corner of Rouleau Lane and Booth Hill Road to Oxford Drive and Booth Hill Road?

Mr. Kulacz replied, it would be five property owners. They are shown on the map as being highlighted in gray. The five houses are 615, 606, 605, 599 Booth Hill Road and 10 Oxford Drive. Those are the ones that would benefit from the installation. That’s five.

Alderman Anglace asked, what is the number of owners in favor?

Mr. Kulacz replied, I don’t know at this point; we didn’t send out any ballots. We normally do that after we have the revised project. But all five were mailed the revised plan, the revised cost estimates and I didn’t receive any input. The cost estimate is attached. After the water rebate from Aquarion we estimate the assessment to be $11,743.

Alderman Anglace stated, what we need to know now is the number of homeowners in favor and the number of homeowners opposed. Let’s open up the hearing. Will the homeowner at number 615 Booth Hill Road come to the podium please, and tell us, are you in favor of this or are you opposed?

Steven Miller, 615 Booth Hill Road

I am in favor of it.

Alderman Anglace stated, okay. Number 606 Booth Hill Road, are you here? Tell us if you’re in favor or opposed.

Mike Bryant, 606 Booth Hill Road

If the water will benefit the other people, that’s fine. I don’t want in on it no more, because I fixed my well. I don’t have a problem with not having water at my house no longer. I don’t know if this is going to affect me getting billed as far as y’all producing water to the houses getting to Oxford Drive or not. I have no clue. Okay? Because I don’t know y’all do your figuring, okay? Because y’all give us a price of getting water from Rouleau, cross Booth Hill Road, or down Booth Hill Road. You’re going to cut across to 615 for Steve, across my driveway at 606, and then going up Oxford to supply three more houses. I’m all in favor of supplying all of them houses, but I don’t want to pay nothing to help those people out because I no longer need City water. So I’m against it I guess.

Alderman Anglace stated, do you understand that if the Board approves this water main, that you would be one of the affected households and you would be assessed $11,000?
Mr. Bryant replied, no, sir. I will refuse to pay that $11,000.

Alderman Anglace stated, just hold on a second.

Mr. Bryant replied, okay.

Alderman Anglace continued, you would not have to tie into the City water, but you would be assessed $11,000.

Mr. Bryant stated, no, sir. That $11,000...

Alderman Anglace stated, so, can you answer the question, are you in favor of us proceeding with the installation of this water main or not?

Mr. Bryant stated, let me ask you one question. When this here comes across my front yard and I don’t want water, are you going to make me pay you $11,000 for something I am not getting any benefit from?

Alderman Anglace stated, the answer is yes.

Mr. Bryant stated, the answer will be no.

Alderman Anglace stated, okay, so your answer is no.

Mr. Bryant stated, my answer is no that I’m not for it and I’m not going to pay you $11,000 if you do put it across there.

Alderman Anglace stated, okay.

Mr. Bryant stated, I understand the City has more lawyers and money than I, but six years of my life has been in battle here. I am done. I told y’all that last year, sir. Okay? It cost me $7 grand already just to get something that I’ve asked for for five years. They come to me at first at $30,000 in 2005. Now you’re telling me you want $11,000 for something that I don’t want and that I’m not going to take and that it’s no use to me? Why do I have to pay $11,000? Bottom line. You explain that to me.

Alderman Anglace stated, yes, I will. I’ll be glad to. You’re in the same position that I’m in. I had water go by my house. It went by my house and I was assessed like everybody else. I didn’t tie in. I didn’t want it. I didn’t tie in. But it increased the value of my house. The house is worth more as a result, and so I paid for it. The 10 years has gone by; it’s fully paid for. That’s the reason. I got more value from the property.

Mr. Bryant stated, okay. Well I’m sorry, but I’m going to honestly say, I hate to say it this way, but the way I see it, you ain’t getting $11,000 out of me if you run the water line across my property.

Alderman Anglace stated, we understand...
Mr. Bryant stated, okay, let me finish, sir. I let you finish. Let me finish, please. The City of Shelton a month and a half ago sent me an assessment on the value of my house. They just dropped me over $20,000, okay, for the value of my house. Right now my house is worth less than what I owe on it. So if you think I’m going to pay another $11,000 to try to bring up the value of my house right now in this economy, you’re crazier than I am. You’re crazier than I am, sir. I hate to say it that way.

Alderman Anglace stated, we’ll respect your opinion...

Mr. Bryant stated, okay, that’s my honest opinion and I said, I’m a southern boy and I’m going to stand to my ground. I won’t pay you.

Alderman Anglace stated, all right, thank you.

Alderman Anglace continued, now, number 605 Booth Hill Road, are you here? What is your position?

John Sabo, 605 Booth Hill Road

I am in favor.

Alderman Anglace stated, you’re in favor.

Mr. Sabo stated, yes.

Alderman Anglace asked, is 599 Booth Hill Road here? Okay, 599 is not here. Is number 10 Oxford Drive here?

Robert Voccola, 10 Oxford Drive

I am in favor.

Alderman Papa stated, can I ask you a question, sir? Your neighbor on 599 – do you know where he is?

Mr. Voccola replied, I know he wants the water; I don't know where he is, though.

Alderman Anglace stated, well, he is on record in the public hearing as being in favor of it.

Mr. Voccola stated, as wanting it, yes.

Alderman Anglace stated, we will proceed on that basis. We have four in favor and one opposed. This will go forward to the Board of Aldermen meeting, the March meeting, which is the second Thursday in March, which is the 8th, I believe, where we will take the final action on it. I will say this to you, I suspect that with four to one we would approve
the water main extension. It being fully understood that what we’re going to do at Oxford Drive is to put in three curb boxes and the water down Oxford Drive is a matter for the residents to handle on their own.

Mr. Voccola stated, correct.

Alderman Anglace stated, because that’s a private street. Okay, so does anybody else want to be heard on anything.

Mike Bryant, 606 Booth Hill Road

I’ve got one more question. You’re telling me, you’re telling me it’s going to cost me $11,000 for something that I don’t want and that I’m not going to use. That’s what you’re telling me before I leave here tonight, right? Because I don’t want to have to pay for something that I am not going to use, okay? I am not going to use that water. And you’re telling me I’m going to pay $11,000 to the City of Shelton? Answer my question. I’m going to have to pay $11,000 to the City of Shelton for something that is not tied into my house, that does not flush my toilet, that does not wash my clothes, that does not water my wife, my child, my grandchild. You’re telling me you’re going to charge me $11,000 for something that I don’t use.

Alderman Anglace stated, yes.

Mr. Bryant stated, okay. That’s all I need to hear, sir. I’m done. Thank you, Steve. Y’all have a good night.

Alderman Anglace stated, for the record, just for the record so the record is completely clear, this is not the first time and it’s not the first time that the Board of Aldermen has approved a water main extension based on submission of a petition of the majority of neighbors in the area where the petition was submitted for. There have been other petitions where neighbors were not in favor of the water but the majority were. The Board of Aldermen approved the water main installation and all property owners who benefited from that water main installation were assessed. So that’s the history. I’m sorry. The Board of Aldermen did not initiate this petition. The Board of Aldermen is charged with the responsibility however of acting on the petition. And in my judgment if you have five people in total, and four want it and one doesn’t, the chances are highly likely that the Board of Aldermen come the meeting in March will approve it. I can only give you the benefit of my experience and my thinking, and that of the Board, so with that we’ll close the public hearing.

Steven Miller, 615 Booth Hill Road

I was just curious; I have two questions. The City Engineer’s drawing shows the meter pit going on a certain part of my property. It’s crossing my driveway. I was just wondering if that is at all changeable, if it could not cross my driveway and go through the front yard since that’s where I would be bringing it up to the house anyway.
And my second question is, if it is approved, how soon does the construction actually start?

Mr. Kulacz explained, the plan is just showing graphically what a typical connection would be. What we do is contact each homeowner directly or via the mail to show us exactly where they want their connection and meter pit. They can put a stake or a paint mark and we put it wherever they want it. That’s determined in the field. As to the start of construction, once the decision is made to fund the project, we will go out to bid. We have to draw up the plans with the water company. So assuming a March approval by the Board, we could probably go out to bid and have bid openings some time in May and then the actual monies have to be in place before we can sign the contract. So I would imagine breaking ground some time in June or July.

Alderman Anglace asked Mr. Miller, are your questions answered, sir?

Mr. Miller replied yes, they are. Thank you.

Alderman Papa stated, the person who was not here. He already voted that he is in favor of that water main, right?

Mr. Voccola replied, Mickey, yes.

Alderman Papa stated, okay. We don’t have to have any other information other than that?

Alderman Anglace stated, it’s in the minutes.

Mr. Kulacz stated, I would assume he’ll be in favor because the price is less. But then he has to participate 100 percent coming up Oxford Drive. So I didn’t hear one way or another from anybody other than when we were going to have the continuation of the meeting.

Alderman Papa stated, should he contact you just so we’re a little more comfortable about that?

Alderman Anglace stated, I feel very comfortable because this is the third time we’ve met at this public hearing and you’ve got views from people back and forth, and it was unanimous to proceed as I recall.

Alderman Papa stated, it was.

Alderman Anglace stated, I don’t think we have to do any more. I think plenty of opportunities have been...

Alderman Papa stated, if I can remember, the person that was objecting to the water initially he wanted this, didn’t he? Didn’t he sign the petition that he was in favor of it?
Mr. Voccola replied, yes.

Alderman Papa stated, he just changed his mind and did his own thing?

Mr. Voccola explained, he had the well dug because he has little kids at the house and he ran out of water. So he had to get it done.

Alderman Papa stated, good reason. Yes. Thank you.

John Sabo, 605 Booth Hill Road

I was just wondering if we had any say or if we could put any say in the matter on who you pick to do the construction when you go out to bid. My only reason for that is I see Mark IV working in Trumbull; I’ve seen their handiwork. We don’t need that in Shelton. We just had this road paved not too long ago. I don’t want them to look like Trumbull’s roads.

Mr. Miller stated, I agree with that.

Mr. Kulacz stated, the ironic part, Mark IV Construction did the reconstruction or the pavement reclamation on Booth Hill Road. We have to go out to bid, and the bidders have to be pre-qualified by the water company since it’s the water company’s infrastructure that we’re going to install. We could sign a contract directly with the water company, but their prices will be higher than if we go to public bid. It will have to be one of their contractors and frankly, our working relationship with Mark IV has been excellent. I don’t know, I’m familiar with the claims in Trumbull but their work has been very good for us. In fact, they even did that emergency repair we had for the culvert that collapsed on Long Hill Avenue last June.

Alderman Anglace stated, if there is no one else that wishes to be heard...

Alderman Finn MOVED to close the public hearing on the Water Main Extension; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 5-0.

2. AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #836 – CORPORATION COUNSEL SALARY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SHELTON:

Section 2-134

a) Commencing July 1, 2012 the annual compensation for general matters for the Corporation Counsel shall be $44,721.00 to be paid in monthly increments during the fiscal year. The salary for the Assistant Corporation Counsel
shall be $31,278.00, payable in monthly increments during the fiscal year.

b) The Corporation Counsel shall receive, in addition to such sum, the sum of $700.00 per month in lieu of secretarial assistance and the Assistant Corporation Counsel shall receive a payment of $570.00 per month in lieu of secretarial assistance.

For those matters which are not included within the above referenced items of compensation, specifically litigation, contested matters and labor work, and such other matters as historically have not been included within the annual compensation of the Corporation Counsel, the hourly rate shall be as approved by the Board of Aldermen from time to time.

Alderman Anglace stated, this is just the suggested amendment to the Ordinance. This is open for public hearing. If there is anyone that wishes to comment on it we would like to hear from you.

Alderman Anglace asked three times for comment. Being none, Alderman Kudej MOVED to close the public hearing on the amendment to the Ordinance; SECONDED by Alderman Finn. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 7:30 p.m., Alderman Papa MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Date Submitted: ____________________

DATE APPROVED: ____________________
BY: ____________________
Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton