



BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT
Public Hearing on Ordinances
March 23, 2010

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Aldermanic President John Anglace opened the Public Hearing at approximately 7 p.m. All those present pledged allegiance to the flag. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Scouts Jackson and Richard Taylor.

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 - present
Alderman Noreen McGorty - absent
Alderman John P. Papa - present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti - present

1. AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #795 - POLICE CHIEF CONTRACT

Alderman Anglace asked three times if any person wished to speak on the Amendment to Ordinance #795. Being none, Alderman Papa MOVED to close the hearing on this item; SECONDED by Alderman Simonetti. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

2. AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE #743 - FLOOD DAMAGE PREVENTION

Alderman Anglace stated, this is an existing ordinance that's been on the books for quite some time. Modifications are being made in accordance with FEMA regulations being updated. It's standard procedure to have a public hearing and receive comment.

Alderman Anglace asked if any person wished to speak on the Amendment to Ordinance #743. He stated that recently former Alderman Bob Lally had called him regarding the longstanding flooding problem in Huntington Center. We had investigated the problem and reasons for it. We concluded the reason for the flooding in Huntington Center, or a great deal of it, was that by Whipporwill there was a detention pond that was built, and it wasn't built correctly, and it wasn't holding the water and releasing it slowly. It was just collecting there and rushing out. Every storm we had, Huntington Center and the back of Bob Lally's place would just get wiped out. Big concrete barriers would just get wiped out. The golf course there, the crest of the road, it was just terrible. Through litigation

the detention pond was fixed. Lally called me not more than two weeks ago to tell me that it was successful because we had a big rain storm and he had hardly a drop of water. It made a great difference.

That was one thing. The other reason is that there are tributaries that come into the back of the homes along Huntington Street. There have been some improvements there.

Joe Bloeman, 134 Huntington Street

I take it you're talking about my back yard. This has been going on for 20 years. We moved there in 1979 and in 1982 or 83 we had a huge flood. Chaffee's property had about four feet of water in the basement. Nothing has ever been done. The town spent money putting the sewer system in for Chaffee's property and the property alongside of him because their leaching fields were useless. Still, nothing has been done in the river and the water comes down like you can't believe. Tucker's, who live on the north side of me, have removed from the back yard in the middle of the stream at least four or five shopping carts. That's a quarter of a mile that they've washed down unless you can convince me that somebody took these carriages and threw them off the Lane Street bridge. They still came down several hundred feet. There's a lot of force there. Milk crates from the stores. Karl Rehnberg told me he's moved and he's seen at least 80 or more down in the swamp below him. A few years ago, beavers came here. I didn't know it but somebody up here probably knew about it even before that. They were down in back of the property, I believe it comes close to Sycamore. There was a dam over there. My findings that the dam was washed out and the beavers moved upstream and they put another dam in just south of Hawley's property. In fact, it's in the Hawley's property. They had a little bridge that went across. The bridge is washed out and the dam starts from that roadway that was put there and goes down maybe 100 foot length. It's not high; you have to look for it, but it raised the water and now everything comes down and gets stuck in the brush that's growing there. Twigs, grass, you can't believe it. It just builds up and up and before you know it, trees are grown there. We had a house downstream from us, three houses south of us, back in the 80s he started putting a rock dam up there, and he started putting fill back there, and he had a wooden picket fence back there. I complained. Inland Wetlands came out there, it was a young lady at the time, she gave him a notice to get rid of it. He didn't. A couple years later we got flooded out again. I complained again. He got a second notice from the same girl. Nothing happened. Years go by and Mr. Cook is involved. Mr. Cook thinks this is great because this is the way nature works. It floods. Okay. Comes along, it washes out. Back in '82 we put a four-foot pool in our back yard. 24 foot diameter. My wife calls me at work and says, "Joe, you've got to come home. The water's coming up the side of the pool." Four foot pool. Nice crystal clear water in there. It looked marvelous as the muddy water just cascaded over the top into the pool. I had to drain the whole pool and wash all the mud out. It's never gotten that high again. What I'm saying is, the water that comes down from the reservoir, from all the streets up above, it comes from Monroe, around the golf course. It just comes down; it's a big valley, it comes down. Every year it's more and more water. The last several years the water takes less time to rise up where the grass is completely covered. It's under anywhere from six to 12

inches of water. So you figure it would rain today, before the end of the day it comes up a foot. Two or three days from now it goes down maybe six out of 14 inches and it stays there for weeks, months. For me to go and cut my grass, I have to wait until probably July, almost into August. It's muddy back there. I leave footprints all over the place. You can't cut the grass like that. We used to have family picnics there for 15 years. Every summer the grass was always cut. We had a horse shoe pit back there. We used to have badminton and so forth. We gave up the parties, but not because of the water, we just got tired of doing it. The back yard keeps getting worse and worse. Another interesting fact is, the water stays up where it's flooded. It looks like it's going down but it stays within two, three inch. You come home or you get up in the morning, the water's gone. Miraculously it disappears. What happens is, it happens to coincide with the water going down or the water coming up. I call it the bubbler up at the reservoir on Huntington Street. When the water company is pumping water into the reservoir, my back yard goes down. They shut the pump off, within 24 hours water starts coming up again. Where is it coming from? Who is responsible for this? Not the water company; they're just probably flushing their pipes out. This is what it is, when they stop the water comes up again. It's horrendous. Ulas (sp?) property. She had a little roadway that went from her house to the far field. There's a couple concrete abutments put in there and the bridge was put over it. That space between the two pilings or the two concrete pieces, 8 - 10 feet. It's about five or six feet deep there. It's not wide enough to let all this water go down. You can go down there today or tomorrow and see how the trees are washed back with the water coming over. You come into my yard, Tucker's who live on the north side of us, upstream toward the center, they have about 15-20 trees, they're dead. They're 12-inch trunks, 14-inch trunks. They've been there how long? 60 years? Maybe more. They're dead. Who's going to cut them down? Not the town. It's on private property. You have to do something. As development comes in there's more water piped down into the valley. Where does it go? It goes right through Huntington Center. You don't see flooding anywhere else but you see it in our backyard. You can't see it unless you come into our yard. I invite every one of you people to come down any time you want, within the next two or three weeks and see what it looks like. Especially now. It was going down and a couple of days ago, the rain that we had the other night right up again. It's flooded. I have a few pictures here. I've been taking pictures two or three times a week from last October. I can show you how the water goes up and down. It's a pain and it takes away from my property value. Why other people aren't down here complaining about this I don't know. They know they have a problem. I'm here again, probably the fourth or fifth time, to ask you people to do something. The beavers are supposedly gone, I don't know. I know a half dozen or so were caught by a trapper. As I say, if anybody wants to come see our back yard, be my guest, you don't even have to ask for permission, you've got it right here.

Anita Mobbs, 144 Huntington Street

You may want to consider our properties considering that my house is the oldest building in Shelton. It was built before 1710. When we moved there my husband and I, it was a very, very beautiful yard with beautiful old trees that are disappearing. The brook is up; I'm more fortunate than they are because my back yard is a higher level. The smaller, lower lever is under water. It has killed the willow trees down there. Also

in Rehnberg’s yard, their huge, beautiful willow trees have been destroyed. It’s really a crime because it’s an absolute mess. It looks like what the shore would look as a hurricane went through and the sand and all the junk comes across the road. So I just wanted to give you information about my property. Thank you.

Alderman Anglace stated, back in the days when Bob was on the Board, and Bob and I were into this, we brought Inland Wetlands and the City Engineer into it, trying to get them to do something about it. Regulations of waterways prohibit you from doing a number of things. Everything has to go through Inland Wetlands, and they’re well aware of this problem. They took some strange positions on it way back when.

Alderman Anglace asked if anyone else wished to speak. Being none, Aldermen Papa MOVED to close the hearing on this item; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Alderman Simonetti MOVED to adjourn; SECONDED by Alderman Kudej. A voice vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Bruder
Clerk, Board of Aldermen

Date Submitted: _____

DATE APPROVED: _____

BY: _____

Mark A. Lauretti
Mayor, City of Shelton