



**BOARD OF ALDERMEN
SHELTON, CONNECTICUT**

Public Hearing –February 24, 2009

Water Main Assessments – Sorghum, Walnut Tree Hill, Booth Hill Roads

CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Aldermanic President John Anglace opened the Public Hearing at 7 p.m. All those present rose and pledged allegiance to the flag.

ROLL CALL

Aldermanic President John F. Anglace, Jr. – present
Alderman Lynne Farrell - absent
Alderman John "Jack" Finn - present
Alderman Stanley Kudej - present
Alderman Kenneth Olin – present
Alderman John P. Papa – present
Alderman Eric McPherson – present
Alderman Anthony Simonetti - present

Legal Notice, City of Shelton

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FOLLOWING:

- WATER MAIN ASSESSMENT – SORGHAM ROAD
- WATER MAIN ASSESSMENT – WALNUT TREE HILL ROAD
- WATER MAIN ASSESSMENT – BOOTH HILL ROAD

SAID PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2009 AT 7 P.M. IN THE AUDITORIUM AT SHELTON CITY HALL, 54 HILL STREET, SHELTON.

ALL PERSONS WHO HAVE AN INTEREST THEREIN MAY APPEAR AND BE HEARD IN RELATION HERETO.

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

Alderman Anglace stated, we've got three water main assessment hearings to go through. Essentially what happens in the beginning is that when people decide they'd like to have water mains brought into their area, they get up a petition, they go see the City Engineer who takes the petition and determines what the area is going to be, where the water main begins and where it ends. Then we have a public hearing on it to see if there is enough interest. If there is enough interest among those people impacted then the Board of Aldermen can then authorize the project and get started and authorize the funding for the project once the project gets started. When the project is completed, then the total cost of the project is divided up among the number of property owners affected. Then we hold a public hearing, and that's what we're doing tonight. The homeowners that are impacted are given notice, and notice is printed in the newspaper, then the Board of Aldermen hears any comments the people might have with respect to cost of the project and how it will be proportionately shared. We have three such hearings tonight.

1. Water Main Assessment – Sorghum Road

Alderman Anglace asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board on this water main assessment. Being none, he stated that the Board will hold this in abeyance in case anyone arriving late wished to speak.

2. Water Main Assessment – Walnut Tree Hill Road

Alan Potter, 352 Walnut Tree Hill Road

My comment mainly is the fact that I didn't want this main put in and neither did a bunch of my neighbors. I don't feel that I should have to pay for something that I didn't want and was forced on me in the first place. I don't feel that I live in Russia that anybody can dictate to the people and that's, the people have to do whatever they say. I'm not happy about this, forcing me. I'm retired and live on a fixed income. I just don't have that kind of money to shell out for something like this. I don't see anybody coming to my aid to help me out, either. All I see is somebody saying, "Hey, pay this or else." That's the way it seems the people in power here dictate anything they well darn please to the public. We don't seem to have any rights at all. I'd like to know what you can do to help me.

Alderman Anglace stated, we're at the point where the water main is installed, and we're about to make the assessments. The issue on whether or not to do the job has already been made, a long time ago, and we're beyond that.

Mr. Potter stated, right, well, you only consulted the people that wanted it for themselves. So maybe you got say, 60 percent out of the 100 that wanted it, and the other 40 percent that didn't want it, that didn't matter to you. You made up your mind and I don't know, maybe you all have some interest in Aquarion water supply, because why would the town put in piping for another company that's privately owned for water line.

Alderman Anglace, stated, let me explain to you. You are talking here, a total of five households in this particular project. This is maybe the 50th or 60th project we've done over the course of time since I've been sitting on the Board of Aldermen. Many times I've asked myself and others and we've looked at the ordinance as well. We don't want to sit up here and play God for anybody. But you have a situation where people come in and petition, how do you decide? That's all set out in the ordinance. If the majority wants it, that's what we go with. That's the way the ordinance reads.

Mr. Potter stated, here's another one. Why didn't you go in from Applewood where Thompson is on that end and go in, 'cause your line is right there. You could have come in and fed those houses that took the water and not bothered me and my neighbors that didn't take it.

Alderman Anglace replied, I don't know. The City Engineer is here and maybe would like to respond to that.

Mr. Kulacz stated, based on the petitions of the houses, that was the quickest and shortest direct point to make the extension service the houses that did petition for the extension of the water main. We go with the shortest distance necessary.

Mr. Potter stated, where is the help for seniors that live on fixed income to pay for this project? Where is our help?

Alderman Anglace asked, what do you mean, where is the help for seniors?

Mr. Potter asked, is the town coming to our aid, or is the state or government to help us out? We that didn't want this project are forced with a bill that we didn't need to have.

Alderman Anglace stated, whether you want it or don't want it, you benefit from it.

Mr. Potter asked, how do I benefit? We've had a well for over 50 years and had no problem. How does it benefit us?

Alderman Anglace stated, we are not here to argue with you. You didn't want it from the beginning. That's what you said a few minutes ago. We are down the road from whether or not we're going to do the project. The project has been completed.

Mr. Potter stated, I know, you went ahead because you didn't care about the people that didn't want it.

Alderman Anglace stated, we do care. The way it's set up by ordinance, we have to follow the ordinance. We don't sit down and say, eight people want it and two people don't want it, and the two people that don't want it don't have to pay; the other eight will pay. The ordinance sets forth how it's going to be done.

Mr. Potter stated, well instead of billing each person that got affected by it, those that didn't, the taxes where everyone in the whole town pays a portion of it because it's the town putting in the piping and the town that's benefiting from it. Not so much the people that live here.

Alderman Anglace asked, have you read the ordinance?

Mr. Potter replied, no, I haven't.

Alderman Anglace stated, well, I suggest you read the ordinance, because it might help you understand what we did and why we did it. We're not sitting here in every case where people come in and petition the Board of Aldermen. What they petition the Board of Aldermen for is to up front the money to do the job, to bring the water main in. We, by ordinance, we can do that if there is a clear majority that want the water main, we do that. Then we're authorized later to make an assessment. The assessment in this case is \$11,135, which is paid back over 10 years and the interest rate is 3.5 percent.

Mr. Potter stated, that's another thing right there. You forced us to pay this bill, and then on top of it you add interest on it, doubling the amount you're paying out in the long run. You are not making anything easy for anyone. Even the banks don't give you that much interest on the

money. You're making out better than the banks do. If I had that money in the bank, I'd only get 2, 2.5 percent on it. You are getting 3.5 percent on me and forcing me to pay the money on top of it.

Alderman Anglace stated, as I said before, the ordinance...

Mr. Potter interjected, yeah, I know. You're blaming everything on the ordinance. How is the ordinance helping people that are retired and living on a fixed income? We're the poor people that don't have any money on top of it to pay it.

Alderman Anglace stated, I think if you look hard enough up here, you will see that there are a number of us up here that are kind of gray and kind of balding. We are all retired and on fixed incomes.

Mr. Potter stated, yeah, well if you retired from the town of Shelton you're fixed income is a helluva lot better than mine would ever be. So don't smile up there. I know what you're getting and what you're not getting. Don't be so smug about this.

Alderman Anglace stated, okay, please, I've tried to engage in some exchange with you...

Mr. Potter interjected, I'm wanting to know how can you help me pay this bill on top of it.

Alderman Anglace stated, we want to hear what you have say; you're not interested in anything I have to say. I'm not going to talk any more. Go ahead and tell us whatever you want to tell us.

I want to know how you can help me pay this bill. If I don't have the money to pay it, you'll end up taking my property away from me by taxing me. How are you going to come to my aid to help me pay this bill, to give me some type of assistance?

Alderman Anglace stated, like I said, I'm going to listen from now on. Go ahead.

Mr. Potter stated, I just told you. I don't hear any feedback from you saying how you could help me.

Alderman Anglace stated, we're not going to respond. We are just going to listen to what you have to say.

Mr. Potter asked, is there any help from the government or from the State of Connecticut or anything like that to help me?

Alderman Anglace stated, what you're talking about has nothing to do with what we're here to listen to.

Mr. Potter stated, yes, you're forcing a bill on me yet you're not providing any help for me.

Alderman Anglace stated, how you are going to pay for this bill...

Mr. Potter interjected, you don't give a darn. That's the truth. Isn't that it? You could care less. It doesn't matter to you as long as I pay it.

Alderman Papa stated, the situation here is, the majority of the people wanted it, so it benefits the majority of the people. They petitioned us, and as Aldermen, we made a decision that the majority of the people want the sewers or the water or whatever it is, we voted on it, we went out for bonding. You have 10 years to pay it.

Mr. Potter stated, right, but you didn't take into consideration the people that are involved as far as their capability of paying this particular project that you're putting forth against them. You didn't go around and check with each household to see whether they could afford it or not. Even the people that wanted the water, they don't necessarily are able to pay for it. It's like going out and buying a new car, oh sure you can charge it on your credit card but when it comes down to the nitty gritty of paying for it, you don't have the money.

Alderman Papa stated, when you sell your house, your house will be worth more because you have water. Your insurance will be less because you have a fire hydrant. So you have some advantages.

Mr. Potter stated, oh, but I had a fire hydrant close enough so it didn't matter. It won't affect my insurance at all.

Alderman Anglace stated, there is not much we can do for you now.

Mr. Potter stated, ha, there's not much, what is that much you could do? Nothing. A big, fat zero, correct? Not a damn thing you can do for me. So it was a waste of my time coming down here. I mean you want to, you want to hear things but you don't have any suggestions or anything to say.

Alderman Anglace stated, with all due respect, look. We are bound to follow the ordinance. My suggestion to you if you want to understand it a little better, is to read the ordinance.

Mr. Potter stated, I know what happened and how you do things. I've been involved in politics before. The thing of it is, you lay a bill on people that didn't need the bill. You add to it the 3.5 percent on top of it. The people that can't pay end up, you say you're getting value in your house when you sell it, well, if you're not paying your taxes and paying this money, eventually you are taking a piece of that house and taking a piece of the house until finally, you own the house and I don't own it no more and I'm out on the street. Nothing. So you're not there to help anyone. You are here to run things through and do whatever you please but you're not taking care of any of the people that need help.

Alderman Anglace stated, we do what the ordinance tells us to do.

Mr. Potter stated, I have to write my own ordinances and do what I would tell them to do.

Alderman Anglace stated, I'm at a disadvantage, but don't be surprised if I give you a call following this meeting when I go home and check my files. Because I am going to pull the first public hearing to see what your comments were at that time when it would have been meaningful, and to see how many people voted for this.

Mr. Potter stated, I wasn't there at that meeting 'cause I was out of town on business at that time. You won't find anything in there about anything.

Alderman Anglace stated, and you didn't send in anything in writing either, did you?

Mr. Potter replied, no, I did not.

Alderman Anglace stated, I wonder if the City Engineer remembers if they did a...

Mr. Potter stated, when they came around and polled, I told them what I thought.

Alderman Anglace stated, because if we are uncertain as to how the petitioners want to proceed, we send out a written ballot to confirm so that we're sure this is something that's wanted by the majority. In some

PUBLIC HEARING ON WATER MAIN ASSESSMENTS
SORGHUM, WALNUT TREE HILL, BOOTH HILL ROADS

cases where we've had, in one case we had 9 in favor, 7 opposed. And we didn't do the project. So it's just not a rubber stamp. It has got to be a clear and convincing majority. It must have been in this case. We're beyond that now.

Mr. Potter stated, I understand that. My main concern here is how I could be helped financially for myself in the predicament that I'm in to pay this and not lose my home.

Alderman Anglace stated, here's what I suggest you do. Make a visit, come in, sit down with the City Assessor who will make you aware of all programs – senior programs, veterans programs, tax programs, etc. that we have that are available through the City and the State.

Mr. Potter stated, I get a veterans redemption a little bit, \$3,000 doesn't amount to a helluva lot.

Alderman Anglace stated, to be honest with you, I don't know of any assistance anywhere paying for water main assessments, the state or otherwise. I just don't know.

Mr. Potter stated, thank you for letting me talk anyway. I got it off my chest and it made me feel better anyway.

3. Water Main Assessment – Booth Hill Road

Alderman Anglace asked three times if any member of the public wished to address the Board regarding the Booth Hill Road water main assessment.

Alderman Finn MOVED to close the public hearing on water main assessments for Sorghum Road, Walnut Tree Hill Road and Booth Hill road; SECONDED by Alderman Papa. 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