

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
P. O. Box 308  
Somers, Connecticut 06071**

**WPCA MINUTES  
Tuesday, July 7, 2009  
7:00 p.m.  
Town Hall Conference Room**

**I. Public Hearing – Sunset Drive Area – TCP Well Water Remediation**

Chairman Jim Botellio called the public hearing to order and read the legal notice. Jim stated that the purpose of this public hearing is to present to the residents of Sunset Drive an overview of what the WPCA has been working on for the past two years including negotiations with the State. We have looked at two alternatives – filters or extending the water main in order to remove the TCP pollution from the wells on Sunset Drive. The State has agreed to pay for extending the water main and also will pay for the connection of the water main to each individual home – provided the homeowner agrees to abandoning their existing well. Any existing filter systems will also be removed.

Mike Mocko, engineer for this project, said that the State has grant money set aside to pay for this project. These monies will not be affected by the current State budget deficit. Mike Mocko has done an engineering study of the options available for removing the TCP contamination from the wells on Sunset Drive. Mike stated that connecting to the water main actually saves \$100,000 from the total cost of the project over a twenty year period. Connecting to the Hazardville Water Company's water line also provides greater reliability than maintaining the filters. If power goes out, the State has the facilities to keep the water flowing. HWC answers complaints immediately.

GAC filters have been supplied by the State for residents with polluted wells. Proper maintenance of these filters concerns both the resident and the State. There is a greater chance of something going wrong with the filters than with the public water system. The homeowner would have to maintain the filter system if they chose not to hook up to public water.

Mike compared/reviewed public acceptance of one system versus the other. Specifically, what is the potential resale value of the home. If you have a filter system to remove the contamination, it could turn off potential buyers. Public water is always accepted by buyers and is actually a good selling point.

Mike Mocko recommends that we proceed with connection to public water. This would include the extension of the existing water main, individual connection to the water main, hydrants and restoration of the roadway and personal property.

Jim Botellio then asked for comments and questions from the audience of about twelve residents of Sunset Drive.

**Carol Pyne, 46 Sunset Drive:**

Carol asked if everyone on Sunset Drive had to agree before we can move forward with the project and asked if this was a one-time offer from the State.

**Mike Mocko** replied that this public hearing is only for receiving input from the Sunset Drive residents. The WPCA and State have an agreement to hook up to public water. There will be a deadline for hooking up to the water main paid for by the State. Mike does not know what that deadline will be but he estimates it would be within a year after the water main extension is completed. After the contractor is finished doing the hookups to the water main, then the homeowner would probably be responsible for paying for their own hookup. This is an opportunity to solve a problem and have 100% funding from the State grant.

Carol asked if the State would pay for the maintenance of the filters on contaminated wells.

Mike Mocko said the town will no longer be responsible and after the period agreed to for funding, the homeowner would have to do his own filter maintenance.

**Vicky Woronecki, 21 Sunset Drive:**

Vicky verified with Mike Mocko that the State will remove the filters only if the homeowner agrees to having public water.

**Tom Fahey, 68 Sunset Drive:**

Tom asked what is the cost to connect to public water and was told by Mike Mocko that the current cost is about \$3,000.

**Vicky Woronecki, 21 Sunset Drive:**

Vicky asked what does an average family of four pay for public water and was told by Mike Mocko that it would be about \$360 a year billed quarterly.

She asked if she would be required to seal her well or could it be used for watering lawns, etc.

Steve Jacob said the well must be abandoned to qualify for State assistance. Steve also stated that if she were to sell her house, most mortgage companies would make it mandatory to hook up to the public water system.

**Ray Duda, 67 Sunset Drive:**

Ray asked how many wells on Sunset Drive are contaminated and was told that about half of the wells are contaminated on the street. He asked who is responsible for this contamination and was told that no one was determined to be guilty of the contamination.

Ray asked if uncontaminated wells would become contaminated in the future and Mike Mocko responded that most likely, these wells will become contaminated because the contamination is in the bedrock on the street.

Jim Botellio explained that if you choose not to connect to public water and most of the others agree to hook up, that the probability of your well becoming contaminated might increase.

**Richard Thomas, 31 Sunset Drive:**

Richard asked if there was a penalty for not hooking up to public water and was told by Steve Jacobs that there is no penalty. Richard asked about the water quality of public water and was told by Steve Jacobs that he has not received any complaints. Jim Botellio said that he has public water from HWC and he has no complaints about water quality. He says the water has a slight taste of chlorine.

Mike Mocko remarked that all the restaurants in Somersville have public water and that HWC is much cheaper than Connecticut Water Company that costs at least twice as much.

**Ray Juda, 67 Sunset Drive:**

Ray asked what is the time frame for beginning this project and was told by Steve Jacobs that the plan is to start laying water lines by the end of the summer. It is up to the State to move forward with the project.

Ray asked how he would get an accurate estimate of the cost of keeping the wells as opposed to what it will cost for public water.

Steve Jacobs said the cost will not be known until we go out for bid from contractors.

Mike Mocko said it would cost about \$4,000 to connect to the water main after this offer expires. Also, you have to make sure that your well is disconnected from the regular water service. The water company will do a survey to be sure the well water does not go into the public water system.

**Richard Woronecki, 21 Sunset Drive:**

Richard asked if the well water testing will continue after public water is made available and was told by Steve Jacobs that the town will no longer be responsible for monitoring on a regular basis. Steve Getman remarked that when the testing methods get better, even someone that does not currently have a contaminated well may show signs of TCP contamination in the future.

**Audrey Poynton, 30 Sunset Drive:**

Audrey asked if the trees on her property will be destroyed by connecting to the public water and was told by Mike Mocko that any obstacles are located before the construction occurs and the contractor will avoid taking out your trees and go around the areas that you want to save.

**Mrs. Juda, 67 Sunset Drive:**

Mrs. Juda asked when they do the hookup of the water, will they update the existing pipes and was told by Mike Mocko that the water pressure is constant with public water and it would not affect the existing pipes.

Steve Jacobs said that pressure reducing valves have been installed in Somersville and would be installed on Sunset Drive, if needed.

**Vicky Woronecki, 21 Sunset Drive:**

Vicky asked how did this whole detection of contamination start and was told by Steve Jacobs that the State was checking for EDB contamination and found the TCP contamination.

Vicky said there is still a field behind their house that is sprayed on a regular basis. Steve Jacobs replied that all chemicals applied today are DEP approved. He said that farmers can not dump water on another property. However, this would be a civil matter. Vicky confirmed that this whole project is being paid for by the State. Jim Botellio said that the State wants a solution to the contamination and does not want you to keep your well. The State wants you to connect to the public water system.

Vicky asked that if they abandon your well, will the State repair all damages and was told by Jim Botellio that the State is responsible for restoration of your property. There will be a maintenance bond on the contractor and the contractor will fix any problem.

Pictures are taken before construction so that the property returns to the same condition after construction.

Richard Woronecki asked if they would be receiving a letter to decide whether or not you want to sign up for public water or keep your well and Steve Jacobs replied that a letter will be sent out to each homeowner.

Jim Botellio said the homeowner can decide at a later date, if the contractor is still available to do the connection.

Richard Woronecki asked if you can shut off your water when you go on vacation and was told by Steve Jacobs that he would still have to pay for minimum usage. Also, water companies are regulated by the DPUC.

Steve Getman remarked that wells are not free. There are expenses connected with having a well such as periodically replacing the water pump, etc.

**Audrey Poynton, 30 Sunset Drive:**

Audrey asked if the water softener she currently uses can still be used and was told by Mike Mocko that with public water, a water softener will no longer be necessary.

As there were no more comments from the audience, the public hearing was concluded at 8:05 p.m.

**II. Call to Order:**

Jim Botellio called the regular meeting to order at 8:05 p.m. Members present were: Jim Botellio, Elinor Labutis, Steve Getman and Jim Faust. Also present were: Steve Jacobs, Registered Sanitarian, Mike Mocko, Ward Engineering and Dave Pinney, First Selectman.

**III. Approval of Minutes: June 2, 2009**

On page 1, item IV, fourth line, the extra zero was omitted so that the public water cost would be \$373,000. Steve Getman made a motion to approve the 6/2/09 minutes as amended; seconded by Jim Faust and unanimously approved by the Authority.

**IV. Highland View Dr. – S. MacCormack – Proposed Subdivision – Water Service:**

Steve Jacobs said that this is one large lot that has some unsuitable areas for septic systems. The developer wants to cut two new lots off the existing lot. They want to apply for two water service permits. Steve recommends approval of two additional lots at a \$2,600 assessment fee for each lot. Conservation and Planning have approved lowering the water table and with the drains in place, these lots do meet public health code. Jim Faust made a motion to recommend approval of two more lots on Highland View Drive for a total of three lots pending subdivision approval. This motion was seconded by Steve Getman and unanimously approved by the Authority.

**V. Sunset Drive – TCP Well Water Remediation:**

Steve Jacobs said the Board of Finance had some questions about the appropriation for money to begin the remediation on Sunset Drive. Jim Botellio is willing to meet with the Board of Finance to explain the entire situation to them. Jim Botellio signed the grant application for the State. He also signed a revised engineering contract based upon review by the Town Attorney. Mike Mocko said he had forgotten to add in mileage for the project at a cost of \$300. We have also received a review from the DEP with a punch list of 15 items. Mike Mocko will have to investigate these punch list items individually which will take some time. Jim Botellio said we reduced the cost of the project and took items out at DEP request. Now the State is requiring these items be included – therefore, the WPCA needs an amended cost for engineering. Mike Mocko will answer the punch list as minimally as possible. For instance, the DEP is asking for an analysis of the future development of Somersville. Steve Getman made a motion to recommend approval of the revised engineering agreement pending approval of the Board of Finance. This motion was seconded by Jim Faust and unanimously approved by the Authority. A motion was made by Elinor Labutis to enter into a grant agreement with the State of

Connecticut and the DEP to extend the existing public water line onto Sunset Drive. This motion was seconded by Steve Getman and unanimously approved by the Authority.

Steve Jacobs said he has not heard from the DEP as to whether or not the town retains ownership of the water main or if we can give ownership to the water company.

**VI. Executive Session – Lipton/Gingras Agreement.**

Steve Getman made a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. This motion was seconded by Elinor Labutis. The First Selectman and the Engineer for the project remained. The vote was unanimous.

Steve Getman made a motion to go out of Executive Session at 8:50 p.m., seconded by Elinor Labutis and unanimous approved by the Authority.

**VII. Correspondence/Audience Participation:**

Steve Jacobs received a letter from Connecticut Water Company stating that they are permanently abandoning three wells – one on the corner of Wells Road, off Bugbee La. and the other right off Kibbe Drive.

Steve received a quarterly report from the DOC on the status of PCE remediation. Everything remains basically the same.

Received three new reports from Fuss and O’Neill on the status of the ground water monitoring on Rye Hill Circle. They noticed that the PCE levels showed an increase in one of the monitoring wells and recommended another application of the HR in this area. This could represent a hot spot of contamination. Otherwise, everything remains the same.

The cost of the Rye Hill Circle has now reached \$7,147,000.

**VIII. Bills:**

Environmental Monitoring Lab (toxicity and sludge testing)	\$826.60
Journal Inquirer (public hearing)	78.80
Ace Hardware	20.31
Avery Septic Systems (Maple Ridge Pumping)	6460.00
Lloyd’s Power Equipment	346.85
Journal Inquirer (assessment notice – 138 Main St.)	149.53
Steve Jacobs (State registration)	20.00
Well Power Service (general repair)	822.02
CVS Zerox (map copier paper)	78.71
Ward Engineering Invoice #3	5,132.50

Jim Faust made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Steve Getman and unanimously approved by the Authority.

WPCA Minutes

7/7/09

Page 7

**IX. Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn made by Jim Faust, seconded by Elinor Labutis and unanimously approved by the Authority. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dan Fraro, Secretary

Connie Careno, Recording Secretary

MINUTES ARE NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVAL AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING.