

# SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

16 South Golden Street  
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## NORWICH SEWER AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING June 30, 2009

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The Regular June Meeting of the Norwich Sewer Authority was held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009 in the Training Room at the NPU's office located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Chairman Sullivan.

Present: Chairman James Sullivan, Secretary Frank Demicco and Sewer Authority Members Alan Remondi and Stanley Israelite. Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair was present by conference phone. Also in attendance were: General Manager John Bilda; NPU Staff Members Steve Sinko, Chris LaRose, Jeanne Kurasz, Jeff Brining, Jeff Dewey, and Janine Saunders.

Item 2. Fifteen-Minute Public Comment Period. The 15-minute public comment period was combined with the Public Hearing scheduled for 7 P.M.

Item 3. Minutes of the Regular May Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Sewer Authority Member Remondi, seconded by Sewer Authority Member Israelite moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular May Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009, as written. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. Action Items.

a. Newton Street Public Hearing. Pursuant to Section 7-247a, as authorized in Chapter 103 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich conducted a Public Hearing at 7:00 P.M. in the Norwich Public Utilities' Offices, Located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed project consisting of the planning, acquisition and construction of the Newton Street Sewer Project and pursuant to the following Resolution entitled:

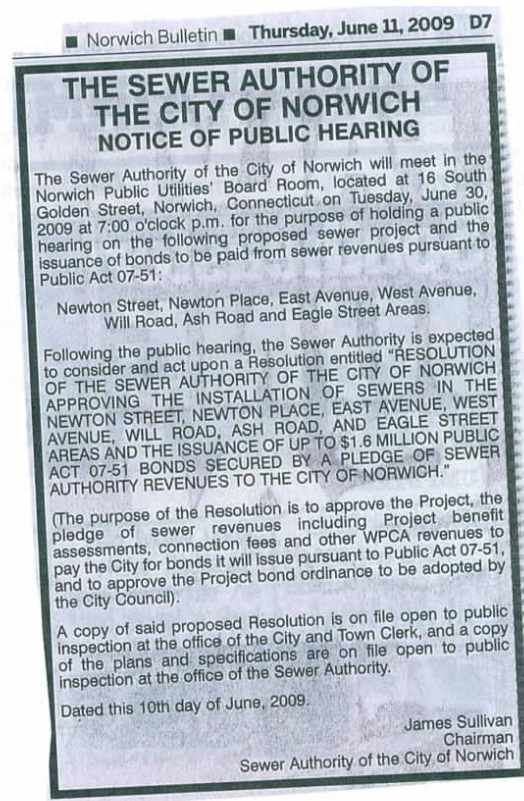
RESOLUTION OF THE SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY  
OF NORWICH APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF SEWERS IN THE  
NEWTON STREET, NEWTON PLACE, EAST AVENUE, WEST AVENUE, WILL

ROAD, ASH ROAD AND EAGLE STREET AREAS, AND THE ISSUE OF UP TO \$1.6 MILLION PUBLIC ACT 07-51 BONDS SECURED BY A PLEDGE OF SEWER AUTHORITY REVENUES TO THE CITY OF NORWICH

Copies of the Resolution were available for distribution to members of the general public at the Public Hearing.

Representing the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich were: Chairman James Sullivan, Secretary Frank Demicco, and Sewer Authority Members Stanley Israelite and Alan Remondi. Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair was available by conference phone. Also in attendance were: General Manager John Bilda, and NPU Staff Members Steve Sinko, Chris LaRose, Jeff Brining, Jeff Dewey, Jeanne Kurasz and Janine Saunders.

At 7:00 P.M. The Public Hearing concerning the Proposed Project Consisting of the Planning, Acquisition and Construction of the Newton Street Sewer Project was opened by Chairman James Sullivan, and the call for the Hearing Notice, which was published in the Norwich Bulletin on June 11, 2009, was entered into public record. A copy of the published Public Hearing Notice is as follows:



The following members of the public provided comments to the Sewer Authority:

Eric Vontish, 35 Will Road – Mr. Vontish explained that pumping out his septic system is occurring more frequently, and the cost to repair would be pretty significant

with the contractor requiring payment up front. The most beneficial answer is to have an opportunity to hook up to the city sewer system. He is enthusiastically in favor of the project and hopes it passes and happens.

Patricia Adamik, 60 East Avenue – Mrs. Adamik is very much in favor of the project. There are so many benefits to neighbors waiting for help from the city. The problem is getting worse. Replacing the system is significantly worse than the cost of the sewer, plus there is a 20-year payback. Her and her neighbors have been asking for this for a long time and she thinks the new project is great.

Joseph Winski, 9 Ash Road – Mr. Winski understands the problems neighbors are having, but is speaking on behalf of his mother. She already made costly repairs to her system. Having sewer would place an undue burden on her. No one on Ash Road will be tying into the system. He has been given furlough days and a cut in pay. He thanked John Bilda for being very informative, and the engineering is outstanding, but its very difficult right now. The staff has been accommodating and helpful. It is a burden to people who already took steps to fix their systems. His mother will have to pay for the project after she already paid to rectify the problem. Please take this into consideration. The problems don't affect him and his neighbors. Please listen to what he is saying and the times right now.

Ellen Wilson, 34 Will Road – Ms. Wilson has also been given furlough days and impacted by rising costs. She read an excerpt from an article published in the June 7, 2009 Norwich Bulletin, entitled “Hard Times Help Towns get Deals on Repairs.” The excerpt detailed lower costs to towns due to dropping contractor prices. She thinks it is a great time for the project because contractors are looking for work and there is competition. The problem won't go away, and will cost, but now it should cost less.

Donald Ryan, 7 Newton Place – Mr. Ryan never had a problem with his septic, nor does he expect to have any. It is costly to everyone. Sewer rates are rising on July 1<sup>st</sup> and property evaluations have increased. He pays for his septic to be pumped every 5 years, and then the cost is done. This system is for the school on New London Turnpike that should never have been placed there to begin with. It's too costly for the times, now is not the time.

Brandon Macko, 17 East Avenue – Mr. Macko is all for the project. He knows its tough to come up with the cost, but rather than digging into his pocket it's better to use city money over 20 years. So many need it, he hopes it goes through.

Lee Poplett, 25 East Avenue – Mr. Poplett is in favor because of the benefit to the neighborhood.

Chairman Sullivan called three times for additional comments. Hearing none, he declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:15 P.M.

b. Resolution Approving the Installation of Sewers in the Newton Street, Newton Place, East Avenue, West Avenue, Will Road, Ash Road, and Eagle Street Areas and

the issue of up to \$1.6 Million Public Act 07-51 Bonds Secured by a pledge of Sewer Authority Revenues to the City of Norwich.

General Manager Bilda presented the survey results from the information meetings held on the Newton Street Sewer Project. The results, as compiled by an independent consultant, were as follows:

- 44% - Not in favor of project
- 42% - In favor of project
- 13% - Don't care one way or another

General Manager Bilda explained that the new project area gets to the core of where the problems are, and project costs have reduced by about \$1,000 per residence.

Sewer Authority Member Remondi's questioned why include a street if no one will tie in? General Manager Bilda responded that eliminating a street would require design change, requiring pipes to be buried at least 30 feet down due to the grade of the land.

Chairman Sullivan recommended the Sewer Authority reflect on the comments heard during the public hearing and table the vote on the Resolution until the next regular meeting, scheduled for July 28, 2009. He stated that in his view it is duty as a member of the Sewer Authority to address problems.

Sewer Authority Member Israelite stated that he is under the impression that sewer lines increase property value. General Manager Bilda responded that the State Statute states that by law, the sewer benefit assessment cannot be for more than the increase in value to the property. If residents feel that this is not the case, they have the right to appeal.

Secretary Demicco asked for the average cost per home. General Manager Bilda responded that the cost per home for the assessment and connection fee is \$11,000, or \$82/month. If the homeowner doesn't connect, the assessment is \$8,500, or \$63/month.

By unanimous decision, the Sewer Authority tabled the vote on the proposed Newton Street Sewer Project Resolution until the July 28, 2009 meeting.

c. Signatory Resolution for the Department of Environmental Protection. Sewer Authority Member Remondi, seconded by Sewer Authority Member Israelite, moved to approve the Signatory Resolution for the Department of Environmental Protection, as presented. Unanimously approved.

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED THAT:** It is in the best interest of the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich to enter into contracts with the Department of Environmental Protection.

In furtherance of this resolution, John Bilda, the General Manager, is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich. The General Manager is further authorized to provide such additional

information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, rescissions, and revisions thereto.

Item 5. Performance Reports.

a. The May 2009 financial report was presented to the Sewer Authority for their information.

Item 6. NPU Sewer Division Tactical Information. The following tactical reports or updates were provided to the Sewer Authority for their review and information:

- a) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Report. Informative.
- b) Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Project Update. Informative.
- c) Clean Water Fund Update. General Manager Bilda informed the Sewer Authority that the department is applying for grant funding for the digester project, collection system, and engineering work.
- d) Correspondence regarding the Clean Water Fund.

Item 6. Other Business

Item 7. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, July 28, 2009.

Sewer Authority Member Israelite, seconded by Sewer Authority Member Remondi moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:25 P.M.

Attest:

Frank Demicco  
Secretary