

**SPECIAL MEETING  
JANUARY 5, 2009**

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Silas Deane Middle School, Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT.

Present: Councilor Console, Forrest, Hemmann, Kotkin, Roberts, Walsh, Deputy Mayor Montinieri and Chairperson Adil

Absent: Councilor Cascio

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager, Dolores Sassano, Town Clerk, Bob Moore, Chief Administrative Officer of the MDC, and Michael Mancini, Manager of Design and Construction.

**PRESENTATION AND UPDATE FROM THE MDC ON THE CLEAN WATER PROJECT**

Chairperson Adil welcomed the members of the MDC to the meeting to update the Town on the Clean Water Project.

Bob Moore, Chief Administrative Officer of the MDC, said that he was with Michael Mancini, Project Manager and Design Department. He said that he wanted to let the Town know where the MDC is in the project since it began in 2006. It completed about \$150,000,000 worth of design and construction work. That includes the separation of the sanitary and storm sewers on major areas on the map. The second part is the building of the interceptors and sewer systems to catch the excess in areas that the MDC is not separating. The south tunnel basically goes along the Wethersfield/Hartford border and brings the flow from West Hartford and Newington and the Folly Brook area of Wethersfield. That is an importance piece in the sewer system in the Hartford area. The other tunnel will be under the city and collect water and bring it back to the city after treatment. The first phase of the Master Plan for Hartford will be a critical piece of the project. The other program that is being done by the MDC is the sewage system plant. The treatment plant in Hartford will have two systems; one for the regular dry weather sewers and wet weather heat system that will make the extra flow and treat it. The other component is the sanitary sewer overflow route. As the sewers around Hartford, Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Newington, and West Hartford have infiltration of storm water to the sewer system that are not supposed to be there by cracks or leaks in the pipes or various other ways, the MDC has found that there has been an excessive flow infiltration around the city. On the map entitled MDC – Clean Water Project 2008 Project Status Report (*attachment 1*) these are the projects that are currently underway or about to be advertised in 2008 and 2009. The numbers on the map correspond to the spreadsheet (*attachment 2*). The areas in blue are not out to bid, the areas in green are under construction or being award in 2009. The areas in pink are completed or just about completed and the MDC inspected many of the homes in the area. Of the roughly 1200 buildings, the MDC has been in 762 of them. 1/3 of the homes that were entered had some sources that were leaking into the sewer system like a sump pump or foundation drain. Those homes can go into the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Program. In the Wethersfield and Rocky Hill area there are basically 217,000 linear feet of sewers. In talking about flow, it should be about

29,000,000 gallons a day. There have been peak flows in a couple of rainfalls that are 22,000,000 to 25, 000,000 gallons a day. This flow is being monitored. These homes also have sump pump and foundation drain issues. The overflow should be about 3,000,000 gallons a day and the MDC is getting readings of 22,000,000 gallons a day. He said that the other hand out, the Metropolitan District Commission Clean Water Project Long Term Control Plan Figure 6 (*attachment 3*) shows 14 projects or areas that need sewer separation. The MDC submitted about \$215,000,000 worth of projects to the government and if funding is given, projects will be identified. The long term issue of a few years ago about how to reduce the flow to the sanitary sewers will continue to be looked at over the next 6 to 12 months and figure out how to eliminate these types of overflow. It could be incentives, disincentives, or permits. It is easier to correct the problem in Hartford because new piping is being installed. There have been positive decisions from the Department of Environmental Protect that has allowed the work to be done in Hartford's park.

Chairperson Adil asked if there were any questions.

Councilor Forrest asked if the MDC is still considering expanding the Folly Brook trunk line.

Bob Moore said that a study and evaluation of the area has been done and it has to be determined how that would be done. The original models are not giving a good prediction so the MDC has gone back.

Councilor Forrest asked if the MDC would perform a comprehensive look at homes in Wethersfield.

Bob Moore said that the MDC will probably try to find a way to look at the laterals from the house to the sewer lines but not go into the houses.

Councilor Forrest asked for an update on the Wethersfield Cove specifically and overflows there.

Bob Moore said that this is a 12 year effort to get the work done. There hasn't really been any change in the area yet.

Councilor Kotkin said on the map dated December 3<sup>rd</sup>, there are lines showing manhole rehab and pipe lining status. Are the lines in blue for in construction work that will be done in 2009?

Michael Mancini, Project Manager, said that two contracts have been awarded that will be started as of today for Newington. Work in Rocky Hill, Wethersfield, and Windsor will begin sometime in 2009 as well. What is seen on the map is a condensed version of what is being proposed.

Councilor Kotkin said that for people who live along the roads, what will they expect.

Michael Mancini said that there are two rounds of notification. Every house will receive something 7 to 10 days beforehand and again within 48 hours of work to start. Two trucks will be seen in the middle of the road. The lining is a cost effective way to repair the pipes.

It rejuvenates the pipes, some of which are 100 years old. It gives the pipes about 50 more years of life. It is a felt like material that is dragged through the pipe. Sand or hot water is pumped in and the heat causes a chemical reaction to the felt and transforms the felt into a plastic product that bonds itself to the inside of the existing pipe. Any cracks or leaks are now sealed off from the pipe. After that is done the contractor goes in and cuts out all of the laterals that Mr. Moore was speaking about earlier. This has been a very cost effective way of getting the pipes up to what they were when they were first installed.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the service to the homes is disturbed.

Michael Mancini said that it takes usually 4 to 6 hours. Residents are not asked to use their facilities during that time.

Councilor Kotkin asked if residents should expect work to begin shortly.

Michael Mancini said that the contracts have to be approved.

Councilor Kotkin asked if the MDC has seen more competitive bidding.

Michael Mancini said that this is the time to go out to bid. The MDC has bid out 4 or 5 contracts in the last few months and has seen anywhere between 30 and 40 percent under the engineers estimates. It is a very favorable climate for bidding.

Bob Moore said that the MDC has talked to the contractors because it was concerned with bids coming in 40 percent below the estimate and many are saying that they just need the work. It is a very competitive market. The MDC is able to get more projects completed.

Chairperson Adil asked where the MDC stood with the smoke testing and what is the next step.

Bob Moore said that he believes the smoke testing has been completed in Wethersfield. He will send a report to the Town on the smoke testing.

Chairperson Adil asked for Mr. Moore to send the Town a brief summary on this discussion along with an electronic copy of the maps. Town staff could add the maps to the Town website. He thanked the MDC for the update.

## ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 p.m., Chairperson Adil adjourned the Special Meeting.

Dolores Sassano  
Town Clerk