



now the town has no water to fight fires with. The Town of Bethel wants to build this tank to provide safety for its residents and to save lives. This site was picked because various studies that have been done recommended this area and this specific location came up as most feasible. He said this is optimal location because of the hydraulics, as well as the water quality. When they pump the water from the wells, the fresh water will go to all of the customers along the line and the excess water will go to the tank. They had to submit a report to the State regarding how they arrived at this location and the State concurred with this location being the best.

Bill Dwinells, a staff engineer from the Bethel Public Works Dept. said there are two reasons that they need this tank: one is to ensure public health and the other to enhance the public safety. He explained that before this location was picked, extensive studies were performed. A hydraulic three-dimensional model was built to determine the best location; every pipe in town was reviewed to determine how the system functions, and finally pressure tests were done to get real-time data, once all this data is put into the model, they calibrate it. Then they are able to come up with both an existing and a proposed condition which allows them to determine exactly where within the system they need additional pressure or storage. He said once the location is determined, they submit all the data to the State, who in this case concurred with the proposed location.

Mr. Jedrychowski then said tank visibility was a big concern of most of the people who spoke in opposition. He referred back to the site plan saying most of the tank will be buried; only about 18½ ft. will show. He said additional runoff was a concern; so they met with the City Engineer to deal with this. It will discharge to an existing stream which will flow to the existing culvert. Runoff and overflow will be directed to an existing filter basin that is not being used at this time; which means they are reducing the net runoff from the site. He explained that they will have an alarm in the event of an accident but even if it overflows, the site is designed to retain it. He said they also will be installing an altitude valve, which will stop the water supply to the tank once it reaches a certain level. He distributed photographs of the site (designated exhibit B) saying they will be planting trees to screen the tank from view. The first picture shows the trees that will not be changed. Second picture shows the trees with the tank located behind them. The next photo shows the view driving south on Long Ridge Rd. The next two photos show the existing buffer on both sides and the existing vegetation. He said the closest house is 14 Long Ridge Rd. and that house is 80 ft. from the roadway. He then referenced the winter pictures saying that the trees without leaves will be the same color as the tank, which will hopefully minimize the view of it.

He then referred to an elevation drawing which shows the site traveling from north to south. He said they tried to simulate the natural screening that exists presently. The concrete is a natural gray color and was chosen because there is no maintenance involved so the color will not change. This rendering shows how the tank will sit in the ground, it is very low profile. Also they will be planting 12 ft. high trees for screening close to the fence so they will have the chance to screen the tank from view. Mr. Dwinells said he had visited the tank that was constructed at the Reserve during its construction and the average limit of clearing is 50 ft. He added that the walls are constructed on the site right on top of each other. He then said a representative from a company that builds these types of tanks is here to describe how they are built.

Chris Hodgson, NatGun Corp., said they do not have a contract with the Town of Bethel, but they were invited to speak this evening as an expert witness. He said they built the tank located at the Reserve last year for the City of Danbury. He distributed copies of information about pre-stressed concrete tanks, and also photos of the tank being constructed in Danbury (designated exhibit C). He said this product is specified for construction, the company actually designs the structure for the individual site. He explained that in utility construction, the standards are higher because it must be built to survive. These tanks are not subject to catastrophic failure; the

chance of failure is less than negligible. The term "pre-stressed" means they are built to take the wear. He explained that this is a very specific style of construction which is very common in the northeast and the west, built to withstand the weather changes. Two important issues in the design are capacity and permanence of the structure; also it should require no maintenance. One of most important features is that it can be built above grade, below grade or partially below grade. He said because there is no maintenance you can plant trees and vegetation around it without worrying them blocking the access. They are designed to blend in year round. He described how the sides are constructed on the site and then dome is put together.

Mr. Dwinells said they have described how they determined where to put the tank, how it will be built, and they brought in an expert to speak about the construction process. Ms. Hoffstaetter asked how much leeway there is to move it farther from the road. Mr. Jedrychowski said if they move the tank back farther on the site, it will have to be taller and would require extensive blasting because of the ledge. So moving it farther from road would mean more of a disruption to the neighbors. He added the ledge is clearly visible and creates a ridgeline along the side of the proposed area. Mr. Blaszk asked if the tank ever has to be drained. Mr. Jedrychowski said the State requires an inspection every five years, but these inspections are done with the water in the tank. There are specialized inspection teams with underwater cameras that can be dropped down into the tanks without draining them. Additionally these teams are prepared to go underwater if necessary. He added that if it had to be drained, the water would be absorbed by the surrounding area down to a foot of water, which then could be drained manually.

Mrs. Emminger asked them to go over again the visibility from the north and south on Long Ridge Rd. from both driveways. Mr. Dwinells said if you are traveling on Long Ridge, it starts to show at 6 ft. above the ground, when you get to the gravel driveway, if you look to the right, the front part of the tank will be visible. He added that they are proposing screening very close to the tank, actually to parallel the tank in that area. Mrs. Emminger asked about the clearing by the gate suggesting that additional evergreens be planted after the construction is complete. Mr. Dwinells said that is what they are proposing to do, to put them as close to the tank as possible. Mrs. Emminger said she is talking about 12 ft. high mature trees. Mr. Dwinells said 10 ft. is typical, to give the roots a chance to spread and set up their root system. Mrs. Emminger asked them to verify this info based on the elevation drawings: if you are heading up Long Ridge Rd. you will only see about 4 to 5 ft. of exposed tank, and when you are heading south toward Redding, you will see 9 to 11 ft. of exposed space. Mr. Dwinells said that is correct. Mr. Jedrychowski said they are really trying to minimize the view of the tank from the roadway.

Chairman Finaldi asked if there was anyone to speak in opposition to this application and several people came forward.

Paul Rotello, 13 Linden Pl., Councilman for the sixth ward, said the scenic road ordinance was approved by the Common Council to protect Long Ridge, but it does not include this property. The reason they didn't include this was because most of this property is watershed so they felt it didn't need to be protected. He said if they had included this property, then the tank would have had to be moved farther back on the property. He asked that Town of Bethel use as much sensitivity as possible to disguise this because the amount of screening they are proposing to leave is not adequate. He said this tank will be an eyesore that the residents of Danbury will be stuck with, but will not benefit from.

Elyse Marciano, 179 Long Ridge Rd., said it is difficult to plant anywhere in this area because without special treatment of the soil, nothing will grow. She then said in order for them to screen this tank; they would need to plant 20 ft. high blue spruces. This is because the deer won't eat these and they fill in space much better than white pines. She said the telephone company used pines for screening and now the only thing that grows there are weeds.

Emil Curran, 44 Long Ridge Rd., said no one ever answered the questions that he posed at the previous meeting. He again asked why they can't put this at the Chestnut Reservoir, and also about the culvert that borders his property. He said there is more than sufficient room for them to put this behind the water treatment plant, but it sounds like they chose this location simply as a matter of convenience. He added that if they move the tank farther back from the roadway, no one will care how high it is or if they have to blast to put it in.

Martha Rhodes, 209 Long Ridge Rd., said the dome of the tank will be tempting for graffiti artists. She then asked how long the construction will take and will they have to close the road. And she wanted to know how they plan to control the vandalism to the site.

Elio Ferreira, 18 Long Ridge Rd., said a tank of this size does not belong this close to the road and just below the culvert. It does not fit into the scenery, they can shove it into the mountain, but the outer surface will still be exposed. He said at the previous meeting other locations were discussed since behind the water treatment plant, there is plenty of room. He said he had talked to the Town of Bethel and in order for them to sink this tank into the ground they would have to dig four ft. down. So it would be too costly for them to dig a deep enough hole to bury this tank, although no one would see it then. Another option was for them to move the tank toward the reservoir and away from the road, but they did not want to do that either. He said the trees they are proposing will not hide the dome although their model did not show that; they really should move it farther back from the road. He said no one wants to deprive Bethel of water, but they also do not want to see the tank. Once this is built, it will no longer be a scenic route. He said he would like to see them offer some options, such as looking behind the treatment plant to see if it can be put there, or trying to push it back away from the road, where there is plenty of room. He said we have heard speculation that there is ledge there compared to the proposed location, but this should not be about the cost. Lastly is a security issue, they don't want to cover the entire tank because they are afraid that someone will vandalize. Well if they leave it showing, they won't have to stop to check on it, they can just drive by it. He said although they say it cannot burst, if it does, some people will take a large bath. In closing, he said this is a scenic road but if this gets approved, the residents will be left with an eyesore.

Joseph Cavo, 2 Candlewood Dr, President of Danbury Common Council, echoed the sentiments of Mr. Rotello. He said that more planning needs to be done for this kind of project and then asked if anyone had checked into whether there are any laws precluding one town from putting a utility in another town. He said the Common Council has been fighting cell towers that we have no control over because they are regulated by the State.

Fred Visconti, 31 Mountainville Ave., Councilman for the fifth ward, echoed Mr. Rotello's comments. He said this does not belong here although the engineers did a good job. He added that he is familiar with this area and there is a lot of room behind where they are proposing to put this; so maybe they need to do more studying.

Duane Perkins, 22 Main St., also Councilman for the fifth ward, said this area is near and dear to him. He said this is an attractive area, so the last thing we want is to allow a structure that will diminish that.

Chairman Finaldi offered Mr. Jedrychowski and Mr. Dwinells the chance to rebut some of the opposition's comments and they said they would answer questions first. Chairman Finaldi asked Mr. Jedrychowski to explain about the Chestnut reservoir that Mr. Curran has mentioned several times. Mr. Jedrychowski said there are three water pressure zones in Bethel and the higher areas require higher water pressure. The Chestnut reservoir is about sixty years old and is located in a different pressure zone than Eureka. He continued saying that the proposed tank







