

**PUBLIC HEARING  
OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

**Thursday, February 15, 2007**

**450 CHILD STREET, WARREN OFFICE, BOARDROOM, WARREN, RI**

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**Chairman Anger called the hearing to order at 6:00 pm.**

**Directors in attendance were: Bert Anger, Allan Klepper, John Jannitto, Ian Morrison, Joseph Rego, John Saviano, William Gosselin, John Veader**

**Director absent: Frank Sylvia**

**Executive Director DeLise presented the BCWA financial scenario and a history of water rate changes of the BCWA. BCWA has the third highest water rates in RI. A BCWA customer's yearly average water bill is approximately \$480. The yearly average water bill for a customer in RI is \$327. There is no back up source for the Scituate Reservoir. Some counties in RI cannot have industries move into their towns because of a lack of water.**

**BCWA needs \$5 Million in the next five years to address the following problems: Refurbish storage tanks, replace meters and the**

replacement of old water mains.

BCWA's water bill is high because BCWA spent a lot of money on the East Bay Pipeline. BCWA's infrastructure has to be fixed and maintained.

The least amount of impact to our rate payers is to borrow \$4.6 or \$5 Million, with rate increases during the next five or six years. BCWA will only pay interest on the dollar amount that we use.

To raise the money, BCWA is considering 2 scenarios of rate increases. One scenario is a 9% followed by a 6% or 7% increase. The other is to borrow the money and then gradually increase the rates in small increments to pay off the loan.

The Chair recognized Mr. Brian Mellor, BCWA's Local 359 Union President. Mr. Mellor read a statement (attached, available at BCWA's office) stated that BCWA is too developer friendly, the full cost of installing water service is not being covered by what we are actually charging them. This puts a burden on the ratepayers. Developers should pay their fair share.

Director Jannitto questioned the cost of a hydraulic model system. Executive Director DeLise stated that such a system would cost \$80,000 to \$100,000, but this system would enable BCWA identify problems with low pressure areas.

**Hearing adjourned at 6:40 pm.**

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**John P. Saviano**  
**BCWA Assistant Secretary**

**Handouts, attached and available at BCWA's office.**