

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting**

**Wednesday, May 30, 2012**

**Council Chambers, Barrington Town Hall, Barrington, RI**

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**Pursuant to proper notice, the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Bristol County Water Authority was called to order by Chairman Jannitto on this date at 6:00 pm in the Council Chambers, Barrington Town Hall, Barrington, Rhode Island. Executive Director Pamela Marchand, Legal Counsel Ms. Sandra Mack, and the following Directors were in attendance at the commencement of the meeting.**

**Directors Present- Robert Allio, Paul Bishop, Joseph DeMelo, Kevin Fitta, William Gosselin, John Jannitto, Allan Klepper, Raymond Palmieri, Frank Sylvia**

**Director Absent – None**

**Chairman Jannitto made the following motion which was duly seconded**

**MOTION: To recess to present Awards.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**2012 RI State Science Fair, BCWA Water Conservation Poster & Essay Contest**

**Chairman John Jannitto thanked contest winners and families/friends for coming to the award presentation. The Chairman then presented the State Science Fair Awards and the Poster and Essay Contest Awards.**

**Chairman Jannitto recognized Past Directors Mr. Joseph Rego, Mr. Frank Nencka and Mr. Lloyd Matsumoto and thanked them for their years of service to Bristol County Water Authority.**

**Chairman Jannitto made the following motion which was duly seconded**

**MOTION: To come out of recess and continue with Annual Meeting.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**Board continued Annual meeting at 6:15 pm.**

**1. Acceptance of Annual Report, Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously**

**VOTED: That the Annual Report in the form presented at the meeting be, and the same hereby is, accepted; and that in accordance with the Bristol County Water Authority enabling legislation a copy be sent to the town of Bristol, Warren and Barrington, and to the Bond Trustee and the distribution list**

**Chairman Jannitto stated that some questions had been raised that will need legal input, so the Election of Officers will be postponed until next month.**

**Director Sylvia asked for an explanation, and the Chair asked the Executive Director to comment on her receipt of information**

**Executive Director P. Marchand stated that an accusation had been made against a Director and had appeared publically on Patch. The accusation was made by Ms. Marina Peterson against Director Klepper accusing him of irregularities during his term as BCWA secretary in the mid 90's. Ms. Peterson stated that land was taken by eminent domain and was signed off by Mr. Klepper in his capacity as BCWA Secretary. The details of this land taking (according to Ms. Peterson) show that the property was flipped by an ex-board member via a company he owned resulting in a substantial financial gain. Ms. Peterson further alleges that this may represent an ethics violation**

**that may still be investigated under the Bristol County Water Supply Act. Ms. Peterson concluded on this public website that the record of this event, and the possible investigation that could occur under the Act, appears to question the viability of Mr. Klepper's candidacy as Chairman of the Board.**

**Director Sylvia questioned why the Board should withhold nominations based on this allegation?**

**Legal Counsel Ms. Mack noted that this is a pretty significant allegation made by Ms. Peterson that was referred to her hours before the meeting. She recommended that the Authority request more evidence to back up the alleged wrongdoing by Ms. Peterson and that the Board should wait for a response to a letter sent to Ms. Peterson asking what she is referencing in her allegation and if she is being represented by legal counsel.**

**Mr. Klepper stated that he is not comfortable with this attack on his integrity, this falls into the category of slander and libel. Mr. Klepper asked Ms. Peterson to accompany him to the RI Ethics Commission to get all the facts out in the open.**

**Ms. Mack recommended that this unsupported allegation be fully and promptly investigated and the public must be informed.**

**Chairman Jannitto asked Mr. Rupp, Barrington Patch editor, why he**

**allows misinformation to be published.**

**Mr. Rupp stated that anyone can post information to the Patch blog.**

**Chairman Jannitto stated that if there is no basis to this information, still the people of Bristol County have read these blogs, this is not right.**

**Director Bishop made the following motion, which was duly seconded**

**MOTION: To continue the Annual Meeting next month.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**There being no further business, upon a motion made and seconded, it was unanimously**

**VOTED: To continue the Annual Meeting until June 26, 2012**

**The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 pm.**

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**John M. Jannitto**

**Chairman**