

TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING - WEDNESDAY EVENING  
JANUARY 21, 2009

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PRESENT: Marshall (arrived at 7:26 o'clock PM), Cordeiro, Parella, Barboza, and Herreshoff

ALSO PRESENT: Diane C. Mederos, Town Administrator

The Council met in special session on Wednesday evening, January 21, 2009 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers, beginning at 7:11 o'clock PM, Council Vice-chairman Cordeiro presiding:

Documents Received: (BETA Group) re Update on Wastewater Projects (received at meeting).

**In the matter of the Tanyard Brook**

Kevin Aguiar of the Beta Group, who is serving in the capacity of Project Manager responsible for design and permitting for the Tanyard Brook project, addressed the Council. Mr. Aguiar informed the Council that the project has been under study since 2002 and that the watershed under consideration ranges from the area of Franklin Street near Metacom Avenue running southwest to Bristol Harbor.

He further noted that some of the drainage is funneled into the State Street Reservoir and that from this reservoir the water travels in a mostly-enclosed culvert to Walker's Cove. Mr. Aguiar further noted that there is an open culvert located between Wood and Hope Streets. It was noted for the record that the cost to repair the entire Tanyard Brook might cost \$10 million.

Mr. Aguiar informed the Council that the present plan considers repair and improvements to the portion of the Tanyard Brook that is located between Garfield Avenue and the Walker's Cove and he expects that this project will be allowed permits from the various state agencies and will be buildable with available funding.

Mr. Aguiar described the current Tanyard Brook conditions as a stone culvert ranging from three (3) feet to six and one half (6.5) feet in width and three to four (3-4) feet in depth. He also explained that in some locations the brook is transported through a five (5) foot diameter corrugated steel pipe.

Mr. Aguiar presented plans and drawings (complete) that were also submitted to the Rhode Island State Department of Environmental Management (DEM) for review. He explained that that the proposal before the DEM is to essentially replace the existing structure

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(culvert/corrugated pipe, etc.) with a new, larger box culvert running from Garfield Avenue to Walker's Cove.

He expressed concern that the "corridor" in which the work must be completed is in some areas less than fifteen (15) feet across.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know the elevation of the entire Tanyard Brook to its north terminus with Mr. Aguiar explaining that this was approximately twelve (12) feet above sea level.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know what will happen in the event of a hurricane with Mr. Aguiar responding that ordinarily the planned rubber tide gate will operate with head pressure from the upstream side.

Kevin McBride, a consulting engineer representing the Town's interest noted that the plan, as designed, should yield a positive result since the new culvert will allow the water to flow out more quickly. He also explained that the system will be designed for a ten (10) year storm and is not specifically designed to counteract the effects of a hurricane.

Councilman Herreshoff asked if the system will react positively in the case of a moon-high tide and a heavy rain storm acting concurrently with Mr. Aguiar responding that the rubber tide gate should help in this instance.

Council Chairman Marshall arrived at this point in the meeting (7:26 o'clock PM) and Councilman Cordeiro relinquished the gavel to the Chairman.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know how much larger the new culvert will be in comparison to the existing one with Mr. Aguiar responding that the current culvert is twenty-four (24) square feet and the planned culvert will be thirty-six (36) square feet.

Councilwoman Parella asked to know if it would be possible to include some repairs upstream of Garfield Avenue since the entire project is determined to be too costly to consider at one time.

Mr. Aguiar speculated that all of the improvements that could be considered would be costly with the likelihood of a small return on investment. He did note, however, that the Council's recent ordinances regarding storm water mitigation has reduced some of the flooding originating from the Franklin Street area. He also noted that since some of the storm water originates from Metacom Avenue that this project was appropriately a State-Town partnership project.

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A discussion ensued regarding the possible dredging of the State Street Reservoir with Mr. Aguiar explaining that there is a fairly new sluice gate at the outfall of the State Street reservoir and that this gate is operated by the DPW. He explained the workings of this gate to control the flows out of the reservoir thus allowing flow into the creek at the most optimal times to prevent downstream flooding.

Councilman Herreshoff speculated that improvements/dredging to the State Street Reservoir would be a "good project." Mr. Aguiar again explained that this would be a difficult project to gain permits and that it would likely be best undertaken in partnership with the State.

Mr. McBride informed the Council of his opinion that the planned repairs to the Tanyard Brook outfall between Garfield Avenue and Walker's Cover would provide the greatest advantage to the public at this time.

Councilman Herreshoff asked to know the proposed cost of the project as designed with Mr. Aguiar responding that the cost estimate was approximately \$3 million.

Council Chairman Marshall asked to know if the plan includes repair of the identified obstruction of the pipe under Hope Street with Mr. Aguiar responding affirmatively.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the Town should coordinate this effort with the State Department of Transportation since the traffic along Hope Street will be interrupted during construction. Mr. McBride responded that the State should be pleased to cooperate in this area since the flooding on Hope Street has been problematic.

Council Chairman Marshall asked to know if the plan includes the construction of an "overflow tributary" and that this might be located in the vicinity of the water pollution control plant.

Mr. Aguiar explained that he was of the opinion that there was not enough area available at elevation to make a cost-effective difference.

He also explained that the State anticipates the Town will retain the old culvert and that this will remain a "habitat."

A discussion ensued regarding the old culvert with Mr. McBride informing the Council that the removal of the old culvert would

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essentially be considered as an alteration of a wetland. He also noted that leaving the existing culvert as-is allows for a much less complicated application to the approving agencies. He explained that the DEM is cooperating with this application and the Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) considers it to be a "maintenance" issue.

Town Administrator Mederos informed the Council that the DEM has been remarkably cooperative and that the neighborhood residents have also approved the application.

Councilman Herreshoff suggested that the Town might ask for a Federal Stimulus grant in the amount of \$4 million for this project in order to cover any contingencies.

Joseph Federico of the Beta Group informed the Council that the Town's application for these types of projects was being submitted for consideration in the Federal Economic Stimulus Package.

Director of Community Development Williamson informed the Council that she is in the process of preparing the stimulus application and that this application is being routed through the State Department of Administration (DOA). She further explained that the State DOA is acting as a "clearing house" for the city and town applications.

Director of Community Development Williamson explained that the application is including those projects that are ready to be built and that the Town's application will likely exceed \$20 million overall.

Councilwoman Parella suggested that a copy of this application should be sent to the members of the Rhode Island Congressional Delegation for their support.

Director of Community Development Williamson explained that the application is due to the DOA on Tuesday of next week and that the application must contain the Town's priorities.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the application might highlight those projects related to already identified EPA problems.

Town Administrator Mederos noted that the Town's application was far reaching.

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Councilwoman Parella asked if the additional phases of the Tanyard Brook project and the State Street Reservoir were part of the application with Director of Community Development Williamson responding affirmatively. She also explained that the application that will be submitted to the State contains a rank-matrix.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the Town might prepare for a second-phase project package.

It was noted for the record that job generation was an important aspect of the application and that the Tanyard Brook project is expected to generate approximately 110 jobs.

Town Administrator Mederos explained that the engineering projects were the result of the coordinated effort of Mr. Aguiar and Mr. McBride.

**In the matter of the EPA projects:**

Mr. Aguiar and Mr. Federico reviewed the document provided including an overview of Contracts 609, 617, and 624.

Mr. Federico explained the status of the EPA Administrative Order projects and noted that 95% of the supplemental drainage projects will be completed with paving in the spring.

Mr. Federico further explained that Bristol has approximately eighty (80) miles of sewers and that fifteen (15) miles of these have been examined via television camera. He informed the Council that although the EPA mandates that all of these sewers should be inspected it would be advisable to petition the EPA for permission to examine less of these since a large portion are essentially new and known to be in good condition and having acceptable flows.

Council Chairman Marshall asked if it might be practical for the Town of Bristol to own and operate its own television camera with Water Pollution Control Superintendent Calderiso explaining that this is likely not practical due to personnel constraints, expertise, etc. He did explain, however, that the City of Warwick does have its own camera and crew and that this same type of arrangement is likely not cost-effective for Bristol.

It was also noted for the record that the most current television inspection contract was relatively low in cost with Councilwoman Parella asking if it might be advisable to "add on" to the current contract. Water Pollution Control Superintendent Calderiso stated that it was possible to do this.

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Mr. Federico reviewed the issues relating to sewer problems caused by FOG (fats, oils, and grease) with Water Pollution Control Superintendent Calderiso explaining that Bristol was experiencing problems within its sewer lines due to those restaurants that were "grandfathered" from installing individual grease pretreatment systems. He explained that all establishments should be required to conform to the pretreatment requirements and that a typical system costs approximately \$3500.

Councilwoman Parella suggested that the Town might send a letter explaining the requirements for compliance with Water Pollution Control Superintendent Calderiso responding that the pretreatment coordinator has forewarned all businesses and works closely with them.

It was noted that some of the existing businesses voluntarily added the equipment necessary for compliance and that others might also if asked to do so.

A discussion ensued regarding the hydraulic model with all presenters noting that more data would be required to complete same.

Director of Community Development Williamson stated that she was working with BETA on GIS mapping enhancements and that the next step is to include data from the Bristol County Water Authority.

A discussion ensued regarding the Federal government's review/approval of the data provided relative to the Town's EPA compliance with Mr. Federico noting that he is informed that although the government has received all of the required reports it has yet to review these.

Mr. Federico also informed the Council that the State SRF has cut back funds that were thought to be available for the Wastewater Upgrade Phase I and that should the Town wish to proceed with same it can borrow from its regular general obligation bond.

Mr. Federico also informed the Council that there are plans prepared for the Federal Economic Stimulus program with Water Pollution Control Superintendent Calderiso explaining that these are projects "ready to go."

Councilman Herreshoff stated that he was of the opinion that the Town's request for \$20 million would be "peanuts" as compared to the overall program.

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Council Chairman Marshall suggested that storm water retention/detention projects might be added to the stimulus package as a priority with Mr. Federico responding that he would do so with the permission of the Council.

A discussion ensued regarding drainage problems precipitated by improper sump pump installation.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Councilman Barboza, seconded by Councilwoman Parella and voted unanimously, the Chairman declared this meeting to be adjourned at 8:51 o'clock PM.

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Louis P. Cirillo, CMC, Council Clerk