

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING - SATURDAY MORNING
OCTOBER 3, 2009

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PRESENT: Marshall, Cordeiro, and Barboza

ABSENT: Parella and Herreshoff

ALSO PRESENT: Diane C. Mederos, Town Administrator

PRESENT FOR THE WARREN TOWN COUNCIL: David Frerichs, Christopher Stanley (arrived late), Catherine Tattrie, Joseph DePasquale (arrived late), Frank Alfano

PRESENT FOR THE BARRINGTON TOWN COUNCIL: June Speakman, Jeffrey Brenner

PRESENT FOR THE BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY: Authority Directors; David Dugan, Joseph Rego, Frank J. Sylvia, John Jannitto; Pasquale DeLise, Executive Director. It was noted that all Water Authority staff members were present this morning.

The Council met in special session on Saturday, October 3, 2009 in the Town Hall, Council Chambers beginning at 9:10 o'clock AM, Council Chairman Marshall presiding:

Interviews re Various Boards/Commissions

William Cain - Recreation Board

Mr. Cain informed the Council that he has been an actor for approximately fifty (50) years and has worked in theatre. He stated that he has since retired and is of the opinion that his past experiences are relative to recreation.

Mr. Cain expressed his desire to "settle down" and become part of the community. He noted that he and his wife performed for a fund raising event concerning the Library project.

He commented that he is proud of the new Library and school in Bristol and enjoys residing in a small community.

Mr. Cain distributed a list of important plays he participated in to the Council.

Councilman Barboza asked Mr. Cain if he was approached by member of the Recreation Board with Mr. Cain responding

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that Mr. Karl Antonevich inquired whether he would be available to serve on the Board.

Edward Quinn, Recreation Board Chairman, stated that he spent time with Mr. Cain and is of the opinion that he would be an asset to the Board.

Councilman Cordeiro thanked Mr. Cain for his interest in becoming involved in the community.

Emily Spinard - Juvenile Hearing Board, Alternate Member

Ms. Spinard informed the Council that she "now has time in her life" for volunteer work. She noted that she is a substitute teacher and understands children.

Councilman Barboza explained that the police and school department refer infractions of the law to the Juvenile Hearing Board rather than family court depending on the nature of the offense. He further noted that this process keeps minors from entering into the court system and developing a record.

Ms. Spinard noted that her brother is Vice-principal of Mt. Hope High School with Councilman Barboza responding that he was of the opinion that this would not pose a conflict.

Chairman Marshall noted Ms. Spinard's Bachelor's degree in art and Master's degree in psychology with Ms. Spinard stating she is also familiar with the court system.

Councilman Barboza asked Ms. Spinard if she worked as a paralegal with Ms. Spinard stating that she worked as a paralegal last summer but was not interested in working full time.

Councilman Cordeiro thanked Ms. Spinard with Chairman Marshall noting that appointment to this Board will be made at the October 7, 2009 Council meeting.

Matthew Cabral - Juvenile Hearing Board, Alternate Member

Mr. Cabral informed the Council that he would like to start "giving back" to the community. He noted that he has been a police officer for the past five (5) years and is working towards his educational degree.

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Mr. Cabral further informed the Council that he currently works with the juvenile system at the police department.

Mr. Cabral stated that he is interested in guiding youngsters in a more productive manner rather than placing them into the family court system.

Chairman Marshall noted that Mr. Cabral's experience with the Warren juvenile system and law enforcement would be beneficial to this board.

The Council took a short break at this point in the agenda (9:25 o'clock AM).

Council Chairman Marshall reconvened the Special Meeting at 9:30 o'clock AM.

Joint Meeting with Town Councils and BCWA

Council Chairman Marshall asked that all present stand for the pledge of allegiance. He suggested that a tri-Town meeting with the Water Authority should take place annually as to keep communication open.

Council Chairman Marshall asked if there were any items to be added to the agenda at this time with Warren Councilman Alfano requesting that curb to curb paving be added.

Robert Kraus of 18 Michael Drive thanked the Council and Water Authority for allowing him to address the issue of water pressure in his neighborhood.

He noted that he plans to attend a Subcommittee meeting of the Water Authority scheduled for next Wednesday concerning water pumps and associated grants.

Mr. Kraus stated that he initially wanted to know why a developer was allowed to install water pumps as a resolution to poor water pressure but realized that the Town and Water Authority may have different opinions and at this point his goal is to keep communication open and ongoing concerning the ongoing need to have to use water pumps.

Mr. Kraus stated that the water pumps work and supply the correct pressure when they are functional and there is no interruption of power. He noted that over the past six (6)

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years in which he has resided in Bristol he has spent \$2,700 on water pumps and that the water pumps are noisy and the pipes rattle which perhaps is due to the quality of the pump.

He noted his frustration and that he and his wife only want the best pump for their money. He stated that he had a pump installed six (6) months ago and the plumber stated it was "top of the line." After the switch failed, five (5) months later, he called another plumber who stated that the pump was "garbage."

He expressed his concern for local businesses in this area having to pay for pumps to support fire suppression systems. He stated that these businesses are at a disadvantage if they want to expand or if new businesses wanted to come to this area of Town.

He stated that the Hydraulic Study was on the agenda for today and hopefully that would shed some light on the future of the plumbing systems in the Towns.

Mr. Kraus stated that he is not here to place blame but rather to offer his assistance to this problem.

Chairman Marshall asked Mr. Krauss what his occupation was because he knew of an engineer in Town that had concerns with water chemical levels and was not sure if that was Mr. Krauss or not with Mr. Krauss stating he is a Vendor Manager for First Marblehead Corporation in Boston, Massachusetts.

Councilman Cordeiro thanked Mr. Kraus for his willingness to help and work together to resolve this issue.

Warren Councilman Christopher Stanley arrived at this point in the meeting.

Chairman Marshall thanked Mr. Krauss and stated that this has been on their radar screen for quite some time.

Chairman Marshall asked the Water Authority approximately how many homes and businesses are affected by low water pressure in that area and how many booster pumps there are with Mr. DeLise stating that he does not have an exact number today but will get back to the Council with that information.

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Warren Councilwoman Tattrie noted that she is aware of residents from the St. Theresa Drive area also affected by inadequate water pressure. Mr. DeLise stated that it is the Northeastern area of Bristol and Southeastern section of Warren that is affected.

Future Infrastructure Improvements

Chairman Marshall asked if the water tank on Hope Street was working or if it was shut off periodically reducing the pressure in the area with Mr. DeLise stating that the tank was not very effective although there are ways to make it more effective.

Chairman Marshall asked if there was a way of putting a booster pump system at the Hope Street station rather than a new tank with Mr. DeLise stating that was a possibility but would come down to the question of cost.

Mr. DeLise noted that the Hope Street tank was built too low for today but may have sufficed in the past.

Council Chairman Marshall asked Mr. DeLise if he considered the possibility of applying for low interest Clean Water Financing with Mr. DeLise responding that the Water Authority has borrowed \$5.5 million which is the money being utilized to rehabilitate three (3) storage tanks, replace eight thousand (8,000) meters, and install new water mains. Mr. DeLise stated that it is a three (3) year program which involves 3 capital projects and that the money was borrowed the end of 2008.

Mr. DeLise stated that the Water Authority rates were affected by the RI Clean Water Finance Agency loan. The Board voted to increase the rates by 3% a year for six (6) consecutive years which is necessary to pay back the loan.

It was asked if a 3% decrease after the six (6) years could be expected with Mr. DeLise replying negatively and explaining that in order for infrastructure improvements additional funds are needed. He further explained that discussions with the Board for future budgets will include an additional loan and whether or not additional increases are necessary.

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Chairman Marshall noted that the Water Authority has a good fund manager as their investments have been performing better than the rest of the Country's.

Chairman Marshall noted the importance of the tri-Town meeting as infrastructure improvements in one Town affect rate increases for all three (3) Towns.

Chairman Marshall stated that the Water Authority was ahead of the curve on the thought process concerning three communities working together for the same end. He noted that the same idea is being worked on regarding wind energy.

Councilman Marshall stated that as Council members they appoint their Board of Directors to look out for the best interest of the citizens as a whole.

Tank Painting

Council Chairman Marshall expressed his appreciation that the tank painting is complete and was able to be re-utilized and did not have to be replaced but it was unfortunate that it cost as much as it did.

Chairman Marshall stated that the water pressure has increased on Ferry Road with the new water tank at Roger Williams University but noted that the problem in the northeast and southeast sections of Bristol and Warren need to be addressed so people can get off the booster pumps and have pressure like the rest of the rate payers.

Warren Councilman DePasquale asked if there was the possibility of renegotiating the pilot program that is based on consumption rather than need and infrastructure repairs with Mr. DeLise noting that the agreement between the Water Authority and the Towns come up in 2018*.

Warren Council President Frerichs expressed concern that a more equitable formula regarding sludge disposal needs to be investigated as the Town of Warren is "shouldering" the burden of cost, subsidizing Barrington and Bristol with Barrington Councilman Brenner stating he would look into the matter.

Barrington Councilman Brenner advised the Water Authority to create a threshold level of acceptable water pressure

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and to devise a protocol to bring the areas below the threshold into compliance. He explained that this is the time to do projects as contractors need work and money can be borrowed at low interest rates.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested that the three (3) Councils create a subcommittee.

Barrington Councilman Brenner stated that the Town Managers meet monthly and could inform the Councils of the enabling Towns' concerns and schedule a meeting accordingly with Town Administrator Mederos noting that these meetings have not transpired recently but will resume after appointment of the Warren Town Manager.

Warren Council President Frerichs noted that the Warren Town Manager has been appointed and he is a very knowledgeable gentleman with twenty-five (25) years of experience.

Mr. Sylvia asked Mr. Jannitto to place the low water pressure issue involving Bristol and Warren on the Subcommittee's October agenda and to forward a report to the Councils.

Bringing the Warren Treatment Plant Online

Councilman Barboza questioned whether the old plant is partially online if Warren is disposing of sludge with Mr. DeLise answering that it has been back online at a 20-30% capacity for quite some time.

Mr. DeLise stated that the plant is being analyzed and a feasibility study is being performed by Camp Dresser & McKee. He noted that the timeline for this study is twelve (12) months and should be completed by the end of the year or early spring.

Mr. DeLise explained that Camp Dresser & McKee is investigating a number of options to improve production, possibly to the plant's design value with the design value being four (4) million gallons a day which is full capacity.

He further noted that this Study is being funded by grant money so there will be no cost to the taxpayers of Bristol County.

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Mr. DeLise noted that in January of 2001 the State funded \$1.2 million for Phase I Evaluation of the plant bringing it into compliance with EPA requirements.

Chairman Marshall stated that now the cross pipeline could be brought back to its original intent of serving as a backup and this in turn would eliminate being subjected to Providence water rate increases.

Mr. DeLise noted that water produced by the Water Authority is more economical than water purchased. He further noted that the East Bay pipeline will always be needed.

Mr. DeLise informed those present that the Feasibility Study is being funded by a grant received by the State of RI for \$19 million under the Water Assistance facility Act and \$15 million has already been spent on the construction of the East Bay pipeline and the remainder of the money can be spent on the plant and/or construction of the Shad pipeline.

He further informed those present that there is also the \$5 million bond referendum which can only be used on the Shad pipeline.

Warren Councilman DePasquale asked what the payoff date was of the bond used for the construction of the pipeline with Mr. DeLise answering 2018 and he explained that was a twenty (20) year payoff date from 1998.

Mr. DeLise noted that the pipeline project cost \$35 million with \$14.8 million funded by the State and the remainder by the municipalities.

Warren Councilwoman Tattrie inquired if the tests being performed were to determine whether the plant is producing safe water with Mr. DeLise stating that the plant is producing safe water the tests are to determine how to increase the capacity of production.

Chairman Marshall stated that he was of the opinion that the tests were a result of high manganese levels and the EPA standards raising those levels with Mr. DeLise stating there are a number of reasons and manganese is not the only problem.

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Mr. DeLise stated that he is of the opinion that after the Feasibility Study is complete and the suggested improvements are made the plant has the capability of producing four (4) million gallons of water annually.

Warren Councilwoman Tattrie questioned how much water is needed for all three (3) Towns per day with Mr. DeLise answering 3.8 million gallons on average annually.

Mr. DeLise noted that improvements to the plant to produce the designed rate comes down to the question of cost this may involve the construction of a new basin.

Chairman Marshall inquired how much electricity the plant uses when it is running at full capacity with Mr. Goodwin estimating \$60,000-\$70,000 annually. Mr. Goodwin noted that the amount should not increase much when running at full capacity.

Chairman Marshall stated that he is of the opinion that funding has been put aside by Clean Water Finance for the use of wind turbines at water treatment plants to offset the costs of treating the water and that the Bristol County Water Authority has decided against the use of wind turbines with Mr. DeLise stating he has no recollection of any such program.

Chairman Marshall explained that the idea behind stimulus funds is that they are sustainable and continue to create money or offset costs with Mr. DeLise noting that this is always on the Water Authority's agenda and investigated.

Mr. DeLise explained that the current stimulus funds are not a "good deal" for the Water Authority.

Councilman Cordeiro asked if Mr. DeLise investigated the possibility of a wind turbine at the water treatment plant to help offset electricity costs with Mr. Jannitto noting that would be addressed in Camp Dresser & McKee's report. Mr. Jannitto further noted that the said report would not only state what is needed at the plant but will most likely give ways to improve productivity.

Barrington Councilman Brenner stated that all three (3) Towns are committed to renewable energy and that he would hope the Water Authority is also committed to said cause whether it is solar, wind, or current. He suggested that

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the Water Authority explore all options for renewable energy.

Councilman Barboza advised that the said message be relayed to Camp Dresser & McKee assuring that renewable energy is being considered as part of their report with Mr. DeLise stating that this matter will be added to the agenda for the Board to discuss.

Chairman Marshall noted that he wanted the Board to understand the Councils' position as town leaders and their budget constraints. He further noted that the Towns do not have the flexibility to raise rates 3% for the next six (6) years.

Chairman Marshall noted that he has been approached by businesses interested in moving into the Bristol Industrial Park but new fire restrictions require static pressure at the water mains.

He further noted that businesses interested in expanding their buildings also have the burden of cost to upgrade the water system by installing a fire jockey pump which was required for the construction of the new fire station on Annawamscutt Drive and cost \$200,000 that is money that would not have had to be spent if the static pressures were there to begin with.

Mr. DeLise stated that pressure and provision are two very different issues. He noted that the Water Authority is committed to providing water but there are too many outside factors controlling concerning water pressure

Chairman Marshall asked if would be prudent for three (3) business owners instead of investing \$150,000 in a jockey pump to collaborate and invest \$450,000 towards a booster station at the Hope Street tank with Mr. DeLise stating that Amgen of West Greenwich did this.

Chairman Marshall argued that an \$800,000 company cannot be compared to a \$100,000 company.

Barrington Council President Speakman questioned who should be responsible for insuring adequate water pressure when one of the three Towns wants to promote an Industrial Park. She reiterated Chairman Marshall's question as to whether the \$450,000 should improve the Water Authority's

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infrastructure or towards the purchase of pumps with Mr. DeLise explaining that in regards to Roger Williams University it was the burden of the University to supply themselves with adequate water and that is why the storage tank is being built.

Barrington Council President Speakman stated that she is of the opinion that the Water Authority also has an interest in the storage tank being built at the University because the Authority is selling the water to the University with Mr. DeLise disagreeing and stating the storage tank is entirely in the interest of the University. Ms. Speakman asked if the Water Authority will purchase the tank and for how much with Mr. DeLise replying for \$1 and only if it works.

Barrington Councilman Brenner suggested that the Water Authority set minimal standards of what the water pressure should be and if there are areas that are not meeting that standard they need to be identified and a solution developed. He noted that the solution may be cost prohibited but at least provide the empirical data.

Chairman Marshall asked what the minimal acceptable water pressure is with Mr. DeLise answering that there are no laws only recommendations which are thirty pounds per square inch (30 PSI) of residual pressure, when the system is operating.

Barrington Council President Speakman asked if there was a minimum water pressure standard that the Water Authority worked towards achieving for customer satisfaction with Mr. DeLise answering the Authority seeks to achieve at least twenty (20) PSI which can be improved with associated costs.

Mr. DeLise noted that some areas are better than twenty (20) PSI and some unfortunately, are worse like Mr. Kraus' water pressure of around twelve (12) PSI.

Mr. DeLise also noted that the Water Authority under the discretion of the Board chose to reimburse homeowners \$200 towards the purchase of a pump to increase water pressure which they were not obligated to do.

Hydraulic Study

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Mr. DeLise explained that the Hydraulic Study is compiled from information that is already known, it is a tool to be used to analyze possible situations. He noted that 10 - 15%, only the main components of the system have been modeled. The Study confirms the elevated sections of Bristol and Warren have low pressure but that the system is adequate, the storage is adequate, and the quantity of water is more than adequate.

Mr. DeLise further explained that the Study can be used to inform businesses of the expected water pressure, the size of the pipes, what improvements are needed to meet certain requirements, but the Study does not offer solutions. Solutions can be explored as whether an additional storage tank is necessary or how big the pumping station needs to be to supply enough water.

Chairman Marshall stated there is attractive land on Metacom Avenue known as "Perry Farm" that Bristol and Warren have been approached by to purchase both as open space and as useful. He noted that it is in an area that may be a good location for a water tank. Warren Councilman Alfano expressed concern that perhaps the Water Authority should investigate ways to conserve water rather than ways to increase water production with Mr. DeLise explaining that there is a Rhode Island law requiring the Water Authority to perform inspections of all major customers and recommend ways to conserve water.

Mr. Rego stated that most industries in RI are conserving as rates promote conservation.

Mr. DeLise noted that Bristol County has the lowest consumption rate in RI with the residential consumption being forty-one (41) gallons per day. It was noted that wells are subtracted from this equation.

Warren Councilman DePasquale questioned whether the Water Authority would benefit from the services of a professional grant writer with Mr. DeLise answering that was not necessary as the Authority is informed of local, state, and federal grants available and what projects qualify.

Chairman Marshall asked if the Hydraulic Study could be released to boards and commissions with Mr. DeLise responding affirmatively. Mr. DeLise advised to limit the distribution due to the technical nature of the document

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with Barrington Councilman Brenner noting the document can be distributed to the public as it was part of an open meeting.

Chairman Marshall explained that the Study is a tool needed to help continue further in the economic development conversation to bring jobs back to the area or increase jobs already existing.

Water Advisory

Town administrator Mederos stated that it became apparent after the recent boil water advisory that communication between the communities and each other needed to be improved.

Town Administrator Mederos noted the involvement of Dave Smith of Emergency Management made all the difference as he facilitated a conference call between all three (3) communities

Town Administrator Mederos noted that officials of Bristol, Warren and Barrington, Department of Health, Water Authority, and the University met on September 17, 2009 to discuss a better process should another emergency arise including press conferences, reverse 911, etc.

Town Administrator Mederos reported that an action report is being disseminated and said officials will meet again to finalize a plan of action. She also reported that as soon as a protocol is in place, it will be shared with the Councils.

Warren Council President Frerichs informed those present that Chief Galinelli is investigating an emergency notification system which may apply to all three (3) Towns and has prepared a presentation for the Warren Council on October 13th. He noted that this may qualify for a Homeland grant and will forward information to Councils.

Mr. Jannitto, on behalf of the Board, thanked the three (3) communities and noted that everything came together once everyone was on the same page resulting in the situation being resolved in four (4) days.

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Chairman Marshall noted his appreciation of the efforts of the Bristol County Water Authority and their staff for working around the clock.

Warren Councilman Alfano thanked Messrs. Jannitto and DeLise for attending their regularly scheduled Council meeting that Tuesday. He noted they came on short notice and spent a half an hour explaining the situation. He further noted that a reporter at that meeting published an article the next day.

Warren Council President Frerichs commended Mr. DeLise and his staff for their great service providing the community with clean water.

Curb to Curb Paving

Warren Councilman Alfano reported the presence of a large pothole on Arlington Avenue. He stated that it is too expensive for Towns as well as the State to repair a road and then have a utility company put in a patch. He explained that it ruins the integrity of the road and eventually the Town or State has to pay.

Warren Councilman Alfano suggested that the three (3) Towns support an agreement requiring utility companies to repave roads curb to curb.

Barrington Councilman Brenner agreed that this issue needs to be addressed thoroughly and perhaps investigate the utility companies' rationale as to patching versus curb to curb. However, he is of the opinion that action or consensus should not be taken at this time as he is concerned that Bristol and Warren have a quorum but Barrington does not.

Town Administrator Mederos asked the Water Authority what the plan was for repair of Ferry Road with Mr. DeLise responding that it will be fixed in October, before Thanksgiving.

Mr. Jannitto stated that Arlington Avenue was a Water Authority job but was prevented all summer from improving the road due to the road construction taking place on Child Street

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Warren Councilman DePasquale asked if there was a way to coordinate services and was recently informed that Church and Miller Streets are scheduled for road construction.

Warren Councilman Depasquale noted that he is of the opinion that the Council would allow the delay of a project to coordinate services with Mr. DeLise stating that this has been done in the Town of Barrington. He noted that the Authority has changed their schedule drastically to take advantage of the streets the Town was working on and this resulted in a cut in cost for both sides.

Mr. DeLise further noted that scheduling projects concurrently between the Towns and utility companies is not always possible but if half of the projects could be coordinated it would be beneficial for both sides.

Warren Councilman Depasquale informed those present that the repair of a section of the sewer main from the plant to the end of Bridge Street will begin soon with Warren President Frerichs noting the bid for that project will be awarded at the October 13, 2009 Council meeting.

Council Chairman Marshall suggested a meeting with the Councils and Water Authority should be scheduled upon completion of the Feasibility Study for the plant.

There being no further business upon a motion by Councilman Cordeiro, seconded by Councilman Barboza and unanimously approved, the Chairman declared this special meeting to be adjourned at 11:00 o'clock AM.

Jennifer Walsh for
Louis P. Cirillo, Council Clerk

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