

TOWN OF JAMESTOWN
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS

Monday, March 19, 2001

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners was called to order at the Jamestown Philomenian Library, Conference Room, 26 North Road at 7:07 PM by Commission Vice-President Kenneth G Littman. The following members were present:

Craig A. Amerigian
Bruce McIntyre
David Swain

Also present were:

Denise Jennings, Assistant Finance Director/Water and Sewer Clerk
Steven Goslee, Public Works Director
Arthur Christman, Fire Chief

Absent:

Commission President David J. Long
Maryanne Crawford, CPA, Town Administrator
James Murphy, Town Solicitor

PUBLIC HEARING

1) **Water Supply System Management Plan**, prepared by Pare Engineering Corporation as revised September 1, 2000:

The Public Hearing was opened by Commission Vice-President Littman at 7:09 PM.

Donald Minto of 455 North Main Road suggested that a second copy of the Water Supply System Management Plan be available at the library for circulation. The Commission agreed.

John Doty (17 Union Street): I was very interested in the information regarding the South Pond. There is twice as much land available at the South Pond, compared to North Pond. Nothing has been done to the South Pond in the last year. There are two leaks that have been controlled by sandbags. There are several pine trees at North Pond that are overgrown and should be cut down. Mr. Doty then supplied the Commission with photographs. Mr. Goslee: As you may recall, we were cited by CRMC for trimming last year. A wetland biologist is currently preparing a vegetative management plan that will address the mowing schedule and the leak on the side of the dam. The leak is in a wetland area. We are currently getting a wetlands permit. The Tree Preservation and Protection Committee will have to review the issue regarding the pine trees at North Pond.

Commissioner Swain: Commissioner Littman for your information on page 2-12, paragraph 210

under “water system deficiencies” it bulleted about 7 items. None of the items bulleted discuss vegetation around either of the ponds, nor are the items that Mr. Doty just pointed out to us. Commissioner Littman agreed. Commissioner Swain: Major system improvements have been completed within the past ten years that has improved the overall system supply and distribution capabilities. This plan states that the deficiencies are not that severe. We need to get more proactive with the vegetation around South Pond and with CRMC.

Victor Richardson (165 Hamilton Avenue): I read the plan tonight and copied down some items that I thought were important. The Water Supply System Management Plan mentions increasing the capacity of the South Pond by digging out the north end. The same suggestions were in the Hazen Report in 1981 and that this would triple the size of the water storage at the South Pond by going North also. In the report done by Fay, Spofford and Thorndike, Inc. in 1999, they suggested digging out to the west. Short discussion followed, regarding humic acid caused by decaying leaves at the South Pond and the pumping of water from South Pond to North Pond.

Commissioner Littman: One of the problems with this plan is, that it was completed before the Safe Yield Study was completed by Fay, Spofford & Thorndike, Inc., which changed some of the focus on how to better deal with the quantity and quality problem. The results of the Safe Yield Study are what made the Commission decided to move water from South Pond to the North Pond. It was decided that this would be the best solution. This solution was not included in the Water Supply System Management Plan (WSSMP), because the Safe Yield Study was completed after the completion of the WSSMP.

Chief Christman: The best solution would be to recycle the water and not to let the water go back into the bay. Mr. Goslee: My real concern is making sure that North Pond does not look like the South Pond.

Guy Settignano (Seaside Drive): I went up to the South Pond, the west side is wide open. Have we applied for a permit to enlarge the west side? The sooner you can get a permit underway the sooner you can widen South Pond.

Donald Richardson (12 Davis Street): I have not read the plan. Does the plan say that it is wise to clear out the leaves in the South Pond? Commissioners Swain and Amerigian both agreed that this report does not discuss this issue. Mr. Richardson: It would be wise to clean up the leaves and dead branches. Commissioner McIntyre: Many of the reports have suggested that the tannic acid is coming from the fields and the watershed area around the South Pond and not self generated from the bottom of the reservoir. The water is brown before it gets to the reservoir.

Mr. Minto: I am the manager of Watson Farm. Back in the 1980's , I was cited and was informed that my cattle were not allowed to go down by the watershed anymore. Commissioner Littman: As Mr. Goslee stated earlier, we also were cited for clearing vegetation. Mr. Richardson: Has a permit been applied for? Mr. Goslee: We are working on a vegetative management plan and will then apply for a blanket permit.

William Munger (102 Cole Street): When will the pipeline be complete? Commissioner Amerigian: We will be working on our Water Budget FY 2001/2002 for additional funds. Mr. Richardson: What is the cost for the pipeline? Mr. Goslee: Approximately, \$127,000.

Commissioner Littman: Can we send this back to Pare Engineering Corp. so that information can be updated according to the Safe Yield Study? Mr. Goslee: Yes. Commissioner Littman: This information is very important. Commissioner Amerigian: I would like to update page 2-1 and 2-2 with the Safe Yield Study and particularly page 2-3, it talks about safe yield of these reservoirs separately with no management of the watersheds by utilizing North Pond storage capacity. Also, bottom of page 2-4 it refers to “raw water from South Pond can not be utilized because of excessive organic material content and color”, this is not true. We have utilized it. Further on, it stated that in the 90’s all of our water came from North Pond, this is incorrect. Commissioner Swain: It appears to be a bit general in some areas. Commissioner Littman: Pare updated the plan from a previous version and studies. Commissioner Amerigian also referred to a statement on page 2-4 regarding color level, which was incorrect. We have already made some improvements on that and this pipeline proposal will improve that further. This issue needs to be addressed. On the top of page 2-6, that “in January, 1994 the Water Division operated solely on the North Kingstown connection while repairs were enacted to the storage tank and system components. That is not the water tank on Howland Avenue, is it? Mr. Goslee: We were on North Kingstown for a short time, while the storage tank at the Water Treatment Plant was being repaired. Commissioner Amerigian: Okay. On page 3-2, it talks about “352 new dwellings that could be built in the water district”. You did an analysis in 1999 at the beginning of this Commissions term and you came up with about 72 in rural district and 37 in the urban district. Where did those numbers come from? Mr. Goslee: They may have come from the Planning Department. Commissioner Amerigian: This number (352) and population numbers appear to be incorrect.

Following clarification of a few additional items, the Public Hearing was closed by Commission Vice-President Littman at 8:06 PM.

Motion by Commissioner Littman, seconded by Commissioner Amerigian to refer the Water Supply System Management Plan back to Pare Engineering Corp. for the incorporation of the Safe Yield Study into the plan and also to correct the numbers in regards to population projection and potential future demands. So unanimously voted.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner McIntyre, seconded by Commissioner Amerigian to accept the minutes of 02/20/01. So unanimously voted.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICIALS

1) Pumping Report:

Mr. Goslee reported that pumping was right on target with last year and that the reservoir is at capacity. He also reported that he has received the CRMC permit to drill the well by the Water Treatment Plant (desalinization/to freshwater). He stated that the RI Department of Health came down for a general visit last week and provided him with information regarding the variance procedure to utilize this well and for JR4. Following clarification of a few items, motion was made by Commissioner Amerigian, seconded by Commissioner Littman to accept the pumping report. So unanimously voted.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1) Letter from Michael and Karen Montoya (14 Union Street) re: sewer repair and claim: The Public Works Director recommended that this communication be forwarded to the Solicitor. Following clarification of a few items, motion was made by Commissioner McIntyre, seconded by Commissioner Littman to forward this communication to the Solicitor for his review. So unanimously voted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) Wetlands permit application (continued from 02/20/01):
a) Cost analysis to be supplied by the Public Works Director
The Public Works Director reported that the total cost for the wetlands permit application was \$975.00. Mr. Goslee stated that this item was approved at the last water and sewer meeting. Commissioner McIntyre asked for clarification. Commissioner Littman stated that at the last meeting the Commission asked the Public Works Director to supply a cost estimate for permitting.

NEW BUSINESS

(none)

BILLS AND PAYROLL

Motion by Commissioner Littman, seconded by Commissioner McIntyre to approve bills and payroll. So unanimously voted.

TOWN BUSINESS

New Fire Truck: Chief Christman announced that he would like to invite the Town Council, Town Administrator, Department Heads and the whole Town to a formal dedication of the new fire truck and said that he would like to set up a date acceptable to all. Commission Consensus: The Fire Chief was to set up 03/31/01 for the formal dedication of the new fire truck.

Orange cones located in front of the Fire Station: John Doty asked when the cones would be removed. The Public Works Director stated that the cones would be removed next week.

William Munger: Would it be possible for the manhole cover in front of 1 Ferry Wharf to be tightened or bolted down? Mr. Goslee: I will check into it.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, motion by Commission Vice-President Littman, seconded by Commissioner Amerigian to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:29 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings
Assistant Finance Director/Water and Sewer Clerk

xc: Commission Members (5)
Town Administrator
Town Solicitor
Public Works Director