

**TOWN OF JAMESTOWN  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
for  
TOWN, WATER AND SEWER MATTERS**

Monday, October 17, 2011

A regular meeting of the Jamestown Town Council sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners was called to order at the Jamestown Town Hall, Council Chambers, 93 Narragansett Avenue at 6:31 PM by Commission President Michael Schnack. The following members were present:

Robert Bowen, Vice-President  
William H. Murphy  
Michael G. White  
Ellen Winsor

Also present were:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator  
Peter D. Ruggiero Esq., Town Solicitor  
Michael Gray PE Town Engineer/Public Works Director  
Denise Jennings, Water and Sewer Clerk

**AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

(None)

**READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

1) **09/19/11 minutes** (regular meeting)

Motion was made by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner White to accept the 09/19/11 (regular) meeting minutes. So unanimously voted.

**OPEN FORUM**

1) Scheduled requests to address:

(None)

2) Non-Scheduled requests to address:

Stephen Mecca of 5 Green Lane stated that he is a water efficiency consultant. Mr. Mecca asked if there were any plans for the Water and Sewer Board to review and revise the water rate structure and stated the following:

- o He is not talking about the most recent changes with the higher rate for those using over 5000 gallons; but is talking about redoing the rate structure so that is fair and just.
- o The way that the rates are structured right now, where everyone now currently pays a \$65.00 flat for the first 5000 gallons, whether they use it or not and this is not fair.
- o Those customers who do not use the 5000 gallons are subsidizing those who are using the 5000 gallons.

The Commission President disagreed with Mr. Mecca and stated that discussion was had previously, regarding this matter and that there are two costs to maintain the budget as follows:

The minimum amount helps to maintain the system, while the over and above amount helps to maintain the operating costs.

Mr. Mecca asked where the minimum in advance came from, and why does it start from the first 5000 gallons? Mr. Mecca stated that most RI communities start at the first 1000 gallons and that there is only one other community that starts at 5000 gallons. Mr. Mecca further stated that the lowest amount that he can get is water and sewer bill down to, is where it is now at 1000 gallons, at the amount of \$101.39. Mr. Mecca stated that he understands the sewer charges, because the town needs to pay the debt.

Commission President Schnack stated that he did not have an answer as to when the minimum in advance and 5000 gallons were set up, but it has been this way for a very long time. Brief discussion followed.

Commission President Schnack asked the Town Administrator when the last Rate Study was done and stated that he recalled that the last Rate Study was to update the debt service and was not based on water consumption. The Town Administrator agreed that the last update was for the debt service for the water improvements. Commission President Schnack stated that Mr. Mecca's point was well made and asked the Town Administrator to investigate the following:

1. When was the last full Rate Study done?
2. How were the rates determined?
3. How much did the last full Rate study cost?

### **REPORT OF TOWN OFFICIALS**

1) **Pumping Report:**

The Public Works Director reported the following:

- o No transfer pumping is taking place.
- o North Reservoir is @ 45 MG, usable storage-60MG.
- o South Pond is @ capacity, usable storage-7MG

2) **Town project reports:** (See Project Update Report dated September 2011)

The Public Works Director reported that himself and FST made a presentation regarding the water improvement projects in Jamestown at the NEWWA annual conference held in Newport on September 28, 2011 and that they also conducted a tour of the plant with water officials from around New England.

### **LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

(None)

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(None)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

(None)

### **BILLS AND PAYROLL**

Motion was made by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Winsor to approve the Water Division Bills and Payroll dated 10/17/11. So unanimously voted.

Following clarification of a few items, motion was made by Commissioner Murphy, seconded by Commissioner White to approve the Sewer Division Bills and Payroll dated 10/17/11. So unanimously voted.

**TOWN BUSINESS**

(None)

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business before the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings

Water and Sewer Clerk

xc: Commission Members (5)

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

Public Works Director

Town Clerk