

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

Tuesday, January 19, 2010

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 6:05 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
Steven J. Goslee, Public Works Director
Denise Jennings, Water and Sewer Clerk

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

(None)

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) 10/19/09 (regular meeting)

Motion was made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to accept the 10/19/09 regular meeting minutes. So unanimously voted.

OPEN FORUM

1) Scheduled requests to address:

a) Arthur Christman re: new ordinance pertaining to water usage (**sprinklers/lawn watering**) during **water bans**. (cont. from the 12/7/09 Town Council meeting.)

Arthur Christman of 42 Windsor Street stated that all water users municipal and private drink from the same aquifer. Mr. Christman suggested that the Commission impose a fine on all residents that use water inappropriately during a water ban. Mr. Christman further suggested that the fine for first offense be \$100 and \$400 for the second offense. Administrator Keiser suggested that this item be continued to the next Water and Sewer meeting on 02/16/10 for further discussion.

Commission consensus: To continue this matter to the next Water and Sewer meeting on 02/16/10.

2) Non-Scheduled requests to address:

Saverio Rebecchi of 13 Sail Street offered his advocacy for a water and sewer facilities committee. Mr. Rebecchi stated that it is important to have water users and non-water users input to strategize and to move forward. Commission consensus: To thank Mr. Rebecchi for his offer.

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICIALS

1) Pumping Report:

The Public Works Director briefly described the Pumping, Reservoir Level, Rainfall and Transfer Pumping charts.

The Public Works Director reported the following:

- Pumping was up for the month of December. Have had several small leaks associated with frozen pipes and meters. Rural Water Association has loaned the Town 15 data loggers to monitor points in the system for leak noise. Mr. Goslee briefly described this leak detection process.
- Color level at north reservoir increased for the month of December. This is a common occurrence this time of the year, when a layer of ice and snow cover the reservoir and prevent sunlight from penetrating the water.
- North Reservoir is @ capacity, usable storage-60MG
- South Pond is @ capacity, usable storage-7MG.

2) Town project reports: (See Project Update Reports dated October 2009 and December 2009)

The Commission asked for clarification on a several items as reported by the Public Works Director.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1) Letter dated December 10, 2009 from Turner Scott, Esq. representing **Newport Overlook** (150 Bayview Drive, Unit 8; Acct. #05-103816 re: water and sewer charges directly related to a **water break**.

Turner Scott, Esq. stated that he and Richard Hopkins from Newport Overlook were present.

Attorney Scott stated the following:

- This was an unfortunate situation.
- The water line in question at Newport Overlook runs through Unit 8 and then runs out to a small office building.
- The leak was discovered with the help of a town employee, underground between Unit 8 and the office building.
- The water usage for 2009 was as follows:
 - April 2009 billing-8,000 gallons
 - July 2009 billing-13,000 gallons
 - October 2009 billing-727,060 gallons, as a result of the leak

Attorney Scott further stated that most of the water used did not go into the municipal sewer system and that he requests that the Commission abate the sewer usage charge and the sewer debt usage charge to 21,000 gallons, which would be their regular water usage for that period. Attorney Scott reported that the leak has since been repaired and that they regularly monitor all of the meters at this location, to make sure that this issue does not happen again.

Administrator Keiser reported the following:

- Attorney Scott did a great job explaining the situation.
- We have had several situations where the homeowner has been required to pay for all charges pertaining to water leaks due to frozen meters, frozen lines, broken water lines and broken irrigation/sprinkler systems.
- The regular water usage for the period in question (October billing) for Unit 8 is usually 72,000 gallons, and not 21,000 gallons as originally stated by Attorney Scott.

Following clarification of a few items, Commissioner Bowen suggested that the excess water charge be paid in full and that relief be given for the sewer usage charge and the sewer debt charge in excess of the usual gallons used (72,000 gallons) for this period.

Commissioners Winsor and White agreed with Commissioner Bowen. Motion was made by Commissioner Bowen, seconded by Commissioner Winsor to amend the 10/09 Water and Sewer Bill for Newport Overlook (150 Bayview Drive, Unit 8; Acct. #05-103816 to provide for a reduction in the sewer usage charge and the sewer debt usage charge, as to the equivalent to the previous years usage of 72,000 gallons. So unanimously voted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS

1) **Water and Sewer Committee/Think Tank** (cont. from the 12/07/09 Town Council meeting) Commissioner Winsor stated that she would like to create a new committee. Commissioners White and Murphy disagreed and stated that they did not want to create any more committees. Commissioner Murphy suggested adding a member of the user group to the Water and Sewer Commission. Commissioner Bowen suggested adding a member of the non-user group also. Commissioner Bowen stated that he would like to get up to speed on matters before making any decisions on this matter. Commission President Schnack stated that he is not interested in creating a new committee and further stated that the Commission has the expertise of the Public Works Director, Deputy Public Works Director and the Town Administrator to guide them.

Commission consensus: To table discussion on this matter, until the 04/19/10 Water and Sewer meeting.

2) Discussion re: **Federal Funds** for repairs to **Water/Sewer Infrastructure** (cont. from 01/04/10 Town Council meeting) Administrator Keiser reported that he is expecting a letter from Senator Reed in February. Commission consensus: To turn this matter over to the Town Administrator.

BILLS AND PAYROLL

- 1) Bills and payroll dated 11/16/09
- 2) Bills and payroll dated 12/21/09
- 3) Bills and payroll dated 01/19/10

The Commission asked for clarification on a few items as listed on the Bills and Payroll.

Motion was made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Winsor to approve the Water Division Bills and Payroll dated 11/16/09, 12/21/09 and 01/19/10. So unanimously voted.

Motion was made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to approve the Sewer Division Bills and Payroll dated 11/16/09, 12/21/09 and 01/19/10. So unanimously voted.

TOWN BUSINESS

(None scheduled)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner White, seconded by Commissioner Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings

Water and Sewer Clerk

xc: Commission Members (5)

Town Administrator

Town Solicitor

Public Works Director

Town Clerk