

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

Monday, August 5, 2013

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 6:02 PM by President, Kristine S. Trocki. The following members were present:

Mary E. Meagher, Vice-President
Blake A. Dickinson
Eugene B. Mihaly
Thomas T. Tighe

Also present were:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator
Peter D. Ruggiero, Esq., Town Solicitor
David R. Petrarca, Jr. Esq., Assistant Town Solicitor
Michael Gray PE, Public Works Director
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director
Denise Jennings, Water and Sewer Clerk

AWARDS, PRESENTATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

1) Presentation by David Bebyn of B & E Consulting re: **General Rate Study** for the Jamestown Water Division

David Bebyn of B & E Consulting, LLC made a short presentation on the General Rate Study for the Jamestown Water Division submitted July 2013.

Mr. Bebyn stated that his company is a Certified Public Accounting firm that specializes in utility rate design and rate consulting work and that they represent water and sewer utilities, the electric company and the State of RI ferries and that Block Island Ferry is also a client. Mr. Bebyn further stated that in this case his focus was for water only and that he has done rate studies for the Town of Jamestown in the past and that Jamestown is not unique and is similar to other seasonal communities. Mr. Bebyn stated that the report is basically laid out in a couple of sections. Mr. Bebyn stated that the first section gives a brief overview and outline of the report and referred to Page 4 which is a summary that shows current expenditures and projected expenditures.

Mr. Bebyn stated that upon his review for the general rate study he looked at the following:

- Current activity
- Past activity
- Current year budget and future capital project needs

Mr. Bebyn stated that based on the capital needs of the water department, he recommends that the Town do some bonding and also recommends an 8% rate increase fy 2013/14, 4% rate increase fy 2014/15 and an 8% rate increase fy 2015/16. Mr. Bebyn further stated that an average customer's usage is 38,000 gallons per a year and would result in an increase of approximately \$7.00 per a quarter.

Mr. Bebyn referred to Page 5 and briefly outline alternative #1 with no bonding and an 8% rate increase fy 2013/14, 9% rate increase fy 2014/15 and an 8% rate increase fy 2015/16. Mr. Bebyn briefly outlined the history on the revenue item Public Fire Protection (hydrant rate) and recommended that this rate be increased

from \$125,000 to \$160,000 per a year, in the future.

Commissioner Dickinson asked if the rate study included sewer. Mr. Bebyn stated that the rate study was done to review water only. The Finance Director stated that the Town may have Mr. Bebyn do a rate study to address sewer rates in the future. The Finance Director further stated that the operating sewer budget presented to the Commission includes a 5.5 % rate increase and also includes funds to be set aside for future capital improvement projects.

Commission President Trocki thanked Mr. Bebyn for his presentation.

The Finance Director stated that the proposed Water and Sewer Budgets for fy 2013/2014 are on the agenda for this evening for adoption, but if the Commission would like to continue to review the budgets, they could be continued to the next meeting on September 3rd for adoption. The Finance Director noted that the next Water and Sewer bills are scheduled to go out the end of September.

Commissioner Dickinson stated that he would like additional time to review the budgets, prior to voting on them. Commission President Trocki agreed.

The Public Works Director distributed a copy of his infrastructure plan to the Commission and briefly outlined the upcoming water and sewer capital improvement projects. The Commission asked for clarification on a few items as outlined by the Public Works Director.

READING AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1) **07/01/13 minutes** (regular meeting)

Motion was made by Commissioner Meagher, seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to accept the 07/01/13 (regular) meeting minutes. So unanimously voted.

OPEN FORUM

1) Scheduled requests to address:

(None)

2) Non-Scheduled requests to address:

(None)

REPORT OF TOWN OFFICIALS

1) **Pumping Report:**

The Public Works Director reported the following:

- o JR-1 well has been in service since April to supplement the water supply.
- o There has been no transferring of water due to the rain received in June and July.
- o Rainfall in July was slightly below average.
- o North Reservoir is @ 58MG, usable storage-60MG and is flowing over the spillway.
- o South Pond is @ 7MG, usable storage-7MG and is flowing over the spillway.

2) **Town project reports:** (See Project Update Report dated July 2013)

Following clarification on a few items, Motion was made by Commissioner Meagher, seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to accept the reports as submitted by the Public Works Director. So unanimously voted.

Agreement with the Town of North Kingstown re: emergency water supply:

Administrator Keiser reported that he has been in contact with Town Manager Embury regarding the Town of Jamestown's interest in reactivating the agreement with the Town of North Kingstown and that he should hear back from Manager Embury by September 1st.

LETTERS AND COMMUNICATIONS

(None)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

(None)

NEW BUSINESS

- 1) Proposed **Water Budget fy 2013/2014** for adoption
- 2) Proposed **Sewer Budget fy 2013/2014** for adoption

Motion was made by Commissioner Meagher, seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to continue discussion on the proposed Water and Sewer Budgets for fy 2013/2014 to the next Water and Sewer meeting on 09/03/13. So unanimously voted.

TOWN BUSINESS

(None)

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Commission, motion was made by Commissioner Meagher, seconded by Commissioner Dickinson to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 PM. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Denise Jennings
Water and Sewer Clerk

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