

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

July 25, 2022

A special 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 10:36 PM by Commission President Nancy A. Beye.

The following members were present:

Mary E. Meagher, Commission Vice-President  
Michael G. White

Also, present were:

Jamie A. Hainsworth, Town Administrator  
Roberta J. Fagan, Town Clerk  
Christina D. Collins, Finance Director  
Michael Gray PE, Public Works Director  
Denise Jennings, Water and Sewer Clerk

Absent were:

Erik G. Brine, Commissioner  
Randall White, Commissioner  
Peter D. Ruggiero Esq., Town Solicitor

**OPEN FORUM**

Commission President Beye noted that this open forum would be for water and sewer matters only.

1) Scheduled requests to address: (None)

2) Non-scheduled request to address:

Carol Nelson-Lee-23 Buoy Street:

Ms. Nelson-Lee expressed her concerns regarding island wide water usage and conservation. Ms. Nelson Lee distributed her recommendation/suggestions dated July 25, 2022 to the Commission and Town Staff. (See attached) for review.

Commission President Beye thanked Ms. Nelson-Lee for her communication.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: **Status update on North Reservoir.**

Town Administrator Hainsworth reported the following:

- On Thursday, July 21, 2022 the reservoir was 19 inches below the spillway.

- Today, July 25, 2022 the reservoir was 22 inches below the spillway.
- The current water restrictions in place are as follows:  
June 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022- Lawn irrigation is prohibited.
- The next step pertaining to conservation, in accordance with the rules and regulations would be as follows:  
No Lawn irrigation, house washing, boat washing, or residential car washing when the height of the reservoir is more than 42 inches below the top of the spillway.

2) Review, Discussion, and/or Action and/or Vote: **Rules and Regulations pertaining to Water Conservation**

Commissioner Meagher stated that the reason that she brought this subject up for discussion was that she feels that conditions are going to get worse.

Commissioner Meagher expressed her concerns about boat washing during this dry time and stated that she thinks that the rules and regulations need to be updated for the future. Commissioner Michael White asked the Town Administrator to report weekly to the Commission on the status of the reservoir level. Commission President Beye stated that the residents need to be reminded and educated on the importance of this matter. Brief discussion ensued.

The Finance Director suggested that two advertisements be placed in the Jamestown Press. Specifically, one for municipal water restrictions and the second for island wide water conservation. Commissioner Michael White suggested using the electronic board that the police department uses.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Commissioner Meagher, seconded by Commissioner Michael White to adjourn the special meeting of the Jamestown Town Council sitting as the Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners at 10:49 AM.  
Vote: President Beye, Aye; Commission Vice-President Meagher, Aye; Commissioner Michael White, Aye

Attest:

Denise Jennings  
Water and Sewer Clerk

Good morning,

Likely you (the town council) have noticed

- we're three inches below average rainfall for this time of year
- the seasonal march of tropical disturbances across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa this time of year has not happened
- the rainstorms in Rhode Island have passed to the north.

Not only do we need to consider and safeguard the town's drinking water supply, we also need to consider and protect the water supply for those on private wells, outside the water district. (Generally, those homes north of Zeek's Creek/Weeden Lane.)

I specifically, politely and respectfully request:

1. A water study of water quantity of private wells. You may recall that one was proposed several years ago. But for whatever reason, the water study committee (comprised of Jim Turenne, hydrologist; Jack Hubbard, engineer; and myself) never received the information and cooperation we needed.  
Now would be a good time for the town council to mandate and support such as effort.
2. Modify the high ground water table regulations to prohibit subsequent homeowners from modifying town-approved rain gardens, either by reducing their size or vegetation.
3. Begin the process of defining and approving water cisterns for homeowners.  
Yes, I know that we're in a drought and that it might seem specious, but let's prepare for the future. If Bermuda can meet its water demands by collecting and storing rainfall, so can we.
4. I ask the town to lead by example, to wit:  
Instead of the town hall gutter downspout (across the West Street lawn) lead to emptying into the parking lot, why not collect the gutter water into a rain barrel and use it to water plants inside and outside the building? Be visible in respecting water collection and use throughout town buildings, school buildings and the library.
5. Actively protect the conservation lots in the Jamestown Shores from encroachment and from the influx of abutters' lawn fertilizer run off into these lots.
6. Protect the 30-odd tax lots in the Jamestown Shores by designating them as conservation lots.
7. Consider offering homeowners on private wells a property tax reduction for installing rain gardens (where not specifically required by the high ground water table regs) and for installing cisterns (once the town defines their installation and use).

Thank you for your time and attention. Now is the time to act.

Carol Nelson-Lee, 23 Buoy Street, Jamestown

July 25, 2022