

**CITY OF BROCKTON  
WATER COMMISSION  
Minutes  
July 22, 2010**

**Present:** Bruce Malcolm, Chairman/Commissioner  
Peggy McGrath, Commissioner  
Ossie Jordan, Commissioner  
Jody Hickey, Commissioner  
Larry Rowley, Superintendent of Utilities  
Michael L. Thoreson, DPW Commissioner  
Brian Creedon, Water Systems Manager

**Absent:** Patrick Quinn, Commissioner  
Alisa Hambly, Secretary

**Attending:** Alfredo Andres  
Isabel Ballestas  
Jeff Hanson

**Mr. Malcolm called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M., noting that a quorum is present and the meeting is being recorded.**

Mr. Creedon noted that the June 24<sup>th</sup> minutes are not completed and will be available at the next meeting.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **DPW Commissioner**. **Mr. Thoreson reported** that staff attended a Finance Committee meeting on Monday night to discuss proposed draft policies for water abatements and also spoke about reports being requested by Ward 6 City Councilor to which the raw data has been supplied. According to the City Solicitor's interpretation of the Freedom of Information Act we do not have to spend time making specific reports, however the IT Department will be assisting in establishing a report format using data manipulation.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **Superintendent of Utilities**. **Mr. Rowley reported** that June's monthly report was included in the meeting information. Work is beginning on Clifton Avenue. Staffing is still down one position. Mr. Malcolm questioned whether Litchfield Street is going to be repaved. Mr. Rowley stated that the street was in disrepair before the water department did any work, but he believes it is going to be paved. Mr. Jordan questioned why the vacant position is not being filled. Mr. Thoreson stated that the Mayor decided to wait due to budgetary uncertainties.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **Water Systems Manager**. **Mr. Creedon reported** on the flows, stating that the flows were higher at the beginning of the month due to Hanson taking water. Silver Lake is down 20 inches; may have to consider taking from our supplemental water supply if the lake reaches 30 inches. Also a full flow test will be done in August, which will mitigate the flow. Monponsett is above the full level and we have not taken from either Monponsett or Furnace. Whitman and Hanson are both taking a higher amount. Mr. Rowley stated that the flow from Aquaria has been increased by 100 GPM due to the extra water being used due to the heat and the water Hanson is taking. Mr. Creedon noted that the annual report was filed with unaccounted for water under 10%.

Mr. Thoreson noted that a preliminary meeting was held this week with Holbrook and Avon as they are exploring the potential of purchasing water from the City; Mr. Thoreson requested that both towns send letter to the Mayor and copy the Water Commission to make the request more formal. Mr. Thoreson also noted that we spoke to Stoughton after the MWRA incident and they would like to explore the possibility of an emergency connection.

Mr. Malcolm opened the meeting for **New Business** and discussion with Mr. Andres from **Aquaria**. Mr. Andres introduced Isabell Balestas who is working on business development and water sales; Jeff Hanson, consultant who is also working on business development and getting more customers for the plant. Mr. Andres stated that the plant has been running for more than a year, delivering water on a daily basis, planning on doing a full test in August. Mr. Andres stated that this is the time of year for water sales and they have been working with several communities south of

Brockton; have a contract with Norton for 150,000 GPD, Norton is intending to begin construction on the pipeline as soon as the permitting is complete. Mansfield also needs water which would be connected through Norton and Easton is ready to take water. Communities north of Brockton that are going to need water are: Stoughton, Holbrook, Avon and Hanson. There are two options one is wheeling and the other is the City sells water to the other towns setting their own price. Mr. Rowley stated that the City would help a neighboring town if we have the capability. Mr. Creedon stated according to the 1899 and 1964 Act we have to allow emergency connections wherever our pipe goes through, our emergency connections are Halifax, Hanson, Pembroke, Whitman and Avon; in the case of Stoughton the rate charged would be the Aquaria cost plus as would Hanson, Holbrook and Avon. Mr. Andres stated that other communities are interested in emergency water or water only during the summer; Aquaria is interested in long term contracts and other communities need to look at the connection like insurance, if they want to connect during an emergency they have to pay a fixed rate as everything at the plant needs to be ready to provide water. Mr. Thoreson stated that an emergency connection still incurs costs for the Towns; agree its in the best interest of the City and Aquaria to sell a continuous supply not just on an emergency basis. Mr. Jordan stated that in a way it could be considered a maintenance fee or insurance that the water would be available. Mr. Rowley stated that the City does not require a surrounding Town to have a fixed fee; if that is not in place that does not help the City as far as Aquaria is concerned to lower our fixed fee; it would be in the City's best interest to require some sort of fixed fee even if the Town only wants water a few months a year as this would help lower our costs. Mr. Creedon stated that there is a requirement that there be an operator that controls a chlorinator and this would be an issue with the vaults. Mr. Andres stated that the Towns would have to install their own system at their cost.

Mr. Andres requested that Mr. Hanson discuss the upcoming meeting with the State that would allow exchanging water for sewer. Mr. Hanson stated that he met with DCR and other water policy people to discuss the different scenarios to sell water; one option is for Towns to send the sewerage over and in return they buy make up water from Aquaria because the water is eventually going to the same place (the interbasin transfer), which means we cannot transfer water from the Taunton Rive basin to another basin. Mr. Hanson met with Michelle Drury and Kathy Baskin and questioned what happens to a town that swaps sewer for water, they have to meet the new proponent standard for conservation. Ms Drury stated that the main problem with the effluent is not the quantity but the poundage of effluents coming out of it; this may have been superseded by the plant upgrades as now there is a lot less poundage coming out, they like this idea as far selling more water to towns and they would be able to get rid of their sewerage. Emergency supplies were also discussed and Mr. Hanson questioned how the State would handle an interbasin transfer if his newly created water company purchased firm water from Aquaria and sold it to area towns as interruptible water, the theory is not everyone will need it at the same time, in return for the interruptible water they would pay a lot less; they would aggregate customers and sell water to them in a non firm basis as an emergency. The State was receptive about this concept. Mr. Hanson stated that he has spoken with three towns that are interested in purchasing water under an emergency basis. Mr. Rowley questioned how the water would be transferred from Aquaria to the surrounding towns? Mr. Rowley stated if it had to go through Brockton a negotiated wheeling agreement would have to be made; and Brockton's fixed commitment would be lowered and Brockton would also receive wheeling. Mr. Jordan stated that he is concerned about the stress on the sewer treatment plant and questioned if anyone has reviewed this. Mr. Thoreson stated that there are a few issues which may necessitate establishing a Water/Sewer Commission and it is a good sign if the State is willing to listen. Mr. Hanson stated that DEP seems to be in favor and said to speak with EPA; the only question is the poundage of effluent. Mr. Rowley stated that he was also concerned about stressing the plant, but if this is on an emergency basis only during the summer, a lot of the water will probably go into the ground and not discharged to the treatment plant; the system has been tightened up with the I&I work that has been done, should not come close to stressing the plant. Mr. Malcolm suggested that a status update of Aquaria occur more often.

Mr. Malcolm opened the meeting for discussion of the **Estimated Bill Procedure**. Mr. Creedon reviewed the new policy. Mr. Rowley noted that the meters are working properly and the problem is the way the meters are being read and the inability to obtain actual readings due to access. Mr. Jordan stated that we need to educate the citizens because what has been reported is not completely accurate; need to provide an explanation of the situation. Mr. Rowley noted that with the update of the software we will have the ability to notify citizens; we are currently sending letters to customers when we do not obtain a reading, however we are not getting a good response. Mr. Thoreson stated that the abatement procedures are what are being done with the exception of #5 and #9 on the single family policy. Mr. Creedon noted that he spoke with Mr. Quinn, who stated that he had no problems with the policies.

**Mr. Jordan moved to approve the Estimated Bill Procedures as submitted. This motion was seconded by Ms McGrath...discussion. Mr. Thoreson noted that the interest is set by state law and cannot be changed. Ms Hickey noted changes in punctuation and structure.**

**Mr. Jordan amended his motion to approve the estimated bill procedures as amended. This motion was seconded by Ms McGrath and so voted unanimously by the Commission.**

Mr. Malcolm opened the meeting for **Old Business** and discussion of the following:

- Current Year Budget Report – everything is fine
- Shut off policy – submitted to City Clerk for Council
- Irrigation meter/systems – sent to Solicitors
- Meter replacement – access ordinance has been submitted. Bidding documents for meters and RFP's for software are prepared; can invite CDM to discuss the process. A committee will be formed to review the software.

Mr. Creedon noted under **Other Business** there is a request for posting of the meeting minutes online. The Commission suggested that this be postponed.

Mr. Jordan requested that site visits be arranged for the facilities that fall under the commission (i.e. Silver Lake, Aquaria, etc.).

The Commission decided that the next meeting will be on August 17, 2010 at 9:00 A.M.

**Ms McGrath moved to adjourn. This motion was seconded and meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

Alisa Hambly  
Secretary  
Water Commission

**Certified by:**

Brian M. Creedon  
Water Systems Manager  
Clerk of the Commission