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**CITY OF BROCKTON
WATER COMMISSION
Minutes
March 17, 2011**

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

Absent: Patrick Quinn, Commissioner

Attending: Jan Brandin
Bob Morelli
John McCluskey
Stephen Torrey
Brian Porter
Peter Vlaco
Michael Sessine

Mr. Malcolm called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M., noting that a quorum is present and the meeting is being recorded.

Mr. Malcolm requested a motion to approve the minutes.

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the January 20, 2011 minutes subject to clerical errors. This motion was seconded by Ms McGrath, and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **DPW Commissioner**. **Mr. Thoreson reported** that budgets are in process; regarding the meter program two of the four contracts have been awarded (large & small meters), the third contract for the AMI system is in the process of being approved to EJ Prescott and the fourth contract for installation is also in the process of being awarded to JE Prescott as the lowest bidder did not meet the requirements and was disqualified as they could not obtain an MBE/WBE waiver.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **Superintendent of Utilities**. **Mr. Rowley reported** that the monthly report was provided in the meeting information. Work on water mains will be starting, have pre marked out Ellsworth and Palm Place, work on Tina Ave is ongoing, others will also be done, also will be replacing the main on Crane Rd as there have been complaints about dirty water. Regarding staffing, a new dispatcher has been hired and there is someone retiring at the end of the month; therefore will be down one position, the position of hoist operator was posted, however the two in house candidates were not qualified as one did not have the license and the other did not have the experience.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **Water Systems Manager**. **Mr. Creedon reported** on the flows stating that they have remained steady; Aquaria is pumping approximately 1.5 MGD; Silver Lake has remained above full; noted that while Monponsett and Furnace are above 6.5 inches the City is required to divert for the safety of residents around the ponds until it reached 6.5 inches, normally would not divert when Silver Lake is full. Whitman is taking approximately 9% of our water, which is normal. Mr. Jordan questioned the dams. Mr. Creedon stated that the three dams at Silver Lake and the reservoir dam are in good shape; Mr. Thoreson stated that he is working with the Park Department doing additional studies on the dams in the park; also working on a dam that straddles Brockton and Abington in trying to have it reclassified as a non hazard dam; the Water Department dams are all in good shape. Mr. Malcolm questioned if it is financially wise to keep taking water from Aquaria. Mr. Rowley stated that operationally for Aquaria as we adjust our water they have to adjust their staff; we pay a fixed fee that we are

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obligated to pay; however we do not have to take any water from them. Ms Hambly noted that the fixed is \$418,000 and the variable is \$58,000. Mr. Rowley noted that the variable fee is budgeted for the year, whatever is not used goes back into the budget into retained earnings. Mr. Malcolm suggested looking into shutting down Aquaria. Mr. Rowley stated that he likes Aquaria in case there is a problem; if they are shut down they would be unable to provide water until their line is flushed. Mr. Creedon suggested inviting Aquaria to the next meeting and stated that he would analyze the numbers to see the costs.

Mr. Malcolm opened the meeting for **New Business and Water Connections** and called for discussion of the application for **Battles Farm**. Attorney McCluskey requested the Commission's approval to meet with the Superintendent to review the potential of separating the water services to the existing buildings. Mr. Morelli reviewed stating that there is one water meter for the entire property and they would like to individually meter each unit separately. Mr. Rowley stated that he prefers separate services on new condominiums; the previous Commission approved Southfield Gardens, which are apartments – same set up, they were separated per section of building. Ms Hambly noted that there were 5 meters for each building plus a meter for hot water. Mr. Rowley stated that it doesn't make a difference with him; it would be up to the Commission, if it were new construction, it would be up to the property owner. Mr. Thoreson questioned if there was any analysis on how much they are currently paying versus how much they would be paying. Mr. Creedon stated that he would do a cost analysis. The Commission decided to continue this discussion until next month to allow for more time to review and that the petitioner can speak with the Superintendent relative to the infrastructure.

Mr. Malcolm opened the meeting for discussion of the application for **214 West Elm Street**. Ms Hambly noted that the Assistant City Solicitor has informed the office that a determination has not been made and the matter is still under review as to whether the vote previously taken on this matter was legal. Attorney McCluskey requested that this application be brought before the Commission again, subject to review by the City Solicitor.

Ms McGrath moved to appoint an Executive Committee member as a voting member so there is a quorum for this meeting. Mr. Jordan seconded this motion, and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Malcolm recused himself from the meeting. Mr. Torrey noted that a portion of the building has been redesigned to comply with the request from the Planning Board. Mr. Thoreson noted that it needs to be determined which executive committee member would be voting. Mr. Malcolm rejoined the meeting to amend the previous motion.

Ms McGrath moved to amend her previous motion to elect executive member Mr. Thoreson vote on the matter of 214 West Elm Street so there is a quorum. Mr. Jordan seconded this motion, and so voted unanimously by the Commission. Mr. Malcolm recused himself.

Ms McGrath moved to approve the application for 214 West Elm Street. Mr. Thoreson seconded this motion, and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

The Commission decided that the next meeting would be on April 28, 2011.

Mr. Malcolm returned to the meeting and opened the discussion for **793 Oak Street**. Ms Hambly noted that the application is for 36 units, for a total of 66 bedrooms. Mr. Porter stated that they would like to have individual meters, plus a common meter, they are planning on having the plumbing for a washer/dryer roughed but behind the drywall for possible future use in case the building ever becomes condominiums. The common meter would be for commercial washer/dryers located in the basement.

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the application for 793 Oak Street. Ms McGrath seconded this motion, and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Malcolm opened the meeting for discussion of the **Fiscal Year 2012 Budget**. Mr. Creedon reviewed the revenues and noted that the overall available cash available should be approximately \$17,000,000., and that the \$14,500,000 collected in revenues last year should be superseded this year. The Commission needs to review the capital projects portion of the budget which includes items from the Water Treatment Plant, Utilities Division for vehicles and Water Commission which include items/project that are needed. The Commission calculated the

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approximate monies that may be available for the budget. Mr. Rowley noted that the cost for desal is approximately \$6,300,000. The Commission discussed either stopping or reducing desal. Mr. Thoreson noted that if the desal money is not used this year; it will appear as free cash the following year. Mr. Rowley noted that the main on West Elm Street will be done beginning in May; the money is in this year's budget. Mr. Malcolm invited Mr. Sessine to the table to discuss the requests relative to the Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Sessine reviewed the Veolia requests only commenting on the priority items:

- #1 high Lift Motor (spare) – new motor cost is \$295,000. another option would be to upgrade the system at \$200,000 per motor
- #4 Sample Stations - \$4,000 each, cost for 10 is \$40,000.

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Mr. Rowley noted that there is \$625,000 available in this years budget under capital improvements; which may be available to use for some of the projects being discussed pending a decision from the CFO.

Mr. Sessine continued reviewing his requests:

- #5 Replace Concrete light poles - \$34,000
- #7 Sludge Drying Bed Staging Area - \$80,000
- #8 Reconfigure piping at 6" and 8" backflow preventors - \$15,000
- #10 High Lift and Backwash Pump Chambers ceiling repair - \$78,000
- #11 Medium Voltage System Maintenance - \$35,500
- #13 Lagoon Cleaning - \$1,000,000
- #14 High Lift Hoist Replacement - \$55,000

Mr. Rowley reviewed the Utilities Division portion of the capital projects stating that the Ford F550 could be deferred, but the flatbed truck is needed as the vehicle currently being used to transport pipe, this would replace the 1982 flatbed that is currently vehicle used.

Mr. Creedon reviewed the Water Commission portion of the capital projects:

- Small Main Replacement Program - \$500,000
- Misc. Mains (Large Mains) - \$1,500,000

Mr. Rowley stated that all the items listed under Water Commission can be deferred except for Misc. Main and Small Main and the truck. Mr. Malcolm recapped stating that the small mains, misc mains and the flatbed are to be funded and the remainder will be deferred; the following Veolia items are to be funded and the remainder are to be deferred.

- #1 High Lift Motor (spare) – new motor cost is \$295,000. another option would be to upgrade the system at \$200,000 per motor; or put in a new VFD at @200,000 and rebuild the old pump at \$11,000
- #5 Replace Concrete light poles - \$34,000
- #7 Sludge Drying Bed Staging Area - \$80,000
- #8 Reconfigure piping at 6" and 8" backflow preventors - \$15,000
- #14 High Lift Hoist Replacement - \$55,000
- #15 High Lift #3 Insertion Valve – \$35,000

Mr. Jordan moved to recommend for approval the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget as amended. This motion was seconded by Ms McGrath, and so voted by the Commission.

Mr. Jordan suggested reviewing where Mr. Creedon is in the five year evaluation as well as reviewing and possibly amending the by-laws of the Commission

Ms McGrath moved to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Mr. Jordan. Meeting adjourned at 11:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Alisa Hambly
Secretary

Certified by:

Brian M. Creedon
Water Systems Manager

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Clerk of the Commission