

7/21/11

**CITY OF BROCKTON
WATER COMMISSION
Minutes
July 21, 2011**

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

Absent: Patrick Quinn, Commissioner

Attending: Michael Jacques
John McCluskey
Jan Brandis
Bob Morelli

Mr. Malcolm called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M., noting that a quorum is present and the meeting is NOT being recorded.

Mr. Jordan moved that the agenda be taken out of order. Ms McGrath seconded this motion, and so voted unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Malcolm called for discussion of the application for the **Brockton Neighborhood Health Center.**

Mr. Jordan moved to accept the application request for an additional 4415 GPD for 63 Main Street, the Brockton Neighborhood Health Center. And so voted unanimously by the Commission.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **DPW Commissioner. Mr. Thoreson reported** that there was a presentation by EJP, CDM and USI at Mondays Finance Committee meeting, where a video was shown and draft information was provided; an invitation was extended to the City Council to have someone attend ward meetings to discuss the program. Also a question/answer session was done relative to the audit, the City recommended a potential look back of five years, the Council voted on a look back period of three years and a meeting is being scheduled to discuss a look back procedure which will be sent to the Council for review, a three year look back is fair; noted that he has had 103 meetings with residents to discuss their bills and 99% of those meetings resulted in an adjustment. Both he and the staff are in the process of reviewing the 39 accounts that filed with the appellate tax board and also is reviewing the 715 accounts that received letters due to more than 6 estimates if there was no response to the letters an additional letter will be sent. The look back would require that the meter be changed and if there is clear evidence that the city has been denied access to a property then requests for adjustments will be denied. The audit had 70 recommendations, some of which were repetitive, some would fall under other departments, and some cannot be done as there are issues with the union. Training will take place and the water dept is working with IT to develop various reports. Any questionable usage will be reviewed and any adjustment will be based on one years worth of usage on the new meter as this will cover all four seasons; the city does realize that this gives the opportunity for people to change the way they use water. Mr. Rowley noted that Councilor DuBois made a good point that private water companies only go back three years, which is where the recommendation comes from. Mr. Jordan noted that the audit was not tailored to do what some individuals wanted it to do. Mr. Thoreson stated that all of the Councilors have been invited to meet with him to discuss the issues, to which there has been no response.

Mr. Malcolm opened the meeting for discussion of **Battles Farm.**

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Mr. Jordan moved to accept the request as presented to allow the installation of additional meters. The Commission voted unanimously on this motion, motion passed.

Mr. Malcolm called for a motion to approve the April 28th and May 19th meeting minutes.

Mr. Jordan moved to approve the April 28th and May 19th meeting minutes. The Commission voted unanimously on this motion, motion passed.

Mr. Malcolm called for a report from the **Superintendent of Utilities. Mr. Rowley reported** that May and June's monthly reports were included in the meeting information. The Cary Hill antenna is up and running and the RNI unit is being installed today; the Irving Avenue antenna will be installed on the 28th as we had to wait for the lines to deenergized; training on the new system will probably begin sometime in September. Regarding water mains Crane Road and Earley Street are complete; finishing work on Leland Avenue, also there is a preconstruction meeting today to discuss work on West Elm Street extending the 20" line from Auna Drive to West Street. Mr. Thoreson noted that the state is going to do a total reconstruction of Pleasant Street next year. Staffing is currently down 4 positions – 2 are funded (1 clerical and 1 water/sewer maintenance man) and the other two positions are unfunded. Mr. Jordan questioned if there was going to be a dedicated person for the new system. Mr. Thoreson stated that they are trying however everyone will be trained.

Mr. Malcolm requested a report from the **Water Systems Manager. Mr. Creedon reported** on the flows stating that we are not currently taking any water from Aquaria, and that the average usage is 9.6 MGD, which is higher due to the excessive heat. Silver Lake is going down approximately .25 inches per day. Noted that the CWMP recommends that Aquaria should be turned on at a low flow when Silver Lake reaches -18 inches, however this is not mandated and Silver Lake is currently at -12.5 inches. We are currently saving approximately \$60,000 by not using Aquaria. Mr. Malcolm questioned if Aquaria could provide water tomorrow if we requested it tonight, and if they were unable to provide water, what would the consequences be. Mr. Rowley noted that he liked to have Aquaria as a backup as he previously had to increase their flow for various reasons. The Commission requested that a letter be written to Aquaria regarding delivery of water and if they would be able to provide according to the contract. .

Mr. Jordan questioned if there was any information relative to the missing member. Mr. Creedon stated that he previously spoke to him by phone after he received the letter relative to his attendance.

Mr. Jordan stated that the audit had comments on the worth of the Commission and suggested that the language in the ordinance be changed to more clearly reflect the duties of the Commission. Mr. Thoreson stated that when the ordinance was written it was stated that the duties of the commission was to find a second source of water, which was done, the ordinance needs to be reviewed and updated as to the purpose of the commission. Mr. Thoreson noted that there was previous talk about making this a water/sewer commission. Mr. Rowley suggested having one or two City Councilors at Large on the Commission so that they are aware of what is happening with the Commission, this is done with other cities/towns with selectmen. The Commission agreed that a letter be written to the Council President to appoint a new individual to the Commission, citing the attendance record and the fact that convening for meetings has been a problem due to a lack of a quorum.

The Commission decided that the next meeting would be on August 16th.

Ms McGrath moved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:08 A.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Alisa Hambly
Secretary

Certified by:

Brian M. Creedon
Water Systems Manager
Clerk of the Commission