

PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING OF
NOVEMBER 23, 2010
(OPEN SESSION)

C O M M I S S I O N E R S P R E S E N T :

RIGO SANCHEZ, President
IDIDA RODRIGUEZ, Vice-President
JEFFREY LEVINE, Treasurer
ROBERT L. VANNOY, Secretary (Absent)
THOMAS P. DeVITA
GLORIA KOLODZIEJ
MENACHEM BAZIAN

A L S O P R E S E N T :

JOSEPH A. BELLA, Executive Director
GEORGE T. HANLEY, Counsel
JAMES G. DUPREY, Director of Engineering
JAMES J. GALLAGHER, Personnel Director
YITZ WEISS, Comptroller
LOUIS AMODIO, Administrative Secretary

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MR. AMODIO: Roll call.

(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
present respond in the affirmative)

MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Rodriguez,

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Vannoy, and Levine will be here as soon as they can.

You have a quorum.

The time is 9:41.

All of the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act have been met. Commission meeting notice have been furnished to all Commissioners, city clerks of Paterson, Passaic, and Clifton, North Jersey Herald News, The Record Passaic County edition and the Commission's executive staff with a copy posted on the main bulletin board at the Clifton facility.

Commissioner Rodriguez is present.

would you please stand.

We have a member of the public here, if you'd like to hear them first, Commissioner.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Yes, please.

MR. AMODIO: Please bring the gentleman in.

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PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Yes, sir. Can you state who you are, for the Board, please?

MR. BORD: Ruben Bord.

This is for a commercial property, 444 Summer Street.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: what town, please?

MR. BORD: Paterson.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: what can we do for you?

MR. BORD: Okay. I got a property, commercial property, over there and the tenant
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didn't pay the water for three years. Okay. And they never cut off the water service since the policy of the water department, you know, said after six months they will cut off the service, the water service. They never did it for three years. Okay.

I found out because I got the sewer bill. Okay. For, you know, a -- I used to get it for \$14. I got it for \$1200. And this is what I investigated and I found out that, you know, the water never was paid.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Joe, Executive Director, Joe, do you know anything about this?

MR. BELLA: John's been handling this.

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PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: John, tell us about it.

MR. KELLY: He owns a commercial property in the City of Paterson and tenants continually move in and move out. The tenants were put on a payment plan. They weren't paying a penny. They got a shutoff notice. The water went off. He came in and paid the \$1900.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Who?

MR. KELLY: Mr. Ruben came in and paid \$1900. Had the water turned back on so his new tenant can move in. He has a commercial property. His water should be shut off tomorrow for non-payment because he had a payment plan. He violated the payment plan. He was charged \$150 to

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turn the water back on. He doesn't want to pay
the \$150.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: What about the claim
we didn't shut the water off for three years?

MR. KELLY: We don't shut the water off
because he didn't call us and the tenant was
making payments. That's between him and the
tenant, not Passaic Valley.

COMMISSIONER DEVITA: That's been paid,
right?

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MR. KELLY: Correct.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: The tenant was making
payments?

MR. KELLY: The tenant was making
payments, fell behind, he came in and paid.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: But he says, my
understanding, am I -- what you're saying is that
they never paid water for three years?

MR. BORD: For three years, yes.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: And they never shut it
off?

MR. BORD: Yes. That's my point, you
know.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Those three years -- I
just want to get this.

MR. KELLY: Here's the payments for the
last three years. Every three months somebody
came in and made a payment.

COMMISSIONER DEVITA: Is the issue now the
\$150 fee?

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MR. KELLY: The issue is he doesn't want to pay the fee, the 150 to turn it back on.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: So the water bill's paid. So what he's here about is the \$150 shutoff fee charge.

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MR. KELLY: He has a \$600 something balance, which he doesn't want to pay and due to be shut off tomorrow.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: What doesn't he want to pay? The 600 or 150?

MR. KELLY: Both.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: Both.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Let me see the paper. Can you pass it around, please?

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: I understand. I understand perfectly.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: There's a payment history here, sir, Mr. Ruben. And I think what you're saying is not accurate. Those three years payment was being made. The problem is that by law, by policy, the landlord is ultimately responsible for the water bill regardless of any inconvenience you might have had with your tenants. So, unfortunately, we understand that you're in a tough position, but we need to get paid.

MR. BORD: But that's right but why -- why the water department, you know, they never, you know, follow their own policy.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Because they were

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making payments, sir.

MR. BORD: They were making payments, why I got a bill for \$1900? This is my problem.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Because they were paying less than what they were consuming, right?

MR. KELLY: Part of the 1900 he keeps saying is part of the City of Paterson's sewer bill, which we don't bill for.

MR. BORD: No, no. This is how I find out. You know, the tenant never paid the water bill.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: That's not our problem. Ultimately, the landlord --

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: The statement, am I correct, the statement is showing that the tenant did pay the water bill --

MR. KELLY: The tenant was making payments. The tenant left him with a \$1900 bill, which ultimately he's responsible.

COMMISSIONER DEVITA: Notwithstanding the \$1900 bill, there were payments being made.

MR. KELLY: Correct. There might have been a bill for 100, they paid 30.

COMMISSIONER DEVITA: Mr. Bord came in and paid the 1,900, right? It's paid. Now there's a

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bill of 600?

MR. KELLY: He paid 19 of a \$2700 payment
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plan which left \$600 something. He's due to be shut off tomorrow. He feels he shouldn't continue the payment plan and he shouldn't have to pay the \$150 reconnection fee.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: So, let me ask you. He's due to be shut off tomorrow unless he pays?

MR. KELLY: Makes \$175 payment, which he doesn't want to make.

MR. BORD: They want to charge me \$150 in the last bill for a connection.

MR. KELLY: Correct. We had to go back out and turn the water on. Somebody had to go from our company and turn the water on because it was shut off.

MR. BORD: When they shut off the water, they were fixing the valves there or something.

MR. KELLY: We fixed our valve to shut it off because you didn't pay the bill. Somebody has to pay.

MR. BORD: Because I'm late, a month, they're going to cut it off? This is my point. The woman stayed there three years, never paid,

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the tenant. Never paid the bill and that was okay.

MR. KELLY: Again, that's between you and the tenant.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Sir, sir.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: Can I make a

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suggestion?

Do you have one tenant there?

MR. BORD: I used to have one tenant there.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: So there's one tenant that uses the water?

MR. BORD: Yes.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: Suggestion, and it's up to you and your tenant. Why don't you receive the water bill from the water Commission and have the tenant pay you? This way you know it's paid.

MR. BORD: I didn't know about it at that time. This is what I'm doing now.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: Now the bill is being paid.

MR. BORD: Yes, because at that time I never had no problem for many years. I never was aware of what's happening.

MR. KELLY: Commissioner, he's actually

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getting the bill. He's been getting the bill for his tenants at his business.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Unfortunately, I know you're in a tough situation but there's nothing we could do about it. This is a public entity. Anything we could do is, you know, you have a better relationship with your tenant and work it out.

MR. KELLY: And, for the record, Commissioner, if he paid the payment plan in full, we were going to waive a year's interest, plus the
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late fee, plus the shut off. He agreed but didn't pay it full.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Can we still make the offer still?

MR. KELLY: If he pays in full tomorrow, he'll save about \$200.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: What's the full amount due?

MR. KELLY: Six fifty-six.

MR. BORD: I cannot do it. I'm trying to pay. I'm trying to struggle.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: I'm sorry, there's nothing --

MR. BORD: I know. I know.

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PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: I'm sorry, sir.

MR. BORD: It's not easy for me, you know.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: I think it would be in order to make a motion. We're giving him an opportunity to waive the penalties, to waive the interest if he can come up with the 656.

I going to make a motion that we put that on the table. If Mr. Bord takes advantage of it, fine. If you can't, then you're going to be out.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: We have a motion on the table for that.

MR. KELLY: Commissioners, it's due by tomorrow 9:00 unless you extend it.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: We'll extend to

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5:00 p.m.

MR. KELLY: You want to try to come down to the window, we'll try to work it out for you?

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: What time does the window close?

MR. KELLY: 4:30.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: 4:30. You can't say 5:00.

MR. BORD: Okay. Thank you very much.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: It's something.

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COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: Do we need a vote on the motion, by the way?

MR. AMODIO: It's a consensus. No objections.

Executive Director's report.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Just, before, I just want to extend my condolences.

MR. BELLA: Thank you. I'll extend that to my wife, too.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Let's get the -- what do we got here?

MR. AMODIO: We have Howard Woods and Randy Brause.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Who charges more per hour?

MR. AMODIO: We have to go into closed session.

Do I have a motion?

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: So move.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

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MR. AMODIO: Pursuant to the Open Public Meetings Act, Commissioner DeVita offers the following Resolution for adoption:

Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public Meetings Act, permits the exclusion of the public

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from a meeting in certain circumstances; and

whereas, the public body is of the opinion of such circumstance presently exist;

Now, therefore, be it resolved, by the Commissioners of the Passaic Valley Water Commission:

1. The public shall be excluded from discussion of the hereinafter specified subject matters; the general nature of subject matter being: Financial, Insurance, Personnel, Contracts, Negotiations, Security, Various Litigation, Request For Ingress/Egress, Summary Aging, and Paterson MUA Request For Water Bill Adjustment.

2. It is anticipated at this time that the above-stated subject matter will be ratified during public meeting following or soon thereafter as reason for discussion no longer exists.

3. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Second by Commissioner Kolodziej.

On the roll.

(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners

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present respond in the affirmative)

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MR. AMODIO: Time is 10:27. You have a quorum. We have Mr. Woods here, I believe. If you'd like to take him first.

We're going to go to the Comptroller's report.

MR. WEISS: Cash on hand is currently 12.8 million.

Our accounts receivable are 11.3 million.

Our 30 days or less accounts receivable is 10.6 million, which is 94 percent, which is pretty good.

Our accounts payable is at 4.4 million.

And as previously, we are refilling our reserves on a monthly basis, which is great.

You have in front of you a copy of our updated five-year plan, along with a copy of our State budget. The plan filters into our State budget. That's the detail of what goes into the State budget.

We have with us also Howard Woods, who designed the five-year plan in case anybody has any specific questions about it.

I could just give you a couple of quick

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pointers. The projected rate increases that were approved with the five-year plan last year are

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still in effect and we projected those numbers are going to be adequate to recover everything that we need and be able to cover.

So this five-year plan includes rate increases for 2011 through 15. Five percent, five percent, four percent and five and five. That's sufficient to cover our operating expenses. It's also sufficient to cover our capital needs as far as bonding, that includes the reservoir projects.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: I have a question of Howard. Is five percent an average trend or are --

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: We're under. For -- in these times?

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Five percent sounds reasonable, right?

MR. WOODS: Absolutely.

In fact, if you compare yourself to some of the larger utilities, New Jersey American is just now finishing up another rate adjustment. On residential they'll likely get approved another eight percent next month.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: That's the only thing

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that we need to let people know, because anything that sounds increases is --

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Are we allowed to send a memo out to show what the other rate payers, how much they increase a year?

MR. WOODS: Absolutely.

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COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Maybe we should put, when we do an increase showing United Water and maybe a five-year span showing what the increase was over five years.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: It's not just that. It might be also interesting to show a comparison as water providers, you would be paying X number dollars per year. Not just the increase, but the actual cost. I have a feeling if they went to United water, they would be paying more than they are with us.

MR. WOODS: Actually, Joe asked me to do an analysis and what I did is I took the water sales that you have in the owner cities and I assumed that we had New Jersey American's and also United's and both of those companies total amount of dollars --

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Also, Joe, we should let the owner cities know how much water they'd be

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paying if they get a bill every month.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: That's exactly what I --

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Instead of they're getting water for anything.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Howard, even with other public utilities, because the public utilities have to come in front of us when they want to do any kind of repair or anything and the increases that are just in that, in the capital improvement, forget about the flat rate, in these

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times, we're still like below everybody else.

MR. WOODS: And you have a plan that brings your capital in, your financing, and your operating expenses all in one place. So you can see where you're heading. So what that allows you to do is have gradual increases rather than the rate increases that a lot of utilities face.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: Howard, just to get back. I presume that, as you said, you did this analysis what they would pay with other companies versus us?

MR. WOODS: You're saving the owner cities' residents about \$20,000 a year.

COMMISSIONER DEVITA: You know what the

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problem is, we didn't raise in water rates for 10 years and that's why when the rates came, "Oh, my God, look at my water." If you look at the grand scheme --

MR. WOODS: Another way to look at it --

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Howard, I brought you down to City Council meeting to say about the rates and everything else. That's why we should send them something now with all these figures to show them how we're doing and why we're doing it because people tend to underestimate what we're doing.

And this group of people, this group of Commissioners, we try to do the best we can to keep -- to run a good, tight ship. So we want to

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show the owner cities that we do everything we can and that's why --

MR. WOODS: By comparison to other utilities, your rates are low.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: And show them how much money we're saving them with free water to the owner cities that we provide.

MR. WOODS: That's a good start.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: So you can set something up with the owner cities?

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COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: It's like a budget highlights that you asked for yesterday.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: Budget highlight is good, but there's concern in Passaic over rate increases, especially over two percent. That seems to be a number.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Because of the gap.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: And we need to go back. It's simple customer relations. They need to know what the value of having us around is. So some people in Passaic are asking questions, why do we need you if you're rates keep going up and the answer is because we're lower than everybody else and our rates are going up less than everybody else. It makes it pretty easy.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: The tax cap is very different.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Correct, that's what we talked about.

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COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: Please bear in mind that the City of Passaic is different than the cities of Paterson and Clifton. How? Because the cities of Paterson and Clifton, according to consensus in 2000 and 2008 each experience an

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increase in household income somewhere between ten and 15 percent. The City of Passaic between 2000 and 2008 went down 14 percent. So the City of Passaic does have a unique quality compared to Paterson and Clifton and that's where some of the concern is coming from.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: I can understand your concern, but we had a lawsuit that got us an extra seat on the Commission because of inequity. So if you want to debate that issue, fine.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: I'm not debating. And I'm concerned where the --

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: And I hear it. It's all based on income. I'll give you the latest demographics in Clifton.

MR. HANLEY: The other thing that I happened to encounter a prominent elected official of one of the member cities recently and we were talking about the Water Commission and I pointed out to that person that the Water Commission actually reduced its payroll over the last, what, eight, eight to ten years by how much, Joe?

MR. BELLA: We're down from 300 to about 190 people. Right now 190 is a little high

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because of the age --

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MR. HANLEY: Right. You don't have to get into details.

I don't know if another municipal, until the last year or so, that has done that.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: And it's still not happening.

MR. HANLEY: And -- let me finish. And while you did that, you increased your sales very substantially. You acquired North Arlington, Lodi, and the two bigger wholesale contracts.

COMMISSIONER DEVITA: We did it voluntarily.

MR. HANLEY: I don't know any public entity that can say that.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Not only that, George, our payroll is, like -- what's the percentage of our payroll to gross income? It's like 20 percent.

MR. WEISS: Twenty percent.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Some of these cities' payroll is like 60 percent of their budget is payroll.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: For us, for the record, it's 29.2 percent.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: We addressed this

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yesterday.

MR. WEISS: Payroll is 20 percent. The
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extra ten percent -- the payroll is 20 percent.

MR. HANLEY: Our reserves.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: George, George,
and by the way --

MR. HANLEY: He said you should let people
know that. So they don't know it and he didn't
know it.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: That's always
been my pet peeve. My pet peeve here is that we
do great things here, nobody knows about it.

The second thing is, the two percent tax
cap, let me tell you, that's going to be
implemented one of these years because when people
have special needs, okay, that's great political
rhetoric. When people in cities and
municipalities and towns and boroughs have special
needs, they go in front of the Local Finance Board
and if they can prove they have special needs, you
got towns that are raising their taxes 15, 17, 20
because they have special needs.

So the political rhetoric is all great for
politics, but the fact of the matter is, if you
have a special need and you go in front of the

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Local Finance Board and you can prove that you've
done everything within your power to address your
budget and you still need to increase your rate,
your tax rate over two percent, it's going to
happen.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: I agree with you.

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But my point is, at least at the moment, two percent is the number that everybody's talking about. Politics is a reality that we do have to deal with that's why I used customer relations. That's what we're talking about. But concerns are proposed. We have to address them.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I agree with you.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: That's all. I'm not in any way saying that what we're doing here is unreasonable, but I'm just suggesting that what we are doing, why we are doing, is something that we have to have facts to back us up and numbers. And that's why we have the nice gentleman with the glasses sitting right across from me. Because -- see now in the minutes we're going to know where you were sitting.

So I guess we can actually go back and say, comparatively, factually, numbers don't lie so long as we're doing apples to apples

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comparisons, then there is nothing that they can say. I mean, obviously they can say what they want. But at least we can come back with facts. That's all I'm asking for is facts. If somebody comes back to me and says, you're going up five percent instead of two percent, my answer comes back to them, but two percent is a straight cost. What is your alternative to going with the PVWC?

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: We're using apples with pairs because two percent of rate increase --

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COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: That's politics.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: No, it's not.

It's all good for rhetoric. This is something we voted on last year. Okay. This is already set in motion. Five percent, seven percent, or whatever. The two percent, that's why people need to get educated, because two percent only pertains to a tax, a municipal tax rate hike, not water, not -- they're not going to tell the Sewer Commission, oh, you can only raise two percent. They'll laugh. Because, you know, operating costs going up every year. You're not going to tell PSE&G, you know what, we're not going to pay, you know.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: Except for the fact

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COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: And people know that.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: But this is something that is going to be questioned, is that a two percent cap on raises has been discussed and is coming forward, yet this Commission just approved three percent across the Board.

So, that's something they're going to come back that I don't have an answer to. But in the whole full discussion, I don't think they have a leg to stand on but I need the numbers.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I also want to caution us in terms of politics and I agree with you, we have to get a message here.

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COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: That's what I'm talking about.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I agree.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: When you said that, I agree. That's exactly what I'm talking about.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Can I get a message out on behalf of the finance committee, because we have been making a lot of progress, which Howard very nicely explained to all of us yesterday at our meeting. I think this budget

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shows important initiatives. We singled out two departments where overtime is running high and legal and is going to require policy decisions. So as the finance committee gets into the nitty gritty and the numbers that the Commission is looking for, we will be back to ask for recommendations. We are very cognizant of the fact that all our contracts are going to be up in 2011 and if I hear everybody correctly, we're going to be as tough as Passaic would expect us to be the next time around. So that's another thing.

I am delighted. Joe is delighted that there's \$3.5 million in here for capital budget. That's got to be our top priority. We talked about that yesterday also.

The telephone system, which we know is on our last leg has been budgeted for. We're going to take care of that. And we're probably going to get the IT things up and running the way we want.

There's a lot of great initiatives in

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here.

Security is another point, which thank God we're delaying that for another month, because that will produce cost savings and personnel. So, you know, this budget reflects a lot more than

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just the rate increase and Commissioner --

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: That's what I'm talking about.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: But I'm trying to say, you should take this back. Tom and I will take this back to Clifton because we have them understanding the process.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: There's significant reforms here in the last two or three years that were totally, I mean, this --

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Correct.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Here goes your budget. Look at it. Sign off on it. Okay. And this, my fellow Commissioner here and I said, and argued and said, that's not happening, not under our watch. So there have been, since the last three years, there have been significant reforms here. That's all I have to say.

COMMISSIONER DEVITA: I agree. I think you guys are doing a great job.

Can we vote on our budget?

MR. WEISS: There's actually two Resolutions in front of you.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Wait a minute.

trusts us.

MR. WEISS: There are two Resolutions in front of you.

One is a Resolution approving the 2011 budget.

The other one is the Resolution for the submission of the budget.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: I just want to say one thing before this conversation is over. I want, you know, to thank the staff for following through. But this body here, this Commission, is to do the best for their owner cities. Has the best interest of the people at heart. And I'm really honored and proud to work with you guys. You know, sometimes we have differences and we put them through and it makes all the differences that we have makes it a good team that we have. And I want to say thank you, the year is almost over and thank you.

MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Levine, as Treasurer, would you like to make a motion?

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I make a motion for approval of the --

MR. AMODIO: Of the budget and the submission of the budget.

This is for two Resolutions. The first one is approving the 2011 budget and the second
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one is for submission of the budget.

Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: And a good job on the part of the finance committee and Yitz.

MR. WEISS: Thank you.

(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners present respond in the affirmative)

MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

Motion approved.

That's all with the Controller.

We can go to the Executive Director's report.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Howard, when you get a copy of that make sure every Commissioner gets a copy.

MR. WOODS: I will.

MR. AMODIO: Mr. Bella.

MR. BELLA: A couple of things I want to get you up to speed on.

Next week we're going to have the ozone

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drill, which is mandatory. It's going to entail county wide facilities and there's going to be a lot of commotion. We're going to do a press release. I'm going to work with Evette to put together a press release in the next couple of days. It depends, if it's a slow news week, it

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will be a big deal. If not, they'll just be a lot of fire trucks and ambulances running around for about a half day on Wednesday. I just want you to be informed.

The other issue was last week we did a -- part of our new capital program in spending that, you know, allows us to be able to do this. We replaced a couple of valves that were 100 years old in the pump station, which requires us to shut down a portion of the pump station, which is always a trying time because it's, you know, part of your plant out of service and it went very well. Particularly our people at the pump station did a great job.

The other thing I want to talk to you about is Commissioner Levine has been working with our staff and the City of Paterson and the County and the Prosecutor's Office about our GIS system, geographical and how we can cooperate together.

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And the County wants to bring in the other owner cities also. How we can cooperate in the building needs so that none of us have to bear full cost of this.

So we put our water layer on. They put their sewer. And the County puts their roads and whatever storm and stuff like that. If we can work together like that, it will be a large savings. And the other thing Commissioner Levine, that they brought up is that together we might be able to get some grants that the County has talked

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about. And gives more weight to the situation. So, that's something that we're working on. And it will -- it's very complicated and it will take some time. But we have a person who's very knowledgeable and working well. We'll meet next Friday. We're just trying to get the preliminary and --

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I didn't want to go above your head.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: No, no. No problem.

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: That's why I didn't call. I didn't want to go above your head. I was going to wait until I saw you at the meeting.

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COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Would you want them at your next meeting?

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: If you have somebody, look at the swamp layers and whatever you have updated.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: What date?

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: December 3rd at the County.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Can you have that e-mail forwarded to Commissioner Kolodziej?

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I didn't want to go over your head.

MR. BELLA: We'll do the same thing with Passaic.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: He's going to forward

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it.

MR. BELLA: The one other thing is we met with on a conference call doing the rating of our new bonds. It went well. You never know because they're so skittish. We'll probably have information back from them in the next week or two.

Okay.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: In these times, it's going to reflect a huge change from last year

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to this year.

MR. BELLA: Sure.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Thank you, Joe.

MR. AMODIO: Moving on.

MR. BELLA: Just let me finish on that one.

One of the things that I wanted to point out is this discussion we just had about capital and everything, what the Commission's thinking and thought process and policy. So it's good.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I have to commend all of you because that's what happens when you write your plans down and set your goals that way. That's the best way to meet them. So the job that you guys did last year --

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: It measures.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: The job you did last year collaboratively is paying off this year.

MR. HANLEY: What did they say about the reserves?

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MR. BELLA: They were very interested in that, the fact that we had bonded and put reserves

--

MR. HANLEY: We funded it accurately.

MR. BELLA: Not only that, but the

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reserves from the bond funds which we had surety and we overlaid some additional reserves I think was impressive.

MR. AMODIO: Moving on.

We have requests from Passaic County Police Academy. If there's any objections to that?

No objections.

Thank you.

Moving along.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: As I recall, they gave us a hold harmless.

MR. AMODIO: Yes, I have the hold harmless, insurance, everything.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: Good.

MR. AMODIO: Moving on.

We have the Consent Agenda. Minutes from the October 21st --

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Accept.

MR. AMODIO: Okay. Thank you.

We also have the Buyer's report for the period October 11th to November 17th.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Accept.

MR. AMODIO: Moving on.

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We have the procurement of the five Ford

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Escapes. would you like to --

MR. HANLEY: Those require a vote.

MR. AMODIO: Yes. I'm not done.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Can we do five and
six?

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: I'll move five
and six.

MR. HANLEY: But did you vote on four?

MR. AMODIO: On the consent. Can I have a
motion?

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: So moved.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: I abstain on the
minutes.

(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
present respond in the affirmative)

MR. AMODIO: Now we're moving onto
Requests For Action.

Procurement --

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Five and six together.

MR. AMODIO: Okay. Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: I move five and
six together.

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COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.

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(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners present respond in the affirmative)

MR. AMODIO: Motion approved.

Thank you.

Next will be a Resolution authorizing Interlocal Government Services Agreement with Brick Township Municipal Utilities Authority for Analytical Laboratory Services for Metals, Inorganic, VOCs, and HAA's.

Discussion.

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes. We're going to do this? Providing the service for that?

MR. BELLA: No. This is the thing we've been doing all along. We haven't got close to the top number because as we phase in our new procedures and processes in the laboratory, we do less and less.

So, for instance, I was just in the lab and the HAA that will be certified probably three months from now and we won't need that. So this is a good thing.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Cost effective to

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do this?

COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Okay. They do work for us. Excellent.

MR. AMODIO: Any further questions?

Do I have a motion.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: So move.

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MR. AMODIO: Do I have a second?

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: Second.

MR. AMODIO: On the roll.

(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners present respond in the affirmative)

MR. AMODIO: Motion approved.

Moving on.

We have a Resolution designating a Public Agency Compliance Officer, Linda Beckering. It's something we must do every year.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: I'll move it.

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: Second.

MR. AMODIO: On the roll.

(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners present respond in the affirmative)

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MR. AMODIO: Next will be Summary of Disbursements and Payrolls in the amount of \$6,862,400.56.

Mr. Treasurer, motion, please.

COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I make a motion for approval of the disbursements, which I'm still going through so I shouldn't even approve this right now.

MR. AMODIO: Can I have a second?

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

(Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
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present respond in the affirmative)

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: I reviewed it. I'll vote yes. I abstain on Rachel Michelle.

MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

I have nothing from Executive Session.

Are there any committee reports anybody like to report on?

COMMISSIONER BAZIAN: For the record, the report of the IT committee is contained within the Executive Director's report.

COMMISSIONER DeVITA: Can we get a personnel meeting next week?

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PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Yes. Set it up for Thursday or Friday.

The only thing I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Thank you.

MR. AMODIO: The next meeting will be December 15th. Wednesday, December 15. 9:30 a.m.

PRESIDENT SANCHEZ: Meeting adjourned.

MR. AMODIO: Time is 10:55.

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