

PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING OF

June 21, 2017

(OPEN SESSION)

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

GERALD G. FRIEND, President

JEFFREY LEVINE, Vice President

IDIDA RODRIGUEZ, Treasurer

DAVID BLUMENTHAL, Secretary

RIGO SANCHEZ

ROBERT L. VANNOY

JOSEPH KOLODZIEJ

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

JOSEPH A. BELLA, Executive Director

GEORGE T. HANLEY, Counsel

YAACOV BRISMAN, Assistant Counsel

JAMES G. DUPREY, Director of Engineering

YITZ WEISS, Comptroller

LOUIS AMODIO, Administrative Secretary

1 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Okay. We have a
2 quorum.

3 We can start.

4
5 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
6 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioners
7 Levine and Sanchez are not present yet)

8
9 MR. AMODIO: The time is 9:40.

10 You have a quorum.

11 All of the requirements of the Open Public
12 Meetings Act have been met. Notices have been
13 furnished to all Commissioners; City Clerks of
14 Paterson, Passaic, and Clifton; North Jersey
15 Herald News; The Record - Passaic County edition
16 and the Commission's Executive Staff with a copy
17 posted at the main bulletin board at the Clifton
18 facility.

19 Would you please rise.

20 Commissioner Kolodziej.

21
22 (Pledge of Allegiance)

23
24 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Member of the public,
25 Mr. Soo.

1 Mr. Soo: Greetings, everybody. Happy
2 solstice.

3 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: What is that?

4 MR. SOO: Today's the longest day of the
5 year, summer solstice. After today we head for
6 winter, so time to break out your winter clothes.

7 I did an OPRA request asking about an
8 inventory of lead service lines in Paterson and I
9 was told -- I wanted it to be a detailed
10 inventory, but apparently you guys don't have
11 something like that. But the number that was
12 stated was at around 30,000 lead service lines.
13 So that's what the document said.

14 So, anyway, it seems to me that that needs
15 to be addressed. They need to get out, the whole
16 lead service lines. I don't think it's good for
17 anybody.

18 I noticed that you have a water meter
19 resolution and I guess you check water meters on
20 properties. Now, what I understand is that a
21 service line goes through the wall of the
22 foundation and then gets connected to the meter.

23
24 (Whereupon, Commissioner Levine is present
25 at 9:42 a.m.)

1 MR. SOO: So there's a point in which the
2 service line is in the open air and you can do a
3 scratch test or put a magnet on it to see whether
4 or not it's lead and I was wondering if that could
5 be done in the process of when you do your normal
6 work on properties and at least you'd be able to
7 determine exactly what properties have lead
8 service lines instead of a general number.

9 And I remember the director saying to me
10 that if curb boxes are being changed or he said at
11 the meeting it disrupts the lead service line that
12 you would change the whole line. Is that same
13 standard applied for changing meters if it's
14 connected to a lead line? No?

15 MR. BELLA: We take out the line.

16 MR. SOO: You take out the line.

17 MR. BELLA: If we take out the line it
18 disturbs a line.

19 MR. SOO: So in the process of taking out
20 the meter, it disturbs a line.

21 MR. BELLA: No, no, if you disturb the
22 line because you have to fix something in the
23 street or something like that.

24 MR. SOO: Oh, okay. That's fine.

25 But, anyway, I think it's very important

1 lines, we can have about 30,000. It's hard to
2 tell what's on from the main between the curb and
3 the house because that's not owned by us. So say
4 you're a homeowner and you had a leak, you'd call
5 up your people and say: Hey, fix this line. They
6 come in and take it out and they never call us so
7 we don't know exactly. We think it's something
8 less than 30,000.

9 Testing, as far as testing concerns,
10 you're in our program. When you test high, you're
11 one of our samples that we test under normal, in
12 our protocol that's required by, you know, the DEP
13 and EPA. We test as sort of a reward. We'll
14 replace the line for you at no charge if you want.
15 We don't have complete success with that. A lot
16 of people just don't want you in the house even if
17 you got lead.

18 The next thing is whenever we go into a
19 person's house, for whatever reason, we check and
20 see if they have a lead line come in. That's not
21 a hundred percent because sometimes in the past,
22 like say if you had a little leak in your house,
23 you had a leak, your plumber might dig down and
24 just replace that little piece, so it might be
25 copper coming in, but from the curb to the repair

1 point. So it's not a hundred percent. We do look
2 and it's very expensive to dig down and check
3 every line. Every house we go into we check, for
4 whatever reason we check, our people are
5 instructed to go down and check. So --

6 MR. SOO: You can check?

7 MR. BELLA: We check as many as we can and
8 once we get a better idea then we'll -- not once,
9 we already know. It's in our database and we'll
10 know the next time.

11 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Okay.

12 MR. BELLA: We're on it. We're all over
13 the lead. In fact, I got to tell you that I've
14 talked to people from all over the country. We're
15 the poster child in terms of doing the right thing
16 for lead. People have been copying our program
17 and the way we do things for awhile. In fact, I
18 had somebody from Halifax, Canada just walked up
19 to me out of the clear blue sky at the national
20 convention and say: Boy, it's really working out
21 good. We're doing just what you guys are doing
22 and we think that's the right way to do it.

23 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER BLUMENTHAL: Motion to close.

25 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Second.

1 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner
2 Blumenthal.

3 Second by Commissioner Vannoy.

4 On the roll.

5

6 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
7 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner
8 Sanchez is not present yet)

9

10 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

11 The time is 9:48.

12 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Can I ask a
13 question? It pertains a little bit to this.

14 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Of course.

15 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I'll ask after.

16 MR. AMODIO: We'll move to committee
17 reports.

18 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Finance.

19 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Yes, we met. We
20 went over the budget. We still have concerns
21 over, you know, some certain things and we'll
22 discuss them in closed session.

23 But there's another issue that was brought
24 to my attention and we'll discuss in closed as
25 well.

1 But we're, you know, we're on par and
2 moving forward and looking closely at every
3 expense and things that need to be appropriated
4 and I think we're getting ready to start putting
5 the budget for next year. Am I correct, Yitz?

6 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Okay. Thank you.

7 Personnel.

8 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: There's no new
9 hires. We have promotions. We have people coming
10 up off the Civil Service list and we'll also
11 discuss that in closed.

12 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Okay.

13 Special projects have any report?

14 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Special projects
15 met on Thursday, the 8th. All were present. We
16 discussed our water storage improvement projects
17 and it seemed to me the committee was in agreement
18 this is more about water quality and health
19 issues, has little to do with Federal mandates.
20 We did request to see the bond schedules for the
21 project so we can better understand the impact on
22 rates.

23 We were troubled by a vendor's request for
24 a half million dollar change order and we
25 encourage administration to continue to fight

1 them. It was mostly based on some generator
2 related issues for the project.

3 We discussed our continuing lead service
4 line replacement projects. Mr. Bella just gave a
5 reasonable explanation, so we'll kind of skip over
6 that.

7 We discussed automated meters and
8 resolutions will continue to come before the
9 Commission so we can finish this project which
10 will ultimately create a structural savings of
11 about a million and a half dollars a year.

12 And we ended our meeting with discussing
13 the urgency to object and fight the proposal that
14 has been put forth by the North Jersey District
15 Water Supply Commission. I suppose if you want
16 greater details that will be better done in closed
17 session.

18 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Any questions?

19 Any other reports?

20 MR. AMODIO: No.

21 Executive Director's report.

22 MR. BELLA: Our demands have been down,
23 obviously, because of the rain. It's been
24 incredibly wet and will really affect us and now
25 it's cool, so we'll see.

1 The trend has been May/June wet/cool and
2 July/August/September we get, you know, we tend to
3 get a lot more heat and dryness. So we'll see how
4 it turns out, but we can't predict the weather.

5 The other thing is, I wanted to talk about
6 the issues, the generator, give a report on that
7 but just on the construction side.

8 Jim will give you the details, but it
9 started. We started, really, a milestone, first
10 time we'll have standby generators for the entire
11 plant which will add tremendously to the
12 resilience and reliability on the ability to serve
13 our Commission.

14 MR. DUPREY: They moved the trailers out
15 of the site which means they're underway. It's a
16 \$28 million project will be going on for a good
17 two years and very complex project with our
18 electrical gear and looking forward to getting
19 those in service.

20 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Is that it?

21 MR. BELLA: One more thing. One of the
22 things we talked about, one of the things we're
23 doing also is, and this is important, not just for
24 a remedy side, but also the service connections at
25 the curb, there's a thing called the curb side,

1 which is basically that separates our system from
2 our customer system and a lot of them are broken.
3 We have a program every summer, we work three to
4 four crews all around replacing them. While
5 they're doing that, they're checking to see if
6 there's lead. It all goes into our database.
7 That's important. It's also important because
8 there's a stability of customers, we go after the
9 highest to the lowest. We start off higher trying
10 to go after the shutoffs so we can collect our,
11 you know, our revenues.

12 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Okay. Next.

13 MR. AMODIO: Okay. Next we have a Request
14 to Advertise for Project 17-P-66 "Design and
15 Construction Phase Professional Services for
16 Implementation of an Automatic Water Meter Reading
17 System for PVWC's Distribution System."

18 Do I have a motion?

19 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: So moved.

20 MR. AMODIO: Thank you, Commissioner
21 Kolodziej.

22 Second.

23 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: By Commissioner
24 Vannoy.

25 On the roll.

1 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
2 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner
3 Sanchez is not present yet. Commissioner Levine
4 is out of the room)

5
6 MR. AMODIO: We'll move onto the
7 Comptroller's report.

8 MR. WEISS: Cash on hand is \$23 million.
9 Accounts receivable is 14.4 million.

10 Our 30 days or less accounts receivable
11 13.6 million which is 94 percent. Last year was
12 88 percent, so we're better in collections which
13 is great, especially, for this time of year.

14 Accounts payable is \$2.2 million.

15 Cash collection is strong.

16 The audit is progressing. The auditors
17 are winding down which is great and that's it.

18 We'll be starting on the budget process
19 next month.

20 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Any questions?

21 MR. AMODIO: Any questions for the
22 controller?

23 Hearing none. Okay. Motion for closed.

24 COMMISSIONER BLUMENTHAL: So move it.

25 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Second.

1 MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Blumenthal
2 offers the following Resolution for adoption:

3 WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public
4 Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public
5 from meeting in certain circumstances; and

6 WHEREAS, the public body is of the opinion
7 that such circumstances presently exist;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the
9 Commissioners of Passaic Valley Water Commission:

10 1. The public shall be excluded from the
11 discussion of the hereinafter specified subject
12 matters; the general nature of the subject matters
13 being: Financial, Insurance, Personnel,
14 Contracts, Negotiations, Security, and Law.

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

20 3. This Resolution shall take effect
21 immediately.

22 Second by Commissioner Vannoy.

23 On the roll.

24

25 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners

1 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner
2 Sanchez is not present yet. Commissioner Levine
3 is out of the room)

4
5 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

6 The time is 9:56.

7 If you would please close the doors.

8 MR. SOO: Can I ask Mr. Chairman how long
9 do you think it's going to be? Don't know? Okay.

10 MR. BRISMAN: We have to give some time
11 for Law, so I would estimate based upon our
12 agenda, I would say 25 to 30 minutes.

13 MR. SOO: Okay. Thank you very much.

14
15 ***

16
17 MR. AMODIO: Roll call.

18
19 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
20 respond in the affirmative)

21
22 MR. AMODIO: You have a quorum.

23 The time is 10:58 a.m.

24 We'll move onto Consent Agenda. I have
25 the minutes of Passaic Valley Water in camera and

1 regular public meetings held on May 24th, 2017.

2 Do I have a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER BLUMENTHAL: Motion.

4 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

5 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner
6 Blumenthal.

7 Second by Commissioner Kolodziej.

8 On the roll.

9

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

12

13 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

14 Next, does the Chair accept, receive, and
15 file miscellaneous purchasing orders placed by
16 Gregg Lucianin, Purchasing Agent, for the period
17 of May 15th, 2017, to June 13, 2017?

18 Does the Chair accept, receive, and file
19 miscellaneous purchase orders?

20 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: I'm sorry, can
21 you run that by us?

22 MR. AMODIO: Does the Chair accept,
23 receive, and file miscellaneous --

24 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Yes.

25 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

1 Move onto Resolutions. If you'd like to
2 do it as one vote, please let me know.

3 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Yes, one vote.

4 MR. AMODIO: We have Contract No. 17-B-29
5 "Furnish and Deliver Water Meters and
6 Appurtenances" Recommendation to award a two-year
7 contract to Neptune Technology Group, Incorporated
8 of Tallassee, Alabama in the amount of
9 \$748,682.30.

10 Contract No. 17-B-30 "Furnish and Deliver
11 Water Meter Repair Parts" Recommendation to award
12 a two-year contract with Neptune Technology Group,
13 Incorporated of Tallassee, Alabama in the amount
14 of \$680,236.00.

15 Lastly, we have Emergency Contract-U.S.
16 Tank Painting of Millstone Township, New Jersey,
17 in the amount of \$48,800.00: Emergency repairs
18 PVWC's existing Harrison Avenue Elevated Storage
19 Tank in Lodi, New Jersey.

20 Questions.

21 Motion.

22 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: So moved.

23 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

24 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner
25 Sanchez.

1 Second by Commissioner Kolodziej.

2 On the roll.

3

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

6

7 MR. AMODIO: New Business: Summary of
8 disbursements in the amount of \$4,130,174.24.

9 Do I have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER BLUMENTHAL: Motion.

11 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner
12 Blumenthal.

13 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Second.

14 MR. AMODIO: By Commissioner Rodriguez.
15 On the roll.

16

17 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
18 respond in the affirmative. Commissioners Vannoy
19 and Levine are not in the room)

20

21 MR. AMODIO: Lastly, recommendations from
22 Executive Session.

23 Resolution of Passaic Valley Water
24 Commission Approving and Authorizing Execution of
25 an Easement Agreement with Porete Development,

1 LLC.

2 Do I have a motion?

3 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: So move.

4 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Second.

5 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner

6 Vannoy.

7 Second by Commissioner Sanchez.

8 On the roll.

9

10 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
11 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner
12 Levine left for the day)

13 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

14 I have nothing under Good and Welfare.

15 PRESIDENT FRIEND: I just have a question.

16 Okay. There was a comment made before about
17 somebody requesting payment of a \$500,000 overrun.
18 Did I hear that right, wrong?

19 MR. BELLA: Yeah, we talked about that, on
20 the design of the --

21 PRESIDENT FRIEND: When did we talk about
22 that?

23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: We were going to
24 discuss that in closed.

25 MR. BELLA: Oh, yeah, right.

1 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: We were supposed
2 to discuss that in closed.

3 MR. BELLA: It's not necessary because
4 we're not moving forward to it and the July
5 meeting will be fine and we can discuss it then.

6 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Just a general comment,
7 though. You know, when we get correspondence,
8 something dealing with a legal matter or a request
9 from a contractor or anything else that's going to
10 be coming up for approval by the Commission, you
11 know, we should get a packet of those letters
12 together with our packet ahead of time so that
13 we're aware of what's going on, you know, not to
14 just be presented at a meeting for it to be voted
15 upon yes or no.

16 MR. BELLA: We weren't looking for a vote.

17 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Pardon?

18 MR. BELLA: We weren't looking for a vote
19 at all.

20 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: There was no
21 vote.

22 PRESIDENT FRIEND: I realize that. But at
23 least we should be aware if there's an issue
24 pending out there. That's my comment.

25 MR. BELLA: In order to do that we do a

1 complete package on that.

2 PRESIDENT FRIEND: Because I don't
3 remember getting any prior --

4 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: At the last meeting
5 we had special project, I requested a list of
6 properties between the cities that need to replace
7 the piping for the lead. Can I get someone to
8 e-mail that list?

9 MR. BELLA: Yes, the list, I can get you
10 the list.

11 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: I want to get the
12 list of properties of owner cities that need
13 replacement. I'm going to go into my city and
14 maybe have them send up a letter saying no cost.

15 MR. BELLA: We're doing the last of the
16 services.

17 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Can we get the
18 list?

19 MR. BELLA: Sure.

20 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Can you send me a
21 list?

22 MR. AMODIO: I will get it to you.

23 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Oh my God, we got
24 all caught up in all this other stuff we did not
25 discuss the issue with North Jersey.

1 MR. BRISMAN: If we need to go back in
2 Executive Session, we can do so.

3 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: Can we? There's
4 something else. Can we?

5 MR. BRISMAN: Is there any action going to
6 be taken?

7 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: No, no.

8 MR. BRISMAN: So members of the public, I
9 think all the action that is going to be taken is
10 already taken. We're going into Executive Session
11 for 15 minutes and then we'll just adjourn.

12 MR. SOO: Oh, all right.

13 MR. BRISMAN: We need a Resolution.

14 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: So move.

15 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner
16 Kolodziej.

17 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Second.

18 MR. BRISMAN: Just for the limited purpose
19 of discussing the --

20 COMMISSIONER RODRIGUEZ: North Jersey
21 Water Commission and something in finance again
22 that I forgot to bring up.

23 MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Kolodziej offers
24 the following Resolution for adoption:

25 WHEREAS, Section 8 of the Open Public

1 Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public
2 from a meeting in certain circumstances; and.

3 WHEREAS, the public body's of the opinion
4 that such circumstances presently exist;

5 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the
6 Commissioners of Passaic Valley Water Commission.

7 1. The public shall be excluded from the
8 discussion of the hereinafter specified subject
9 matters.

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

15 3. This Resolution shall take effect
16 immediately.

17 Second by Commissioner Vannoy.

18
19 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
20 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner
21 Levine left for the day)

22

23

24

25

MR. AMODIO: Time is 11:23.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

You have a quorum.

Motion to adjourn.

COMMISSIONER BLUMENTHAL: Motion to
adjourn.

COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner
Blumenthal.

Second by Commissioner Kolodziej.

The next meeting is scheduled for
Wednesday, July 19th at 9:30 a.m.

Everybody have a happy 4th of July.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LYNANN DRAGONE, License No. XI01388, a
Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State
of New Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true and
accurate transcript of the hearing at the time and the
date hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that I am neither attorney
nor Counsel for, nor employed by any of the parties to
the action in which this hearing was taken.

I further certify that I am not an employee of
anyone employed in this case, nor am I financially
interested in this action.

LYNANN DRAGONE, CCR
Certified Court Reporter