

PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING OF

OCTOBER 17, 2018

(OPEN SESSION)

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

IDIDA RODRIGUEZ, President

RIGO SANCHEZ, Vice President

ROBERT L. VANNOY, Treasurer

JOSEPH KOLODZIEJ, Secretary

JEFFREY LEVINE

GERALD G. FRIEND **(Absent)**

RONALD VAN RENSALIER

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

JAMES G. DUPREY, Business Administrator

JOSEPH A. BELLA, Executive Director

GEORGE T. HANLEY, Counsel

YAACOV BRISMAN, Assistant Counsel

YITZ WEISS, Comptroller

LOUIS AMODIO, Administrative Secretary

1 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Let's call the
2 meeting to order.

3 MR. AMODIO: On the roll.

4 Commissioner Friend is absent.

5

6 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
7 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner
8 Friend is absent)

9

10 MR. AMODIO: The time is 9:51.

11 You have a quorum.

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

20 Please rise.

21 Commissioner Levine.

22

23 (Pledge of Allegiance)

24

25 MR. AMODIO: Okay. I don't believe there

1 are any members of the public present, so if we
2 can go to committee reports. I will tell you that
3 Personnel, the following people want their
4 discussion to be in open.

5 Commissioners...

6 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: I'm sorry.

7 MR. AMODIO: Patricia Benda, Juan Genao,
8 Christine Vozzella, Jory Bell, and Agner
9 Upia-Manzueta. So when you discuss Personnel,
10 those individuals will be discussed in open.

11 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: So let's start.

12 Finance report. The finance committee
13 Chair is not here.

14 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: I mean, we had a
15 meeting. We didn't really have much in finance.

16 Yitz, you want to add anything?

17 MR. WEISS: We went over the regular
18 reports. We discussed cash disbursements; we
19 discussed the budget; we discussed investments;
20 and we discussed payroll and the fact that
21 payroll's being scrutinized.

22 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Madam President,
23 can we talk about overtime?

24 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: In closed.

25 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: In closed?

1 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

2 MR. WEISS: That was something that came
3 up in finance also. We discussed overtime. We
4 were discussing the fact that sometimes the
5 numbers alone don't tell the entire story. We
6 need to get the entire details. We need to know
7 why the overtime.

8 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: We'll talk about
9 that in closed.

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: We're going to talk
11 about that in closed and we're going to talk about
12 payroll because -- since -- well, let's go.

13 Well, Personnel, in terms of payroll and
14 we're talking about Patricia Benda, who wanted to
15 -- I'm going to table that and to bring it more to
16 our personnel committee and discuss Trish's very
17 important role in payroll and look to, you know.

18 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Do something
19 different.

20 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Do something
21 different.

22 MR. AMODIO: So that's going to be tabled?

23 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Yes, until next
24 month.

25 Who else wanted to be in open?

1 MR. AMODIO: Open, Juan Genao.

2 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Okay. The story
3 with Juan Genao is that he is due -- let's start
4 with Agner, Agner wanted to be discussed.

5 MR. AMODIO: In open.

6 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So,
7 basically, Agner has been functioning as an
8 assistant when he should have been a pump station
9 operator already. And nobody's fought. Really,
10 it's just totally overlooked. But he's been
11 working out of title now for awhile. So whatever
12 he's owed for out of title, we're going to have to
13 pay him and now we put him in the proper title.

14 He, you know, grieved and we've got a
15 great relationship now finally with the union.
16 The union brought this to our attention and we
17 jumped on it and took care of it.

18 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: Retroactive?

19 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: I don't know how
20 much it is, but it's not that much. But he is
21 owed that money.

22 That's an issue that we're going to
23 discuss also when we go into closed about people
24 working out of title and supervisors or directors
25 here putting them to work out of title senselessly

1 for long periods of time.

2 Who else?

3 MR. AMODIO: Juan Genao.

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Juan Genao is the
5 same thing. Juan Genao was asked to work out of
6 title and has been working out of title for a long
7 while already and so we owe him retro as well.

8 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Did he get an
9 increment, not retro? It's the same title as he
10 was.

11 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: No, he was working
12 out of -- no, I'm sorry, that was Franklin.

13 Where is Juan Genao?

14 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Number 2(b).

15 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Right. Actually,
16 I'm sorry, I confused him with Franklin.

17 Juan Genao is being brought up to the top
18 of the range. He's been here for awhile and he's
19 one of these guys that works in Distribution that
20 you can call him at any time for any emergency and
21 he's there. So he was recommended and we approved
22 to bring him to the top of the range.

23 That's it.

24 MR. AMODIO: Christine Vozzella.

25 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: She's a title change

1 with Civil Service.

2 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Yeah, she just got a
3 title change with Civil Service.

4 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: No change in salary
5 or anything.

6 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: No change in salary.

7 MR. AMODIO: And new hire, Jory Bell.

8 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Jory Bell was
9 interviewed. Dr. Pranitis recommended that we
10 hire Jory as a water sampler collector. The
11 information was sent to you in your packages.
12 Resume included has a B.A. and we approved it and
13 came out of the personnel committee.

14 MR. AMODIO: The rest is for closed.

15 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Okay. Next.

16 MR. AMODIO: Special projects.

17 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Special projects
18 met on October 4th. We ran through five topics
19 essentially. We spoke about the State revolving
20 the fund and how they're somewhat amending the
21 plan from the 25 percent interest/75 percent
22 interest fee to about 50/50 split and also trying
23 to direct us towards how that money got spent.

24 Most of the meeting was about our
25 intergovernmental relations. From what we found

1 out at the last regular Commission meeting,
2 Commissioner Sanchez and our president laid the
3 law down. So I think everyone's now back on the
4 same page from that.

5 We discussed briefly some of our joint
6 venture partnership with Newark. We reviewed or
7 got updated on our contract for the emergency
8 standby generators, the shared service agreement
9 with Paterson.

10 We talked about some of the bid openings
11 that we had for the valves and tapping valves,
12 tapping sleeves.

13 We talked about a bid protest hearing that
14 we had for the replacement of filter media.

15 And we discussed briefly professional
16 security services.

17 That was pretty much the meeting.

18 MR. AMODIO: Any other questions?

19 Move on to the Executive Director's
20 report.

21 MR. BELLA: Because of the weather, you
22 know, our sales are down. They've been flat
23 pretty much for the last couple of months, almost
24 wintertime. But the true effect on the revenues
25 and everything will be a little while before we

1 can figure that all out and get the details of
2 that, but it will be down.

3 We're fortunate, the bright spot was the
4 wholesale contracts, you know, have helped us get
5 through this period. Works very well in terms of
6 offsetting our costs during the down times. We
7 don't see the big downturns we used to in the old
8 days.

9 The other issue is all the projects we
10 have going on. It's just immense. We really have
11 a tremendous amount of work going on. It's all
12 good stuff too. You know, it's repairs,
13 replacements, getting ready to do.

14 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Joe, this is
15 outsource work, professionals, right? This is
16 not...

17 MR. BELLA: No, some of it we do inhouse.
18 Like one of the programs we have is replacing curb
19 stops. You know, those little curb stops, they
20 seem innocuous. You don't really notice them but
21 they're really an important part of our system.
22 We're doing a lot of that inhouse. We're doing
23 some of the lead replacement inhouse. Some we do
24 out because we just couldn't get that done as fast
25 as we'd like to. So we've had contracts out on

1 that. That's all starting to come together.

2 We're still having problems with, speaking
3 of lead, we're still having problems getting
4 people to let us in to remove their lead line that
5 goes from that curb stop into the house even
6 though it's free of charge and those circumstances
7 will re-disturb their line. So, you know, that's
8 just something.

9 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: How do we get the
10 message out there, because lead is such an issue,
11 right?

12 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: I'm sorry to
13 interrupt.

14 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Go ahead.

15 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: We had a meeting,
16 the City of Passaic and the City is interested in
17 working with the people. The mayor offered to do
18 some P.R. himself to make people aware because he
19 has a large following in his group. So he's
20 willing to do some of this life common, Spanish
21 and English, so people feel more comfortable
22 coming from the City saying, listen, these people
23 are not going to invade your privacy. We don't
24 want to know what's going on in your house. We
25 just want to make your house safer.

1 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: I think that's a
2 very good proactive approach.

3 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: With your
4 permission, since Louie is the Secretary of the
5 Board, I'd like to get Louie more involved in
6 terms of Passaic to find out how can we coordinate
7 that to make it happen soon enough and maybe the
8 City of Paterson.

9 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: You're trying to
10 give Louie more work?

11 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Give him more work,
12 give him something to do.

13 MR. BELLA: Anyway, getting back, getting
14 to what he's saying there, we have all our handout
15 materials ready to go, we're just reviewing them.
16 Any day now we're ready to go with the lead.

17 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: I like that idea. I
18 like that idea and I think we need to make a
19 concerted effort with our Chief Executive Officer
20 down the street too, because he calls all three of
21 us for different things, right. And so he's
22 really busy going around. I think this is
23 something that he can really, really, jump on. I
24 think this is great. This is great P.R. for them.
25 But this is also great for our cities and, I, you

1 know, I think after -- I think I would recommend
2 the same thing for Clifton after November 6th, you
3 know.

4 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Yes.

5 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: They get back on the
6 ground, back in their offices. I think it's a
7 great idea. I think it's a great -- something
8 wonderful that we're doing and should be because
9 every time we're doing good stuff...

10 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: But I think it's
11 coming from those officials in town makes it
12 great, you know, makes it believable.

13 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Yes, it's a great
14 idea.

15 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: I think we should
16 coordinate so everybody is doing the same. Maybe
17 do a little video and post it and social media.
18 They can do the same. And I think it will be
19 helpful.

20 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: This is very
21 important for the community and this gets some of
22 the stakeholders too. People like to come here
23 and complain about things, and this is something
24 that we're doing. You know, let good community
25 development corporations in Paterson that like to

1 come here and complain about everything to get on
2 board with this and become partners, become
3 strategic partners with us.

4 MR. BELLA: And that's kind of the thought
5 that we had when we discussed about it is getting
6 some of these community groups involved, you know,
7 particularly, on the neighborhood level where if
8 we could get people in the neighborhood that will
9 say, hey, look don't worry about it, they're not
10 going to destroy your house or your property.

11 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Right.

12 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: Passaic is
13 very interested. And we also met with the
14 Assemblyman Gary Schaer. He's going to bring
15 whatever he can to the table.

16 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: None of that
17 surprises me with Gary because he's in on
18 everything. I love that about Gary.

19 MR. BELLA: And he has some legislation
20 that's proposed that I think will be important. I
21 think the essence of it is it calls water
22 utilities to replace the entire line right into
23 the house, which, you know, unfortunately, because
24 of the way the laws are written, you can't do
25 that. But they caused us to do that. That will

1 be a big help. It will take years to do --

2 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: We'll see what
3 American, you know, those guys always find a way.

4 MR. BELLA: Well, they have a rate problem
5 there. It's an interesting problem. From the
6 main to curb, they can put that in the rate base
7 that cost, but from the curb to the house, they
8 cannot. So they would have to change all the BPU
9 rules and everything like that.

10 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: That's a real
11 uphill.

12 Good.

13 MR. AMODIO: Is that it, Joe?
14 Move onto Controller's Report.

15 MR. WEISS: Cash on hand is 32 million.
16 Our accounts receivable is 19.4 million.
17 Accounts payable is at 3 million.
18 Our collections are strong.

19 Budgets, as I mentioned, are in process.
20 We'll be meeting with the department heads to
21 discuss needs and that's going to tie in with the
22 efforts to pull together that org. chart.

23 NW Financial is working on creating the
24 tracking spreadsheet the DEP wanted us to do for
25 the new 29 -- not new, last year's \$29 million

1 loan. And we are scheduling with our auditors to
2 come in to do a physical inventory. It's already
3 that time of the year. So...

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: I know. This year
5 has flown by.

6 Okay.

7 MR. AMODIO: Any questions?

8 Motion for closed session.

9 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: So move.

10 MR. AMODIO: By Commissioner Sanchez.

11 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

12 MR. AMODIO: Second by Commissioner
13 Kolodziej.

14 Thank you.

15 Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public
16 Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public
17 from meeting in certain circumstances; and

18 Whereas, the public body is of the opinion
19 that such circumstances presently exist;

20 Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, by the
21 Commissioners of Passaic Valley Water Commission:

22 1. The public shall be excluded from the
23 discussion of the hereinafter specified subject
24 matters; the general nature of the subject matter
25 being: Financial, Insurance, Personnel,

1 Contracts, Negotiation, Security, Law, Personnel,
2 Administration and any other matters as may be
3 discussed in camera.

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

9 3. This Resolution shall take effect
10 immediately.

11 On the roll.

12
13 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
14 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner
15 Friend is absent)

16
17 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

18 Gentlemen, close the doors.

19
20 ***

21
22 MR. AMODIO: On the roll.

23
24 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
25 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioners

1 Friend and Levine are absent)

2

3 MR. AMODIO: Time is 11:30.

4 You have a quorum.

5 Move onto Consent Agenda.

6 We have the minutes of Passaic Valley
7 Water Commission in camera session and regular
8 public meetings held September 20, 2018.

9 Do I have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: So move.

11 MR. AMODIO: By Commissioner Vannoy.

12 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Second.

13 MR. AMODIO: Second by Commissioner
14 Sanchez.

15 On the roll.

16

17 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
18 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioners
19 Friend and Levine are absent)

20

21 MR. AMODIO: Thank you very much.

22 Next, does the Chair accept, receive, and
23 file miscellaneous purchase orders placed by
24 Buyer, Gregg Lucianin, for the period
25 September 13th to October 19th, 2018?

1 Madam Chair?

2 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Yes.

3 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

4 There are no Resolutions this month.

5 We have New Business.

6 We have summary of disbursements and
7 payrolls through October 17th, 2018, in the amount
8 of \$5,367,346.59.

9 Do I have a motion?

10 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: So move.

11 MR. AMODIO: By Commissioner Vannoy.

12 COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Second.

13 MR. AMODIO: By Commissioner Kolodziej.

14 On the roll.

15

16 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
17 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioners
18 Friend and Levine are absent)

19

20 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

21 Move onto recommendations from closed
22 session.

23 We have Personnel.

24 1(b) Patricia Benda is tabled and number
25 7(a) Franklin Santana will be paid from July 16,

1 2018, to October 17th, 2018, for out of duty pay
2 and as of 10/17/2018 he will not be performing the
3 duties of supervisor.

4 Everything else is as written.

5
6 (Whereupon, the following items were
7 approved on the Personnel agenda:

8 1. Promotions.

9 (a) Mayer Rosenberg as Supervising
10 Electrician (as per CSC).

11 Current Title: Provisional Supervising
12 Electrician.

13 Current Salary: 100,360.00 TOR.

14 Proposed Salary: No change in Salary.

15 (b) Patricia Benda as Senior Payroll Clerk
16 (as per CSC).

17 Tabled.

18 (c) Agner Upia-Manzueta as Pump Station
19 Operator.

20 Current Title: Pump Station Attendant.

21 Current Salary: \$49,608.00.

22 Proposed Salary: \$52,532.15.

23 (d) Scott Spellman as Senior Pump Station
24 Operator.

25 Current Title: Pump Station Operator.

1 Current Salary: \$73,566.11.

2 Proposed Salary: \$83,566.11.

3 (e) Lisa Bresemann as Assistant Buyer.

4 Current Title: Assistant Administrative
5 Analyst.

6 Current Salary: \$85,731.00.

7 Proposed Salary: No change in salary.

8 2. Increment:

9 (a) Lilia Negrete as Senior Accountant.

10 Current Salary: \$90,973.12.

11 Proposed Salary: \$98,836.30 TOR.

12 (B) Juan Genao as Water Repairer 1.

13 Current Salary: \$57,896.30.

14 Proposed Salary: \$63,042.81 TOR.

15 (c) Bruce Melnick as Supervising Water
16 Treatment Plant Repairer.

17 Current Salary: \$82,929.60.

18 Proposed Salary: \$88,051.17 TOR.

19 3. Title Change:

20 (a) Christine Vozzella as Assistant
21 Administrative Analyst (per CSC).

22 Current Salary: \$68,072.61.

23 Proposed Salary: No change in salary.

24 Proposed Title: Assistant Administrative
25 Analyst.

1 4. Transfer.

2 (a) Ignazio Iurato as Senior Plumber.

3 Current Department: Maintenance.

4 Proposed Department: Distribution.

5 Proposed Salary: No change in salary.

6 5. New Hire.

7 (a) Jory Bell as Water Sample Collector.

8 Proposed Salary: \$41,000.00.

9 6. Salary Range.

10 (a) Adjust TOR for Senior Carpenter Title.

11 Current TOR: \$85,845.80.

12 Proposed TOR: \$87,205.84).

13 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner Van
14 Rensalier.

15 Second by Commissioner Vannoy.

16

17 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners
18 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioners
19 Friend and Levine are absent)

20

21 MR. AMODIO: Okay. All we have is a
22 special meeting has been scheduled for Thursday,
23 November 1st at 12:00 noon and will be up in the
24 Little Falls --

25 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: 1:00.

1 MR. AMODIO: No, no. We changed it to
2 12:00. And that will be at the Little Falls
3 auditorium.

4 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Make sure they get
5 it ready. We'll make sure that you and Clarissa
6 --

7 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: We'll order lunch.

8 MR. AMODIO: I do have just one other
9 thing that needs to be considered, not today but
10 at the November 1st, we're going to have to
11 reschedule the November meeting, which is
12 currently scheduled for the 14th of November. So
13 if everyone looks at their calendar.

14 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: It will have to be
15 the end of the month.

16 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Jim, did you find
17 out who from here is going to the league and why
18 they're going?

19 MR. DUPREY: When we sent out the e-mail,
20 I think a whole bunch of them said no, we're not
21 going. I don't know if there's even anybody
22 going. Maybe one or two people going, at most.
23 They all backed out.

24 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Okay. When I heard
25 all these people were going, I'm like, really, for

1 what.

2 MR. DUPREY: Also those two professional
3 services for the insurance, those are not going to
4 be open until November 8th.

5 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: Why? That's not
6 what I got yesterday.

7 MR. AMODIO: Timeout.

8 MR. DUPREY: Did they change it?

9 MR. AMODIO: No, what you're talking about
10 and Commissioner Rodriguez is two different
11 things.

12 PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ: I'm talking about
13 health insurance.

14 MR. AMODIO: RFPs were sent out by --

15 MR. DUPREY: No, I thought you were --

16 MR. AMODIO: Jim, the RFP Commissioner
17 Rodriguez is talking about was sent out by
18 Fairview, not by Passaic Valley. You're talking
19 about the one Passaic Valley sent out.

20 MR. DUPREY: Yes, that's why I was getting
21 confused about the dates.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. AMODIO: You're welcome. Okay.

24 Any further discussion?

25 Meeting adjourned.

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COMMISSIONER KOLODZIEJ: Motion to
adjourn.

MR. AMODIO: Okay. Motion by Commissioner
Kolodziej.

Second by Commissioner Vannoy.

Time is 11:34.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LYNANN DRAGONE, License No. XIO1388, 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