

Village Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
July 19, 2005
7:30 p.m.

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Briarcliff Manor, New York was held in the Village of Briarcliff Manor Village Hall, at 1111 Pleasantville Road, Briarcliff Manor, New York of the 19th of July commencing at 7:30 p.m.

Present

William J. Vescio, Mayor
David Venditti, Deputy Mayor
Elsie Smith, Trustee
Donald Wilde, Trustee
Gayle Waxenberg, Trustee

Also Present

Michael Blau, Village Manager
Ingrid Richards, Assistant Village Manager
Tom McEnerney, Village Water Consultant

Absent

Stephanie Ippoliti, Village Clerk

Mayor Vescio stated the meeting was to inform the residents about the recent water rate increase and the plan on how the Village would procure clean and potable water.

Water Rate Increase

Village Manager Blau gave a presentation on the water rate increase.

Mr. Nick Evanchik of 119 Alder Drive asked how the new Ultra Violet Plant in Valhalla would affect the Village's water plans. He further asked how the shutdown of the Catskill Aqueduct number six in 2007 would affect the water rates. He stated United Water would be spending 30 million dollars to tap into the Delaware Water System and asked if the Village could tie into that plan. He stated the 1995 Malcolm Pirnie report stated it might be possible for the Village to tap into the Delaware Shaft 18. He further asked if that report had been looked into. He asked about Volatile Organic Compound "VOC" in groundwater and if the Village Expert could elaborate on that. He asked why the Fiscal Year 2006 full deficit wasn't dealt with and he further asked if property taxes could have compensated instead of increasing water rates. He disagreed with the water rate increase being only for a one year period. He stated the cement lining hadn't been addressed as well as the cost of connection and operations to the new source. He stated the Village would still need a backup emergency supply and

asked where the numbers were for that. He further stated the Village should have an objective of 10% of unaccounted for water.

Mrs. Donna Hannan of 49 Locust Road stated the water bills did not indicate the water breakdown rate per unit on the bills. She asked that it be considered in the future. She further asked how often the Village used the leak detection service and when it would cease.

Village Manager Blau stated the Village had long expanses of water main that were not all located in front of homes or businesses and the expertise was necessary.

Mrs. Bernice Meyerson of 11 Charlotte Court stated nothing had been mentioned about the quality of the water. She further stated she purchased bottled water for drinking purposes.

Mayor Vescio stated the second part of the presentation would address the procurement of clean water.

Mr. Evanchik stated that some years back the Village looked into the water accountability. He stated that a reading would be done daily on the tank volume and each tank is connected to a given area. He stated the Village might be able to isolate where the unaccounted water might be using that method.

Village Manager Blau stated that the high service tank serves a very small amount of the Village's customers and it could only be pinpointed in that area.

Mr. Mort Berger of 2 Elizabeth Court asked why the Village lost Pace University as a customer.

Mayor Vescio stated Pace University had pressure and volume problems and the Village wasn't connected to the Catskill aqueduct in time. He further stated that the Village would be their backup system.

Procurement of Clean Water

Mr. Tom McEnerney of Hazen and Sawyer presented the details of where the Village would acquire clean water.

Mrs. Margot Berger of 2 Elizabeth Court asked if the emergency water supply could be factored in.

Mayor Vescio stated the Village was entering a tri-municipal agreement to get emergency backup water from the Delaware system. He further stated the short term plan would be to change the pumps at Sleepy Hollow to draw water out at a lesser monetary rate than Ossining or New Castle Water.

Village Manager Blau stated the Village met with Sleepy Hollow the previous Friday and an agreement with Sleepy Hollow was being redrafted to be acted upon next month.

Mr. Evanchik stated they would be closing down the Catskill Aqueduct in 2009 for a six month period. He asked if we could negotiate an agreement with United Water to connect to the Delaware Aqueduct.

Mr. McEnerney stated it was his understanding that the Village was bound by court order to engage in the current agreement.

Mayor Vescio stated United Water was looking to expand to the south but the consultants would look at the possibility.

Ms. Diane Trilling of North State Road stated she was interested in the water quality. She asked if the water was unsafe to drink.

Mayor Vescio stated the water was safe to drink but sometimes discolored. He further stated if the water was ever deemed unsafe the public would be alerted.

Village Manager Blau stated the water is tested daily.

Mr. Berger asked if the lead tests had come through.

Village Manager Blau stated there was no lead in the distribution system, however many homes may have lead in their systems and should be tested.

Mr. Douglas Paddock of Valentine Road stated he had been a resident since 1954 and that he lives on a fixed income. He further stated he wasn't sure that he could afford the rate increase and wasn't hopeful or optimistic that there would be a decrease in rates.

Mayor Vescio stated that every consumer in the Village was subject to the same increase. He further stated the deficit needed to be addressed and the Village was moving forward with the procurement of clean water. He stated the Croton Aqueduct had become an unreliable source of water.

Mayor Vescio thanked Mr. McEnerney and Village Manager Blau for their presentations.

Upon motion by Deputy Mayor Venditti, seconded by Trustee Wilde, the Board voted unanimously to close the special meeting at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,
Christine Dennett