

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MINUTES: February 12, 2008

MEMBERS: Chairman: Ken Jenkins; Legislators Bronz, Burton, Harckham, Myers, Pinto, Rogowsky,

IN ATTENDANCE: Legislators: Kaplowitz, Alvarado; **Oxman, Tulis, etc.:** Mark Tulis, John Kirkpatrick; **Random Farms:** David Adler, Lawrence Block; **Malcolm Pirnie:** Kurt Emmerich; **WCDEF:** Marian Pompa, Tom Lauro; **Dolph Rotfeld Engineering:** Dolph Rotfeld; **W.C. Water Agency:** Gina D'Agrosa; **C.E. Office:** Bill Randolph, Andrew Neuman; **Town of New Castle:** Jerry Faiella, Barbra Gerrard; **BOL Staff:** Olivia Rhodes, Rick Pezzullo, Chris Crane, Sally Schecter

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Chairman Jenkins with a quorum present. Legislator Kaplowitz and Legislator Alvarado also joined the meeting.

The first item was the added starter granting a no-cost perpetual easement to the Town and Village of Harrison for the installation, operation, maintenance and repair of a sewer main under County land. Chairman Jenkins introduced Commissioner Lauro who explained that Harrison wanted to do some sewer work and make a more direct connection to the County's trunk line. Mr. Rogowsky explained that it was a strip of land near Delfino Park in White Plains but the property was actually in West Harrison. Mr. Pinto wanted to know if the pipe was going to run along side the river or underneath and he was told it would be underneath. On the motion of Mr. Burton, seconded by Ms. Bronz, the item was passed unanimously.

The next item was Item #5, an act modifying the Saw Mill Sanitary Sewer District by the addition of 263 parcels located in the Town of New Castle. Chairman Jenkins asked the interested parties to join him at the table and introduce themselves.

Supervisor Gerrard explained that Random Farms Home Owners Association, River Woods, and Yeshiva Farm Settlement, Inc. have been issued a Consent Order as their septic system is failing. The Town has tried to help them but has been unsuccessful and therefore they need to be put into a sewer system. Mr. Faiella then gave the background of the area going back to the '80's. The Savin Report initially indicated that River Woods and Yeshiva were problem areas. Random Farms was not. River Woods had a wastewater treatment plant that Yeshiva was hooked into. The plant's capacity was 80,000 gallons a day and it is maxed out. Upgrading the plant would help River Woods and Yeshiva but there is concern about the soil and ground water. The answer would be to pipe the effluent into the Yonkers Sewer Treatment Plant as they have a SPDEES

Permit for 120 million gallons a day.

Legislator Alvarado questioned how much is being piped into the Yonkers Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant today and he was told between 92 and 100 million gallons a day. The effluent from the Town of New Castle would amount to 150,000 gallons a day. Legislator Pinto wanted clarification on the figures. His concern is that Yonkers has a lot of development that is taking place and how will this affect it and their future development and how much is dumped into the “hole” in Hawthorne. The 150,000 to 160,000 gallons a day is sludge plus water.

Legislator Kaplowitz pointed out that this was a public health crisis, that we are drinking remnants of failing septics.

Legislator Alvarado wanted to know what guarantee would there be that there would be no expansion after these houses are hooked up. Supervisor Gerrard said New Castle does not expect to expand and they want a statutory amendment to make it more difficult to obtain building permits. Mr. Tulis pointed out that several years ago approximately 400 homes were taken out of the sewer district and now they wish to add 263 homes so there is no net increase.

Legislator Alvarado has requested that a public hearing be held in Yonkers so that the residents can hear the arguments for the addition of the 263 parcels that have been presented at this meeting.

Gina D’Agrosa said they are thinking of increasing the water level at the Croton Reservoir as more water will be needed for the Delaware Aqueduct so it is important to keep it clean even with filtration and having the least amount of effluent going into the system.

The discussion continued and Ms. Gerrard pointed out that New Castle was not interested in expansion and they were concerned about the environment Mr. Tulis again pointed out that River Wood has 35 residents with no place to go and the Yeshiva had 35 to 40 buildings with no place to go.

Legislator Pinto was willing to make a motion and said if 2 public hearings were necessary it could come back to committee after the first public hearing. There was further discussion and it was decided that on the motion of Legislator Pinto, seconded by Legislator Myers, this item was signed out for all purposes unanimously with Chairman Jenkins and Legislator Burton signing it “without prejudice.” Everyone agreed. Legislator Alvarado, even though not on the committee, suggested that the committee hold a public hearing on this item at the Yonkers Waterfront Library.

Chairman Jenkins mentioned that Nortrud Spero was invited and believes it is necessary to have her as well as Ludlow Park neighbors in to hear their concerns other than at the

public hearing.

Chairman Jenkins thanked everyone. On the motion of Legislator Myers, seconded by Legislator Harckham, the minutes of February 5 were approved.

On the motion of Legislator Burton, seconded by Legislator Pinto, the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST