

## MINUTES

### Joint Meeting of the Beverly City Sewerage Authority, Delanco Sewerage Authority and the Beverly City Council

**Verification of Notice- OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT. (N.J.S.A. 10:4-6) In compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act, this is to announce that adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the following manner. On May 22, 2008 advance written notice of this meeting was posted on the public bulletin board in the City Hall; was mailed to the THE BURLINGTON COUNTY TIMES AND TO THE CAMDEN COURIER POST; was filed with the City Clerk and was mailed to all persons who requested and paid for such notice. The proceedings of this meeting are being electronically recorded and the tape will be on file in the office of the City Clerk and the Beverly City Sewerage Authority.**

Those present at the meeting: Fred Weller, Executive Director of the Sewerage Authorities, William Kirchner, engineer, Ned Heron, George Hahn, Robert Lowden, Robert Bancroft, Phil Jenkins, Tom Lewandoski, Joan Hinkle, Tom Fynan, Bill Dillenbeck, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Heifet, Mr. Arter, Dr. Cook, Mr. Robertson, Mrs. Arter, Mr. Schwedes, Mr. Bass, Council President Crespo, Mayor Wetherill, Skip Reale, Solicitor, Tom Coleman, Solicitor. Mark Asselta, redevelopment attorney.

Phil Jenkins-Delanco Sewerage Authority discussed the history of the sewerage authority and how it came to be. Beverly and Delanco authorities were joined together during World War II for a common plant. Delanco pumps their sewerage to Beverly. Both authorities use the same solicitor and engineer for an easy process. The same billing system is also used. The authorities are looking to do an upgrade of the plant.

William Kirchner-Environmental Resolutions explained that the plant was established in 1901 and that it has the ability to continue to serve both towns a little longer. The plant is now located in one of the major redevelopment areas of the city. The state is requiring upgrades to all plants. Every permit cycle that the plant goes through required more mandatory items. The plant can upgrade its current location, but a new plant would be upgraded to manage more flow of the product and could also become a green plant. Mr. Kirchner explained that all aspects of a new plant have been discussed with the authorities. There has been discussion for the last several years about sending the flow to other towns in the area. The boards feel that a new plant is the best suited for Delanco and Beverly. The residents would get quality service and the rates would be controlled. The Dunes property is ideal for a new plant; the property is elevated and would improve functionally and make the new plant environmentally friendly to everyone. There are cons to building a new plant as well. The cost of the plant would have to be shared with each authority. The authorities could merge as one and become an MUA. There are loans available for sewerage treatment plant improvements. Mr. Kirchner discussed that Mr. Bancroft always talks about how the Light Rail was not a welcoming item to the city, but that it came anyway and that it is best to work together with a project and come to an agreement instead of fighting the process. Mr. Kirchner explained that one of the largest goals of the spoils will be to keep the trucks off the streets. The next step is to have a meeting with Delanco City Council and the two sewerage authorities and the city council. Mr. Kirchner explained that they are looking for input and hope to work together with everyone. Fred Weller discussed that the authorities will continue to investigate all possibilities of shared service and cost. If the flow is sent to another town the authorities still have to exist, since the other town will not be responsible to maintain the lines and the drains.

Dr. Cook discussed that the history of the two authorities was helpful and that it is another option to the city. Mr. Weller explained that he would like to talk to the state about the dredging spoils before they make up their minds. Dr. Cook discussed that a positive of the plan is the use for recreation. Mayor Wetherill inquired if the sewerage authority would apply to DEP for the property. Mr. Weller explained that there are seven sites for spoils according to the DEP and that two of them are in Delanco and one in Beverly. Mr. Weller discussed that he is requesting that 14 areas be used for the new plant and 14 areas for the spoils. The dredging will happen.

Mr. Newsome inquired as to what the capacity of the plant is today? Mr. Weller explained that it will soon be 500,000. The land is valuable now, but that the river is rising each year and there is always the chance of the plant flooding and the city being without.

Mr. Heron discussed that the two sewerage authorities work very well together and that the new plant is needed or an upgrade of the existing plant will be needed. The Beverly plant is 107 years old and still does what it is supposed to do today. The Clean Water Act is requiring the water from the plant to be cleaner each year.

Mr. Bass discussed that the spirit of working together is good and inquired if there is a cost estimate of the benefit of keeping the plant. Mr. Weller discussed that the authorities are looking at doing cost estimates and sharing of the plant with the help of the Bridge Commission. Mr. Bass discussed that fact finding will give better answers so that a decision can be made.

Ms. Thompson inquired about moving the plant to the DUNES? Mr. Weller discussed that the states owns the DUNES and that they would have to be in agreement with everything.

Mr. Arter inquired if a feasibility study is being investigated by the authorities with the Bridge Commission. Mr. Weller explained that funds are available for the study but he would like to see the four entities (Beverly, Delanco and the Authorities) go to the commission as a whole unit.

Mr. Jenkins explained that Delanco was thinking of going to Willingboro but it was cost prohibitive and the township would not have say on the Willingboro authority.

Mr. Schwedes inquired about the timeframe for the study? Mr. Weller discussed that as soon as everyone is on board, they will get started on the study.

Mr. Fine inquired if there was interest from the county in the study. Mr. Weller introduced Mark Remsa from the county economic development office. Mr. Remsa explained that he will go to Trenton to talk to the DEP with the authorities.

Council President Crespo inquired if grants were applied for from the DCA to save money. Mr. Weller discussed that at the current time the authority is concentrating on stopping the spoils from coming to Beverly/Delanco and that the process has already started at DEP to select a site.

Mr. Bass inquired if there are multiple options or just one option to present to the DEP? Mr. Weller explained that the figures are not complete for just one option and that no matter what option is decided upon, the authorities in both communities will still exist.

Mrs. Arter thanked Mr. Weller for the spirit of cooperation and hard work on getting everyone together. It is a good starting point and that she looks forward to seeing the new plans.

Council President Crespo inquired as to why the meeting this evening did not include Delanco Township Committee? Mr. Weller explained that he wanted to get the feel of the city council and then schedule a meeting of all four entities.

Mr. Bancroft discussed that the Beverly Sewerage Authority met with the Delanco Sewerage Authority first and now city council. All three entities can now meet with Delanco Committee for their support.

Mr. Reale inquired as to what the authority was looking for tonight from council? Mr. Weller explained that he would like to see council attend the meeting with Delanco and show their support.

Mr. Lowden discussed doing a resolution to have the two authorities merge as one for the study.

Mr. Coleman discussed that the authority is looking to have a consensus of council to participate in the study with the authority and show support of the plant.

**Mr. Heifet inquired if there is a plan to keep the army corp. of engineers out of the site. Mr. Weller explained that the spoils could be place on the extra 14 areas and that they could be taken off and on the site by barges instead of trucks.**

**Mr. Weller discussed that they are looking at doing a green plant and that there could be electric generated off of the site. The cost and design will show space for energy.**

**Mr. Lowden discussed that the meetings calm fears between Beverly and Delanco and that an agreement needs to be fair to both towns.**

**Mr. Reale discussed that council cannot take action now and will wait until the regular meeting to make a decision.**

**Mr. Heron made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Hahn second the motion. Everyone present voted in favor of the motion.**