



TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2010

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I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

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3 The Water Committee Meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, April 26, 2010 in
4 the Emergency Operations Center, 355 S. County Road, Palm Beach. On roll call, Chair Rosow
5 and Committee Member Coniglio were found to be present. Water Advisory Committee
6 Members Denis Coleman and Terry Levine were also in attendance.

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II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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9 Chair Rosow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

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III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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12 The Agenda was approved as printed.

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IV. PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENTS OF THE CITY OF WEST PALM BEACH'S POTABLE WATER SYSTEM. [EDUARDO BALBIS, ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR]

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15 Eduardo Balbis, Assistant City Administrator for the City of West Palm Beach provided a Power
16 Point presentation to the Committee. A copy was submitted into the record. He noted that the
17 presentation was also given to the City of West Palm Beach City Commission, Water Advisory
18 Board, and Water Catchment Area Advisory Committee.

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20 Chair Rosow commended Mr. Balbis on his presentation.

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22 Denis Coleman asked how many of the 271 required tasks had been completed and Mr. Balbis
23 responded that the program had been completed with a few ongoing tasks.

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25 Questions and discussion occurred regarding:

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- 27 • Obtaining the data regarding irrigation, house and pool data usages.
- 28 • The City of West Palm Beach new billing software capabilities
- 29 • Separate water meters on properties to identify different water usages
- 30 • Mr. Balbis said it would be more cost effective if the residents monitored their own usage
vs. installing numerous meters.

- Chair Rosow discussed a re-negotiated contract with the Town and possibly the town being a bulk user
- Should Palm Beach pay for the expansion of the West Palm Beach plant if it was not using more water?
- SFWMD Consumptive Use Permit
- The Town pays more to the SFWMD than any other municipality in the county for water.
- Mr. Balbis felt it was reasonable for the Town to reduce consumption by 30-40%.
- The debt rates and increased water rates

Terry Levine, Member of Water Advisory Board, stated that he met with David Hanks on Thursday and electrical bills show annual usage and asked if the new software could show annual usage. He was informed by Mr. Balbis that the new software would provide that usage.

Mr. Levine indicated a more permanent and long-term contract should be negotiated between the City of West Palm Beach and the Town of Palm Beach to ensure a permanent water supply.

Terry Levine asked about the rate increase that was built in already for next year. Mr. Balbis indicated that the 2008 Rate Resolution included tiered rate increases for the next five years.

Chair Rosow asked Mr. Balbis to provide a copy of the Rate Resolution to Town Manager Elwell for distribution to the Town Council Members.

V. UPDATE ON PALM BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION'S WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE. [HARVEY L. POPPEL, CHAIRMAN, PALM BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE]

Harvey Poppel, Chairman of the Palm Beach Civic Association for the Water Resources Committee provided an update. He submitted a copy of his comments for the record:

I am Harvey Poppel and I Chair the PBCA Water Resource Committee

Introduction My Talk Today Will Cover 4 Subjects:

- Issues
- A Brief Recap of What We Told This Committee a Year Ago
- What's Happened Since Then -- Special thanks to our Mike Brown & fellow members of the Association's Committee
- Potential Actions

(1) Issue Can Be Simply Divided Into Supply Side and Demand Side

- Taking a long and strategic view, capital outlay for supplying water and hence the cost to consumers will always be a function of satisfying demand,
- Our Committee's initial tasking by David Rosow going back to the fall of 2008 has been to critically examine demand side
- ♦ Estimate future demand
- ♦ Recommend conservation measures

(2) We Presented Our Report A Year Ago To This Committee

(A) Let Me Do A One - Minute Recap Of The 6 Major Findings

1. Average overall use for FY07 = roughly 6mm gallons /day (FY08 now nearly 7 mm gal /day)

Stand -alone single - family residences =58% of usage

Median daily use (800 gal.) 4x Florida median; 80 %+ is irrigation

Multi- residential (condos and townhouses) =23%; 50 % -60% is irrigation

Commercial /government = 19%

2. Our water rates are relatively low. In Sarasota, heavy users pay 3x PB; in some Western US areas, users can pay 5x+ PB

3. Usage sensitive to restrictions, rates & conservation practices

4. Five Benefits of irrigation conservation:

- Lowers future capital outlays for the Town
- Saves consumers \$ on monthly bills
- Promotes healthier plant/lawn material
- Reduces polluting runoff
- Conserves an increasingly scarce natural resource

5. Smart Irrigation Technology (SIRT) Can Save 40 %+Smart controller, Rotating sprinkler nozzles, and Automatic rain shut -off sensors (mandated by the Town for over 5 years but not effectively enforced) Adjunct irrigation conservation concepts, Drip Monitoring controller and sprinkler malfunctions

6. As of early 2009, SIRT potential untapped in PB

(B) Our 3 Recommendations were to

1. Proceed with a SIRT trial ("Phase 1") -- Coordinate w/ Public Works to monitor the program
2. Develop program to institutionalize SIRT ("Phase 2")
3. Consider other means of conservation down the road

(3) What's Happened With the First 2 Of These Recommendations Since Last April

(A) Phase 1 Trial Good news and bad news:

(1) Good news mainly as an outgrowth of public -awareness activities conducted by our Association, SIRT installations are proliferating (based on a recent polling of 6 irrigation contractors):
Stand -alone residences -- Nearly 60 installs or active proposals with roughly 500 new sprinkler heads e.g. Rosow, Poppel, Stein savings 50 %+
Condos and commercial —about 20 installs or active proposals (including 10k+ new sprinkler heads) Remodeled Poinciana Chapel

(2) Bad news although we have 22 confirmed participants in the trial, we haven't been able to

1 establish a registry with the Town -- to monitor installations and /or measure the outcomes
2 (B) Phase 2 Institutionalizing SIRT Members of our Committee met with Peter Elwell, Paul
3 Brazil, Jim Bowser and Skip Randolph back in January to consider a program to institutionalize

4
5 SIRT

6 (1) Any program must encompass three sets of stakeholders:

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8 ➤ Regulators and Enforcers

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10 ♦ 2009 State Enacted Florida Statue 373.62 no modifications to date unresolved issue concerning
11 which type(s) of SIRT installations are to be exempted from water restrictions

12 ♦ New Town Ordinance being drafted

13 ♦ SFWMD Rebate Program suspended because of lack of funds

14 ♦ Local administration and enforcement nothing we're of which we are aware to date

15
16 ➤ Influencers:

17 (1) Gardeners

18 (2) Irrigation contractors

19 (3) Landscape contractors

20 (4) Landscape architects

21 (5) Property managers

22
23 Issues are:

24 ♦ Need to educate these parties

25 ♦ Means to encourage them to advocate SIRT

26 ♦ Potential shortfall of installers

27
28 ➤ Users (1) Stand -alone residences

29 (2) Multi- residential condo & townhouses

30 (3) Commercial

31 Two not - mutually - exclusive options to encourage /force SIRT conversion:

32 ♦ Mandatory compliance e.g. with rain gauges

33 ♦ Economic incentives /disincentives, e.g. a rate override accruing to the Town

34 Raising rates for all say by 5% would raise close to \$600,000 /year enough to fund a
35 combination of:

36 ♦ Educational programs for influencers and users

37 ♦ Administration of a user registry

38 ♦ Enforcement of mandated equipment

39 ♦ Some one - one -one advice to users

40 ♦ Rebates

41
42 Without a source of income, the Town (and especially the Public Works Department) will
43 be hard pressed to allocate the staff necessary to institutionalize this program.

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45 Next Steps -- In terms of further work, our Committee stands ready to assist the Town to move
46 forward with both the Phase 1 and 2 programs.

Chair Rosow thanked Mr. Poppel and the Civic Association. Mr. Coleman agreed and they have done a great deal of research. It was his opinion that the town should now take over the program. It should be a Town policy and the Town should manage the water resource and residents can pay it as a user fee.

Chair Rosow asked Mr. Balbis if the City would participate in the endeavor of a conservation effort without increasing the Town's rates. Mr. Balbis indicated he would be happy to explore that concept with Town Manager Elwell.

Chair Rosow indicated that one of his concerns was that if the Town reduced its water consumption, then the rates would increase from the City of West Palm Beach. Chair Rosow indicated the Town had recently reduced water consumption due to using a new well for irrigation at the Par 3 Gold Course.

VI. DISCUSSION OF POSSIBLE ORDINANCE TO REQUIRE RETROFITTING OF IRRIGATION SYSTEMS WITH SMART IRRIGATION TECHNOLOGY.

Town Manager Elwell answered the question of a mandatory ordinance vs. voluntary conservation. He heard more consensuses today that there should be different rates for Town users, but have the city bill it. Town Manger Elwell said it appeared to him that the universal agreement that this (smart irrigation systems) was the right technology for the future.

There was discussion of how to implement a requirement vs. a recommendation for water conservation and the use of data, staff resources, and implementation. Town Manger Elwell suggested a new ordinance with mandatory participation but have a 5-7 year implementation period.

Committee Member Coniglio thanked Mr. Poppel for his report and all of the work that the Civic Association had prepared.

William Diamond, Town Council Member, asked about immediately adopting an ordinance requiring smart technology for new construction and 50% or more renovations. He stated it could be done without having to study rates.

Town Manager Elwell indicated that the recommendation to have a new building code ordinance created could occur within the Water Committee Report at the May Town Council Meeting. If approved, there would be a first reading in June.

Terry Levine spoke about last Thursday's meeting with the City of West Palm Beach and quoted Mr. Balbis. He also submitted a copy of an email that he had previously sent to Committee Member Coniglio into the record.

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2 Denis Coleman suggested having subsidiary board with members from the Town of Palm Beach,
3 similar to the ECRWWTF. Mr. Balbis responded that the City of West Palm Beach formed the
4 Water Advisory Committee. Committee Member Coniglio agreed with Mr. Coleman and felt that
5 the Town should have a say in the day to day operations, management, policies and oversight of
6 the water that the town pays for. There was a brief discussion regarding the color and taste of the
7 water and the changes that the City has made in that regard.
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VII. UPDATE REGARDING POTENTIAL FOR IMPLEMENTING STRONGER RATE
INCENTIVES FOR WATER CONSERVATION.[PETER B. ELWELL, TOWN
MANAGER]

9 *This item was discussed in conjunction with ITEM VI.*
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VIII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

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12 There were none.
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VIX. ADJOURNMENT

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15 There being no further business, the Water Committee Meeting of Thursday, April 26, 2010 was
16 adjourned at 11:55a.m.
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20 APPROVED:

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23 _____
24 David A. Rosow
25 Chairman
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