

TOWN OF PALM BEACH

Office of The Town Clerk

REPORT OF THE WATER COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting of the Water Committee was called to order on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, at 9:30 a.m., in Town Council Chambers. On roll call, Committee Chair Rosow, Committee Member Diamond and former Councilman Coleman were present.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Rosow led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved as printed.

IV. PALM BEACH CIVIC ASSOCIATION REPORT ON WATER RESOURCE DEMAND, PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS [Mr. Harvey L. Poppel, Civic Association, Director and Water Committee Co-Chair]

Mr. Harvey Poppel presented a Power Point to the Committee. A copy was submitted into the record. He discussed the background and purpose including:

- Water usage data
- Water conservation measures & potential savings
- Rate comparisons
- Preliminary conclusions
- Scope of recommendations
- Next steps and open discussion

Member Diamond asked about the cost of Smart Controllers. Mr. Poppel responded that the units cost from \$350-\$500 and installation fee of approximately \$500. There would also be an annual maintenance charge of \$48.00.

1 Former Council Member Coleman offered that a sensible way to implement these
2 costs savings is to require them with new construction and renovations.

3
4 Mr. Poppel also added that the SFWMD had a program that subsidized the program
5 but it recently ended. Former Member Coleman offered that he discovered he had a pool
6 leak for years and since it was repaired, his water usage has decreased by 70%.

7
8 Chair Rosow indicated his gardener was opposed to a drip system vs. spray
9 watering. He also suggested water towers use a large amount of water and the Town
10 should find out how much water is actually being used/wasted.

11
12 Former Council Member Coleman asked if Mr. Poppel if he analyzed the largest
13 estates in Town and if it would be feasible to install private wells on their property. Chair
14 Rosow indicated that the Breakers is the largest user, but they also use non-potable water
15 for irrigation and have their own RO (reverse osmosis) plant.

16
17 Mr. Poppel indicated that that there are many stakeholders:

- 18
19 • Town Residents
20 • Town Businesses
21 • Town Government: Public Works, Finance & Administration
22 • City of West Palm Beach
23 • SFWMD
24 • EPA

25
26 Mr. Poppel indicated that only 20% of water usage is used indoors in Palm
27 Beach. The average water use should be 40-60 gallons per day per person. Only 10%
28 or less of Palm Beach residents use this amount of water. Most consume much more.

29
30 Former Council Member Coleman stressed the Town needs to prioritize the
31 needs - water restrictions, usage vs. higher rates. Chair Rosow added that the Town
32 pumps 3 million gallons per day in wastewater, which starts out as potable water.

33
34 Committee Member Diamond indicated that there is a psychological barrier that
35 residents who install a non-potable system will likely feel that they are entitled to use
36 more potable water.

37
38 Chair Rosow asked for the names of the smart control companies in order to
39 install one at his personal residence. Mr. Poppel indicated that he would provide the
40 information to the town Manager. Chair Rosow thanked the Civic association for their
41 excellent report.

V. REPORT ON ALTERNATIVES TO POTABLE WATER USE FOR IRRIGATION

a. ALTERNATIVES FOR TOWNWIDE USE [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

Mr. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works, presented two cost saving items to the Committee. There are 28 Town Properties that are being irrigated. An example is the Par 3 golf course- it is irrigated with brackish water, without having to construct an RO (reverse osmosis) plant.

Mr. Brazil stated that the conversion would take 17 years and cost the Town \$1,710,000 to install irrigation wells on all 28 sites.

Former Council Member Coleman asked about regulations. Mr. Brazil indicated that with a shallow well, you would need a Town permit, but no other. A representative from Kimley Horne & Associates, Mr. Kevin Schanen, P.E., spoke and said that the water coming from the shallow wells would be very salty and brackish.

Chair Rosow asked if all of the wells on the Island are brackish. Mr. Brazil indicated that most of the water is very brackish due to the fact that Palm Beach is a barrier island. Chair Rosow asked Paul to look into Phipps Park and other larger Town properties, including drip irrigation. Mr. Brazil suggested using a combination of irrigation options.

Mr. Jim Bowser, Town Engineer, asked the representative from Kimley Horne & Associates to explain the shallow wells. He indicated that by using a deeper well from the Floridan Aquifer, the water quality is fairly consistent. A shallow well is extremely salty and a type of RO plant or system may be needed to filter out the salt.

b. ALTERNATIVES FOR IRRIGATION OF TOWN OWNED PROPERTIES [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

For Private Property, it is possible to have private irrigation systems on a resident's property. Most ornamental plants would not survive the brackish water and would require some type of treatment. Staff researched the cost of construction of individual system. Mr. Brazil noted that all of the information was provided in the back-up materials for the meeting.

Town Manager Elwell indicated staff would research if it were true that if there were more than two users on one well, if that required a permit. Chair Rosow seemed to recall that was the case from a prior meeting.

VI. REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO UPDATE REPORT ON VIABILITY OF TOWN OWNED QUADRILLE PROPERTY FOR WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, WITH ENGINEER'S COST ESTIMATE [H. Paul Brazil, Director of Public Works]

1
2 Mr. Brazil outlined the possibility of building a Town water plant on the Quadrille
3 property. The City of West Palm Beach is willing to work with the Town. To take the
4 next step, that site would need to be seriously studied to determine the capacity and the
5 amount of water that could be treated. Mr. Brazil asked for approval of \$23,000 by
6 Kimley Horn & Associates, one of the Town's consultants, to conduct a feasibility
7 analysis for an RO facility on that site.

8
9 Chair Rosow wanted to make sure that the Town understands the options. There are
10 3 RO facilities on the island currently. He also asked if the water usage and potential RO
11 Plant at Phipps Park could be analyzed since it is one of the Town's larger properties. Mr.
12 Brazil indicated that Phipps Park was studied back in 1998.

13
14 Town Manager Elwell indicated that the Town Council could recommend an
15 approval for the additional items, which could include Phipps Park. A proposal could be
16 prepared prior to the Town Council meeting that would include both Quadrille and Phipps
17 Park at various scales of usage

18
19 Chair Rosow wanted to know how to encourage the larger users, especially in the
20 condos, with vast amounts of landscaping, and if they could build an RO plant. Town
21 Manager Elwell stated the Committee could move more aggressively on the smart
22 controllers, and possibly work with the Civic Association and have an education
23 campaign, and how to encourage the use of water savings devices.

24
25 Former Council Member Coleman offered his own property of 1/2 an acre at no cost
26 to the Town, to experiment to see what the savings would be.

27
28 **Chair Rosow asked Mr. Poppel to submit the names of the smart technology**
29 **companies and the Town will attempt to encourage the use of the different products.**

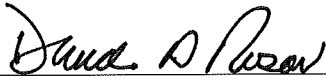
30
31 **The Committee will ask the Town Council to approve a proposal from Kimley**
32 **Horn & Associates that would include the updating of portions of the 1998 water**
33 **supply study dealing with Phipps Ocean Park, and the Town's Quadrille Property.**
34 **The Committee will also ask the Town Council to approve an educational campaign**
35 **regarding the use of smart controllers, including monitoring and analysis of the**
36 **amount of water saved by these devices.**

37
38 VII. ANY OTHER MATTERS

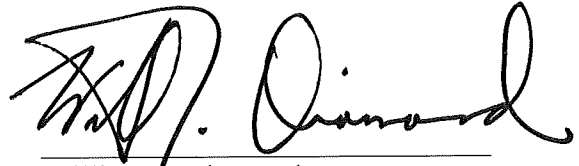
There were none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Water Committee meeting adjourned at 10:57 am.



David A. Rosow
Water Committee Chair



William J. Diamond
Water Committee Member