

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Work Session
May 21, 2007

A work session of the Jamestown Town Council was called to order at the Jamestown Philomenian Library, 26 North Road at 7:01 p.m. by Town Council President David J. Long to discuss the siting of the highway facility. The following members were present:

Julio J. DiGiando, Vice President
William A. Kelly
Michael Schnack
Barbara A. Szepatowski

also present:

Bruce R. Keiser, Town Administrator
Arlene D. Petit, Town Clerk

Brenda Hanna, RPR, was present as stenographer for the Town

The Town Administrator provided the following documents for the Council's review and reference:

- 1991 RIDEM EA Site Screening Report
- Memorandum regarding the initial site reconnaissance included with the EA report
- EPA letter to Maryanne Crawford regarding Lot 47 dated March 15, 1999
- Summary and findings from the Lot 47 Transaction Screen Report (GZA December 1999)
- Record of transfer of Lot 47 to the Town – May 7, 1986
- Lot configuration and acreage of Lots 47, 48, 49, 50 and 51
- Site Investigation Report for the landfill closure (GZA March 22, 2002)

Additional documents provided:

- Report on Magnetic Measurements for Locating Buried Steel Drums on Lot 47 by Dr. Richard K. Frohlich (study concludes – no man-made objects buried on the lot)
- Town Council minutes – December 13, 1999, documenting GZA's presentation on the Transaction Screen Report for Lot 47 and the proposed Site Investigation Work Plan
- March 2007 Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring Report results
- Sole Source Aquifer petition (original and revised) provided by Ellen Winsor (including the Preti-Flaherty letter to EPA that accompanied the original application)

For clarification purposes, the Town Administrator specifically noted the following:

- Claims that large piles of debris and possibly abandoned cars were dumped on Lot 47 prior to Town ownership appears unfounded and were based on

- misinterpretations or errors in both the 1991 EA report and the 1975 Whitman and Howard landfill survey map.
- EA report was incorrect in stating that Lot 47 was part of the landfill and is contradicted in the preliminary assessment.
 - 1975 Whitman and Howard map depicting 4' – 12' high piles of debris are by scale located on lot 48.
 - 1999 site survey questionnaire was relating hearsay, as Mr. Goslee was not employed by the Town in the mid-70's
 - 1999 Lot 47 Transaction Screen Report concludes that no evidence of dumping on the site was observed during the site walkover.
 - Current site conditions based on: soil gas and groundwater monitoring; the Frohlich magnetic study; last week's test pits, and existence of mature vegetation, and site-walkover observations do not support a conclusion that waste is buried or was illegally dumped on lot 47.

There being no further report from the Town Administrator, Council President Long opened the meeting for comments from the audience.

Donna O'Neill, Summit Avenue, stated that water is the issue on lot 47, as well as requiring a zoning change, and there being too many unknowns about the site. In addition, Ms. O'Neill asked that the Council make the decision.

Mary Meagher, Melrose Avenue, encouraged the Council to consider the bridge site because of all the problems associated with lot 47.

Susan Little, North Main Road, stated that the decision is too critical to be decided by referendum. Ms. Little cited the advantages of selecting the bridge site, specifically, central location, has water and sewer, and cost of construction. Ms. Little encouraged the Council to err on the side of caution and select the bridge site.

Adolphe Salaum, Seaview Avenue, stated that he was in favor of using the landfill site.

William Johnstone, Summit Avenue, asked that the Council consider the bridge site.

Lisa Geigen, Summit Avenue, noted that she was concerned about the cost and the affect on taxpayers.

George Sousa, Prospect Street, presented a written statement outlining the practical solution to siting the highway barn at the bridge site.

Richard Anderson, West Reach Drive, addressed concerns relating to increased traffic in siting the highway facility on lot 47 and suggested using the more accessible bridge site. Mr. Anderson also expressed concern that there are restrictions on water availability and usage for lot 47.

Ellen Winsor, East Shore Road, stated that the Council must keep the water supply in mind when making any decisions regarding the siting of the highway facility.

Patrick Bolger, Fore Royal Court, reviewed several reports and documents relating to the landfill site. Mr. Bolger asked that the Council review all materials and make the safe selection at the bridge site.

Michael Swistak, Narragansett Avenue, stated that he was concerned with passing the siting of the highway facility on to the voters. Mr. Swistak noted that the Council is well informed and should make the decision.

Mary Webster, Mount Hope Avenue, expressed her concerns relating to the possible paint toxins at the bridge site as well as the Town losing the annual revenue from the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority. Ms. Webster suggested bringing the question to the voters.

Steven Jepson, Columbia Lane, asked the Council to consider the liabilities of their decision as well as the impact on the Town should there be law suits.

David King, North Main Road, questioned the Department of Public Works on the north end of the island.

Rosemary Woodside, Skysail Court, questioned the costs associated with siting the highway facility on lot 47. In particular, Ms. Woodside asked what the costs would be for a zoning change and access from Summit Avenue. In addition, Ms. Woodside asked how much of the \$75,000 allocated to study the feasibility of siting the highway facility on lot 47 has been spent. Ms. Woodside also asked for a timeframe for closure of the landfill. Ms. Woodside suggested that the bridge property is ready to go.

Craig Amerigan, Narragansett Avenue, suggested that the Council rely on the qualified professional scientists that they have retained. Mr. Amerigan suggested that if this is a political decision, the voters should decide.

Sav Rebecchi, Sail Street, suggested that the Taylor Point site is best suited to the highway facility because of its location and access to sewer and water. Mr. Rebecchi indicated that the north end island residents are frightened of the consequences if the facility is built on the north end.

Dennis Webster, Mount Hope Avenue, stated that if the highway facility is built on lot 47 the Town can control water usage and not exceed the 200 gallons per day allowed. If two houses are built on the lot, the Town loses control. Mr. Webster stated that there may not be sufficient voter support for the Taylor Point site. Mr. Webster encouraged the Council to consider lot 47 for the highway facility.

Janice Columpar, West Reach Drive, asked the Council to keep the water supply safe and to make the right decision.

Raymond Iannetta, North Main Road, presented information relating to the debris thought to be at the landfill and surrounding lots. Mr. Iannetta discussed several of his

concerns relating to the risks to the Town and residents if the Council makes the wrong decision and sites the highway facility on lot 47.

Robert Sutton, Rosemary Lane, stated that as the former Town Administrator, lot 47 was purchased for the highway facility. Mr. Sutton stated that there is no study out there that says it doesn't make sense to site the facility on lot 47.

Ros Tinker, Seafarer Court, noted that GZA is the same company that mistakenly reported well contamination at the Willis' property. Ms. Tinker stated that she had no confidence in GZA.

The Town Administrator noted that GZA GeoEnvironmental retains a great reputation. The resampling showed that the mistake was a laboratory entry error.

Jack Early, East Shore Road, communicated that he felt there would be more of an impact on the north end of the island because of the narrow roads than on the more centrally located Taylor Point site.

Nick Robertson, Carr Lane, stated that long-term residents know that Frigate Street was a landfill and there are no problems associated with that. Mr. Robertson stated that he feels lot 47 is the best location because it meets the Town's needs for many years – he did not feel he could say that about the bridge site.

Jane Coster, West Reach Drive, encouraged the Council to make the decision. Ms. Coster asked that the Council think about the environment, the costs and zoning permits needed if they choose lot 47.

Connie Rainone, West Reach Drive, asked that the Council not take a chance with polluting our water.

There being no further comments, it was moved by Councilor Schnack, seconded by Councilor Szepatowski to adjourn the work session at 8:45 p.m. So unanimously voted.

Attest:

Arlene D. Petit
Town Clerk

c: Town Council Members (5)
Town Administrator
Town Solicitor
Administrative Circulation