Town of Milton Town Council Meeting Milton Library, 121 Union Street Monday, April 10, 2013 6:30 p.m.

Transcriptionist: Helene Rodgville [Minutes are Not Verbatim]

Mayor Jones: The first thing on our agenda tonight is to swear in our new councilwoman, Miss Esthelda Parker-Selby. Raise your right hand and repeat after me. I, Esthelda Parker-Selby, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, the laws of the State of Delaware, and the Charter of the Town of Milton. I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office of Council in the Town of Milton, with fidelity. I will always take action for the best interests of the citizens of the Town of Milton, guiding that decision to the best of my ability, so help me God.

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: I, Esthelda Parker-Selby, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States of America, the laws of the State of Delaware, and the Charter of the Town of Milton. I will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of my office of Council in the Town of Milton, with fidelity. I will always take action for the best interests of the citizens of the Town of Milton, guiding that decision to the best of my ability, so help me God

Mayor Jones: Congratulations.

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: Thank you.

Mayor Jones: I'm very proud of this Council and I hope all of you are too.

1. Public Participation

- Sam Garde, 115 Sassafras Lane, Milton: Because of the order of the way we do things here, the public has to speak before we find out what the Council is going to discuss and since I'm not sure what the Council has in terms of discussion of the Referendum, I'd like to put out just a few points. I'm not sure we can afford to wait a year to start construction, because we did have that issue last summer when we had to go on water restriction. We're not in a good position to withstand even a single, major outage of one of the significant pumps or one of the significant towers. In addition, I don't know that we're going to benefit from waiting, in terms of whether the next round will offer a longer or shorter term, a higher or lower interest rate, or more or less forgiveness. I think we're rolling the dice on all of those and I'll just leave it at that. I don't know what the Council has their agenda to discuss in those ways. I'd like to also make a point from my background, which is if you want to get really good pricing, for your construction effort, have a really detailed scope document that can be complied with, can be understood and can be bid to a lump sum. I'm sure Vice Mayor Booros will back me up on that. He's been in procurement for a long time and I've been on the engineering and construction side. When someone gives a contractor a per scope, he lays himself open to extras and out of scopes and multiple additional charges, as the contract progresses. Thank you.
- <u>James Welu</u>: I would like to second the first comments of the first speaker. I've made a point at this Council numerous times for true public participation, we should be in a position to respond to what the Council has to say and what they think and what issues

they raise. My idea of true public participation would be on important issues that the Council have their discussion and then the citizens have a chance to comment on what they hear from the Council and then the Council goes back and does their final discussion, based on what the citizens have to say and what they think. I kind of disagree with the previous speaker on a number of the issues. Listening to a fellow from Moody's Financial Advisory Group, the other day on the radio, it sounds to me like construction costs are not going up over the next 12 to 24 months. The government is not going to put any great deal of money into infrastructure and there's no other major indications of real growth other than possibly home construction and commercial construction, so I don't see costs necessarily going up. There's a risk, but I think it's a very minimal risk and at the same time, the same people that are making these discussions, it would seem that interest rates are not likely to go up very much over the next 12 to 15 months. So I don't think we have a risk on that end. I was doing a quick calculation based on the maximum number of gallons we were pumping in the worst of the summer last year and it seemed like it got over about 500,000 gallons per day; with our limit of 500,000; but without the check valves in place, there's a 15-30% discrepancy there, so we were probably more in the range of maybe about 400,000 gallons per day. We weren't even close to the maximum, assuming that that's being checked out with the new check valves that there was a 15-30% variance in the actual water we pumped vs. what we were actually using. So I don't know that we have a real crisis on our hands, but two other things I would suggest the Council really take under consideration are an active conservation movement on the part of the town, with the citizens, in terms of reduce the amount of water everybody uses. As they say, you don't leave the faucet running while you're brushing your teeth. You turn in on when you want to rinse your mouth or clean off your toothbrush, but there are a lot more examples of where water can be saved and be conserved. The other issue I would think that we might be able to get our Town Manager to pursue would be a small grant for low flow toilets, for the older toilets in our community, which are using 3 gallons, 4 gallons a flush; it's pretty high compared to 1.4 to 1.6 and you can get a very adequate toilet, at Home Depot for \$69, low flow; made by Galaxy. I'm sure there are plenty of others. I've used them in my remodeling and have had no problem with them. I think a small grant would be very effective in cutting down in the older homes, where they have the old toilets. In my business over the last 30 years, which has been buying and fixing up old homes and real estate, I've had to take a number of risks and you never know what the end result is going to be, but I'm not adverse to risk and I don't know that the town should be adverse to risk when we have some indication that construction costs aren't going up, so that's not a factor; interest rates are probably not going up and it is kind of the throwing of the dice whether there will be forgiveness a year from now, but the likelihood is there probably will be. So I would not be adverse to the town putting off the referendum at this point in time, but my recommendation would be to go forward as quickly as possible with a referendum to be in place, along with very detailed cost estimates, as the gentleman said in detailed things, so that we are shovel ready the first opportunity there's a new round of funding. Thank you.

- 2. Moment of Silence
- 3. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4. Call to Order – Mayor Jones

Mayor Jones: We'll call the meeting to order. It is 6:40 p.m.

5. Roll Call – Mayor Jones

Vice Mayor Booros Here
Councilman West Here
Councilwoman Patterson Here
Councilman Cote Here
Councilwoman Parker-Selby Here
Councilman Collier Here
Mayor Jones Here

6. Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Have you had a chance to look over your agenda this evening? Do you have any corrections or additions?

7. Agenda Approval

Mayor Jones: Hearing none, do I hear a motion?

Councilman West: I'll make a motion to approve the agenda.

Vice Mayor Booros: Second.

Mayor Jones: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed. The agenda is approved.

8. Presentation and Approval of Minutes: February 26th, February 28th and March 4, 2013 Mayor Jones: We gave the new council people a few extra days to look over the three sets of minutes presented at the April meeting. Have you looked at those and are there any corrections, deletions or additions? Is there any discussion on these three sets of minutes? Hearing none, do I hear a motion to approve?

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: I move that we approve the minutes of February 26th, February 28th and March 4, 2013.

Councilman West: Second.

Mayor Jones: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed. Motion is carried.

9. Old Business

a) None

10. New Business – Discussion and possible vote on the following items:

a) Reconsideration of Resolutions for the 2013 Water Referendum
 Mayor Jones: I don't know whether Mr. Thompson wants to make a statement in reference to exactly the legal aspects of what we're doing here this evening.

 Seth Thompson: I think that should be of some help. So procedurally what we have is a motion, or we have reconsideration as a potential agenda item. Somebody can make a motion to reconsider the previously approved Resolutions and the reason it's plural is because there was one to set the date and then there was a Resolution to set the language. So somebody can make that motion, as long as they voted in favor of the prior Resolutions. Anyone can second that motion. That doesn't mean that the water referendum is then canceled, it just brings those Resolutions back procedurally in front of the Council; so there

could be another vote on those Resolutions for or against. So it's really a two-step process. If anybody has any questions, definitely let me know, but again, a vote in favor of the motion to reconsider, does not automatically mean you are voting to not hold the referendum.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Well, that said, I'll make a motion to reconsider the two Resolutions that were previously approved for the 2013 Water Referendum, the one for setting the date and the one setting the language.

Councilwoman Patterson: I second.

Mayor Jones: Time for discussion. One of the things I would like to discuss with Council, Mr. Thompson I am not opposed to reasonable comment from the audience. I am but one person on this Council. I understand time and being sensitive to that, I cannot argue the points made that it is difficult to comment on context you have no idea what it will be. So I would like to hear if there's any opposition to my suggestion that we take some comment. Seth Thompson: So in other words, it would be basically receiving public comments, specifically on this agenda item.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Correct and only this agenda item. Can we agree? Okay, thank you. Vice Mayor Booros you had brought this up, did you want to go ahead and talk about this reconsideration.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Are we going to vote on bringing this back?

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Well this is discussion to bring it back. This is the discussion to bring it back. <u>Seth Thompson</u>: Correct.

Vice Mayor Booros: Discussion to bring it back. After all the letters were sent out to the community and the voters and the renters and whoever else the letters went out to, we found out from the State that we were not going to get any of the forgiveness, because the forgiveness money was all given to Selbyville, because they had an emergency. I think that changes things, drastically changes things and I know you're going to hear in this room tonight that we were never promised forgiveness. That's true, but I think every one of us, it's \$510,000, which was on the table to be forgiven, possibly and that's a lot of money to this town. The last time this was brought up it was like no, you can't use water money for anything else, but we wouldn't have been borrowing... we wouldn't have been spending that water money and if we want to commit ourselves to \$510,000, then maybe we should go to the bank and borrow \$510,000 and use it on the infrastructure around town, or something, but I can't see... I guess I'm with Mr. Welu. You have to take a risk. There's no promise that we're going to get the forgiveness next year and maybe after skipping a year, if they say next year there will be none, I would vote probably next year to go forward with it, but I think we need to discuss this Resolution again, because this information came up after we voted yes. I'm just saying open it for discussion. I'm one of seven votes when it comes to whether or not we vote on that Resolution again tonight.

<u>Councilman Cote</u>: I have a question for the Council. If we go Saturday and vote and we approve the language and approve the loan, how long is that Resolution good for? Is it six months, is it a year, is it two years or three years, before we'd have to do it again. If we didn't act to go forward with the actually construction, how long is that Resolution good for, that Referendum vote good for, if we were to apply again in August or September? Would that Referendum vote on Saturday still be good?

<u>Seth Thompson</u>: I think Mr. Abbott might be better able to answer that, because it sounds like more of a logistical question and maybe Mr. Abbott can chime in to correct me if I say anything incorrect, but I believe this is a yearly process and the numbers are going to be

different every year. I have a feeling you would have to go through the entire process again next year.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: But a portion of that process is done, the engineering study is done, it's all done, it would just be resubmitting the applications in August, is the way I read it. The applications are already done. We could duplicate the applications and resubmit them in August.

<u>Seth Thompson</u>: I think part of the process though, at least under the prior Resolutions we included, for instance, the interest rate, that sort of thing, so if it ticks up next year...

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: It could be a different interest rate. Yes. Absolutely.

<u>Seth Thompson</u>: So if it doesn't comply with what was voted on in the Referendum, then obviously that would be a problem.

Win Abbott: There is much about the water system improvements, because it is very objective. The engineering study on the things that need to be done, even the evaluation of the loan applications have a number of point values that are assigned to different deficiencies in the system. There are point values for a lack of security. There are point values for a high nitrate levels. There are point values for all kinds of different things, so that in the end, when they evaluate the applications, they are assigned a very objective value in which they are rated. However, there is something that we have tended to overlook here and that is a subjective value. This is called "ready to proceed". Now the Office of Drinking Water puts only projects that are "ready to proceed" on this list. Now the "ready to proceed" definition, does not exist. This is something that is done in good faith between the Office of Drinking Water and the municipalities and the private utilities that provide public services. Once again, it's a subjective value. Now on Page 1 of this report that I most recently gave to you, I tried not to make too fine a point of it, but it comes down to this. When you look at the funding for that department, the funding for the salaried positions, people that work there and that has been their career, it depends to a great deal upon the use of this annual allocation of EPA funding. If they have people on the list that have indicated they are "ready to proceed", that do not follow through and the department is not in the position to use their allocation within that fiscal year, then their allocation stands to get reduced. Then it becomes real personal for them, because they lose salaried positions. So the "ready to proceed" subjective value on the part of this department, really depends upon their perception of the good faith efforts of the municipalities and the private utilities that serve a public purpose have; that they partner with them. Pulling out with three days before a Referendum would not cause us to never be considered again, however, on an internal basis they very likely will perceive us differently and that is this. They could say that for towns that have exhibited this kind of style of making choices, that we're not going to consider them "ready to proceed" until they've already passed a Referendum; or we're not going to consider them "ready to proceed", until after they have actually done all the engineering work, so they truly are shovel ready as Mr. Welu had said. Then the costs of doing the engineering work, becomes an up front cost to the town, which may not be reimbursed through this long term, low interest loan. Now that could be part of a long term Capital Improvements Plan where we plow money into engineering that is working out every inch of every new piece of equipment and pipeline that is going to go in, so we're truly shovel ready and the project cost that is part of a loan is going to be significantly lower; however, given our position it's going to take a fair amount of time to get there and considering that the difficulties that the Town of Milton had with our finances in the past few years, we're not in a position to go to the commercial market for a loan. So before you rescind all the

work that has been done the past year, I want to emphasize the importance of this subjective measure called "ready to proceed" in our partnership with the State Office of Drinking Water.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: With all due respect, Mr. Abbott, the question was does the Referendum occurring next week, bring us through to next year? Isn't that what the man was asking? Can we use this Referendum next week, for next year's money? I think that was the question that was asked.

<u>Councilman Cote</u>: Or the year after? <u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Or the year after?

<u>Win Abbott</u>: The answer is yes, however, we may have to refund the \$7,900 that we paid for the engineering study this year, because part of our contract with for that was that we would apply for the funds.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: And we did apply for the funds.

<u>Win Abbott</u>: We did. I know. I said may. I said may, okay? So that may be the only consequence, but truly you're correct that we could proceed with the Referendum, have it pass or fail, on it's merits, with the public and then not choose to go through with the loan for another year.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: And that Referendum that we... let's say it passes and that Referendum that we passed, would be good for next year, even if we resubmitted the application and didn't take the money this year? That was the question.

<u>Win Abbott</u>: Okay. Once again, the answer is yes, however, you just need to know the consequences that there may be with their determination whether or not the Town of Milton is ever "ready to proceed".

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: I understand. I just wanted an answer to the question and we got something else that wasn't an answer to the question.

Win Abbott: Well, the context is very important.

Seth Thompson: I think from a legal perspective too, it's interesting, I'm just thinking aloud here, but let's say the Referendum passes by one vote and one of those people moves. I don't know the legal answer to this, but the question then becomes would you have a different vote at that point? Now your Charter doesn't identify the specific amount of time that the Referendum is good for, but I think it would be difficult to say that it lasts through infinity, so there has to be some end point. The question is, as time progresses, does it become more likely that a challenge to it would be successful? I think the answer to that questions is an easy yes. The follow-up question is of course, okay, well what time period would then apply? And that's something that's not addressed in your Charter. It's something that probably would require some research, and also I suppose it depends on how close of a Referendum vote it actually is. Seemingly the population could change over the course of that year. That's the difficulty.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Does anyone else on Council have a comment right now? It's not that you won't have another opportunity, I just want to give Council first chance.

Councilman Collier: I have several. I guess some of them are questions, as much as comments. My understanding of the process is that we have to go to Referendum in order to even get consideration beyond where we are at this stage of the process. They're ranked applications and there's nothing that says that because we're number seven or number eight or number ten or whatever, that the funding will reach that far down the line. But even to get the consideration to begin with, we have to go to Referendum, is what I understand. The Council and I wasn't part of the Council that did these Resolutions or anything else, went

into this with the understanding that there was no guarantee to forgiveness, so why it would become an issue after the fact, kind of befuddles me. It's nice to hope that you get it, but if you don't get it, you knew that going in, so I'm not sure why you waiver now when you find out the answer to the question. If forgiveness was a major portion of the consideration... Vice Mayor Booros: When I made my vote, it was a major portion of consideration. Councilman Collier: But you had no guarantee of it, which you knew when you made your vote, then why make it the basis for voting positively. I don't understand the waiver part, but that's okay, that's your privilege and your right. The other thing is a comment, this is my personal opinion and I feel like this is the second time the town's run up against this. The first time the Referendum was defeated and it was what the voter's felt was likely good reason. The evidence was... To withdraw again, to me, in my world, in my way of thinking, is kind of a an assertion of a lack of confidence... It establishes a lack of confidence in the town and their ability to make a decision or even are they ready to repay, or anything else and I think that this is not the kind of stuff you enter into lightly. I agree, but I just have trouble with the idea that the major consideration for even reconsidering this is something that we knew was a wild card to start with.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: I don't think it was a wild card, because the forgiveness part of it is based on your town's financial ability to pay it back and your financial status and we were pretty much guaranteed the 35% last year, based on our status, the forgiveness of 35%. Our status has not changed in a year. There's no doubt in my mind we would have gotten a good portion of that 30%, if they hadn't of used it somewhere else and that's a lot of money. It's \$510,000.

<u>Councilman Collier</u>: So where's your guarantee that the following year the same situation won't occur?

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: I called the woman and she said it will be... Oh, you don't know. We may be the one that gets 100% forgiveness next year if we have a... Selbyville wasn't counting on 100% forgiveness, but they sure got it this year, didn't they?

<u>Councilman Collier</u>: In my mind, the best way to resolve this is just to move forward and let the people make the decision for us, because it's their place to decide.

Vice Mayor Booros: I'm one of seven votes.

Councilman Collier: I understand. Thank you.

Mayor Jones: Anyone else on Council at this moment?

Councilman Cote: Well, I have a lot of this and I wasn't on Council that voted for this, but I did come to a lot of the Water Committee Meetings and a lot of the discussion and part of what brought this all about was the fact that we were using more water than we could pump; but as it turns out, we don't know and we won't know for a few more months, how much we really are pumping with the new meters and the new check valves. Is that correct, Mr. Abbott?

<u>Win Abbott</u>: I believe that the proper thing to do in light of this Referendum, is to take a look at the engineering report, the recommendations of the Water Committee, with regard to the system and what you've voting on. The issue that you're speaking on Councilman Cote, you're correct, we've been making steady improvements on both the metering at the consumption side and more accurate metering at the production side and we have made significant gains in that. However, that's not what these water system improvements are about. We have a lack of redundancy. If that plant goes down, just about 100 yards from here, nobody has water within a few hours, because we have relatively short storage capacity. We have a back up generator, but the fact of the matter is that we do not have a

second place that treats water with chlorine and fluoride. We have no supply for that, that is south of the Broadkill River and we have a lack of pressure on the far south side of town. These are the things that were recommended by the Water Committee that the Town Council passed on, that are in the Referendum. It's not about pumping capacity, necessarily. The other things were primary to this and that was secondary. We continue to narrow down the amount of water which is unmetered relative to that which was produced, and we won't know the results for a couple of months; but that's not what's on the Referendum. Vice Mayor Booros: I understand.

Councilman Cote: That's true, but one of the reasons we got to last year's Referendum, which leads to this year's Referendum, is that we were way under capacity. We didn't get to this one in a vacuum. We got to this one, based on last year's, which was based on lack of capacity and I agree that the projects that are in this Referendum are not capacity related and I think are projects that need to be done. I don't disagree with that. But the nagging part about this is that it got started because we didn't have capacity and it turns out we really didn't know then, with all the... we had an idea, but it certainly wasn't definitive, or accurate. Win Abbott: The lack of redundancy and the low pressure problems in the area that was being most highly developed on the south side of town, were recognized in a 2008 report; the 2012 revision, just updated that. This situation that we're addressing right now, has been a known deficiency in our system since at least 2007 and it's been out in the public venue the whole time. The lack of accountability for the water, which is metered, vs. that which was pumped, came about during last year's Referendum and it exhibited I'll just say a lack of proper management of the system over a period of years, which we've been addressing in an aggressive fashion this year, but the items that are being addressed through the proposed water system improvements that were, once again, re-engineered and approved by your Water Committee, have been out there since 2007.

Vice Mavor Booros: Councilman Cote, on that note, I also remembered, you said part of this selection process is subjective and our ability not to pump additional waters out of the ground, that the State allows, is because we're using too much water per person; whether that's because of the missing water or we're pumping the same water twice, the meter is showing that we're using too much water per person. I got my water bill today. I saw a blank page on the back of Mr. Trotta's sheet of paper talking about tall grass and there wasn't one thing in that water bill telling people to conserve water. There were a lot of pages in that water bill that came today, but not one page that addressed us conserving water; whether it was if it's 95° out there, how about even number, odd number days voluntarily, nothing in the water bill that went out this quarter and it was 90° today; about conserving water. We know about the Concerts in the Park, which is great; we know about how high your grass can be; but there wasn't one word in today's water bill and the back of Mr. Trotta's piece of paper was blank; so it wasn't like it couldn't have been printed on the back of the piece of paper; not one word about conservation and a lot of our problem last summer and the summer before was conservation. We had a voluntary thing to get us through last summer, because the big tower had a leak; that leak's been fixed for a second time; a permanent repair. All I'm saying is I don't think we're ready. I don't think we're ready. I don't think we've accounted for enough of the missing water. I don't think we're ready and I hate to tell you, I would hate to see a Referendum go through and get turned down by the people for a second time. What's the State going to think of that, when the people of this town turn down a Referendum a second time? I don't have the confidence that people are confident enough to know that enough of the water has been accounted for over the last year. Do I

think these repairs need to be made? Absolutely. This is a good starting point, I think. It's not the know all, be all, I know we have pipes in this town that need repair, but they're not a part of this, so we'll be borrowing money later and also I don't know if everybody knows, we already have money we're paying back to the State Revolving Fund, a total of \$24,000 a year, or something like that, that we still owe on; that we've been paying for for twenty years. So all we're doing is adding to that and I understand that we have to, at some point, because we can't go get a commercial loan tomorrow. I'm just saying that's \$500,000 that there was a possibility that if we wait, we may not... like Mr. Welu said, it's a risk. We may not get any forgiveness, but are we any worse off than we are right now by waiting til August to resubmit the application? I don't think we are. And the State actually in the letter that said we weren't getting forgiveness, gave us the opportunity, they said if you were counting on it, you may want to withdraw your application and resubmit it in August. They gave us that out.

Councilwoman Patterson: It did say that on the letter?

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: So I think the assumption was... Yeah, there's a letter.

Mayor Jones: Yes.

Councilwoman Patterson: I didn't see it. Okay.

Vice Mayor Booros: I can email it to you.

Councilwoman Patterson: That's okay. Tell me again what it said.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: It said that if you all were counting on the forgiveness, you may want to withdraw your application and resubmit it in August. Am I right Mr. McCabe?

Steve McCabe, Pennoni Associates: I haven't read the letter.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Okay. You're shaking your head yes, that's why I thought maybe you'd read it. I read it. And I think that was a nice out. They were given us a nice out.

<u>Councilwoman Patterson</u>: Well, it is because there is a real concern that if we withdraw, does it send a message that we aren't "ready to proceed" and then we have a situation and we're sort of...

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: And I think she gave us the out, right off the bat. I called her, the minute I saw the letter I called her on the phone.

Councilwoman Patterson: I wish I had seen the letter.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Because I wanted to know what the forgiveness's were over the last years.

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: Mayor Jones, may I? I've been the new girl on the block and I have read many things about the water and I grew up here in the Town of Milton and I was a little concerned when they came to my house and they said you have to be home so we can put a new meter in and so forth and so on and I'm in total agreement of conservation, because I've taught my children, I've taught schools, telling people you must conserve and we've tried to do that at our home. And in listening to what's going on here, I can't say that I can make a full good decision, because I haven't been here and just going on what I have read, but my concern and I've heard a lot of neighbors in my area, speaking about where is the missing water; what happened to the missing water and I hear little bits of that tonight? Can someone explain to me just what that was all about and where is the missing water? It seems that it may have an affect on what we're trying to get in the future, or presently, so can somebody clear me up on that; because that does determine a lot about this decision. Vice Mayor Booros: Mayor Jones, there's nobody better than you to clear her up on this one. Mayor Jones: Thank you, actually I was recognizing Mr. McCabe from Pennoni Associates, who was the engineer of record on the water improvement recommendations. I don't want to

put you on the spot. I don't know if you're prepared to answer this question and perhaps another that I might have for you. You are welcome to decline.

Steve McCabe: What's referred to as missing water, is really the accounting of the water. Since coming into the town and looking at the water system, we found that the pumps and the measurement of the water that was being pumped wasn't accurate; that there were leaks in the pumps; that the check valves were leaking backwards into the wells; and some of the water may have been accounted for twice. So the unaccounted for water isn't actually physical missing water. It's the accounting of the amount of water, so when the bills are totaled, you have the pump records show how much water has been pumped by reading a meter; and then the meter at the house is the amount of water that's being billed for; and there's a gap between the two and that's what's commonly referred to as the "missing water".

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: And you're sure there's no water that's no accounted for? There's five leaks on Atlantic Street in the last six weeks. I dug a hole at the top of Atlantic Street and within 30 seconds it was filled with water. A week later, they were patching the leak from that pipe. So it's not 100% dripping back into the wells.

Steve McCabe: No.

Vice Mayor Booros: We have an old system here.

Steve McCabe: Actually, we really don't know, because we haven't had enough records of the pumps, with the new check valves and the new meters, to actually calculate it all. And the town is, to my understanding, is still in the process of a water audit with the Delaware Rural Water Association and working on the CUPPS and working all that kind of stuff out. But the fact of the matter is based upon what we saw looking at the town was, during the summer months the pumps are running continuously; with no rest to meet demand, so the amount of water that's being pumped is all being used and there's very little reserve and if anything breaks, we're going to have a shortage again and I think the accounting of the water is getting worked out and we just don't have enough records to really establish a track record to look at and quantify it accurately. We really need to test the system and find out where all the leaks and all the shortcomings in the system are.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: So as those pumps last summer were pumping the water non-stop, they weren't all running at the same time, I know that; they had one running or two running and then they shut one down and turned another one on because they didn't want to burn it out. How much water was going back into the aquifer?

Steve McCabe: We don't know.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: We were pumping, pumping, pumping, but it wasn't necessarily all being used.

<u>Steve McCabe</u>: We don't know and what I've been informed of, is that there were times when all the pumps were running, at least 21 hours a day. That's what I've been told. That was from Public Works staff.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: I thought they were rotating them, so they wouldn't burn them out. <u>Steve McCabe</u>: No.

<u>Win Abbott</u>: Pardon me, before we get too far afield, Ma'am, if you'll go to the Town of Milton website, look under the Town Manager's Reports, the March report provides a nice summary on page two. It's just two sides of one page, a PDF file. Then at a separate part of the website, under Departments, there is a Public Works Department and then within the Public Works Department, you'll find Water Utility Documents and the Water Utility Documents for the month of February, 2013 through the month of February, 2012, month by

month by month, there's a report called a Better Accounting of Water Use and it tells the story of everything that we have done since last February, item by item.

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: I went on the website, just getting to know that I was going to be on the Council, to just to clear people up; it took my almost a couple of days to read the minutes, so I haven't gotten that far yet, but I intend to and I will be addressing the minutes situation later on, like you don't come into a meeting thinking you know it all the first night; even though I've lived here all my life, but I will be coming back wanting some answers. So I'm just letting you know. I have gone to that website.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: I would like to ask if the explanation that was given is a start out? Councilwoman Parker-Selby: Yes, that's a good start for me.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: I wanted to make sure of that first. I wanted to ask you, even though we have not had the time lapse that we need to have better accuracy on the accounting portion; does anything along those lines preclude us from going forward with water improvements and the Referendum?

Steve McCabe: That's a good question. Can you give me an example?

Mayor Jones: No, because now that you've asked me, I've gone completely blank. You need more time to assess the improvements that have been made to date, we understand that and that can only occur with time. If we do not go forward with this state of the Referendum, is there other work, is there valuable work that could be done preceding this particular project, the Referendum that is on the table this evening. We're not talking about Milton just going to sleep for another year, until it's time to make another application; we are talking about doing a great deal of aggressive improvement, as Mr. Abbott has said they have been working diligently.

Steve McCabe: I think there is and of course, that's my professional opinion, but hydrant test data hasn't been done yet. It's something that we tried to do in the winter and it was a little too expensive and the town has solicited some help from I believe Delaware Rural Water Association to test the system, but I feel like mapping and testing the system and knowing what we have is a big objective, that I feel still needs to be done. In my findings that I've given since last August, we've been recommending that the town develop accurate maps of the system, the pipe sizes, the pipe types, the ages and we've requested that information and to my knowledge, it doesn't exist and I feel like that's a good starting point is to develop a map of the system of what you have and test the system and understand the system better and then be able to maybe target some other improvements that that can be funded outside of the Referendum, with just Operations and Maintenance Budget. Then if you find some items that are big ticket items, then those are the ones that you put in your grant funding and your applications for loans.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: So, as I understand the idea of a loop is to create a more constant and better pressure through the entire system, by cutting out the dead ends. I'm not a water person, but if you have something that now has better and more constant pressure, is it possible that we're looking at such antiquated pipes and plumbing in our infrastructure, that it can create a greater need for improvements because we didn't test those old pieces prior to putting this in place.

Steve McCabe: Right, because we don't know. There's a lot of things about the system that we don't know. The big facts of the matter are that the supply of water is short and the water supply is the main, big ticket item and there are many ticket items. If you look at the 2008 report, there were about \$3.5 million worth of items and we've taken those items and narrowed them to just the priorities, which are the immediate needs and that's what we've

put in this Referendum package. But there are other needs.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: And so Referendum or not, this Referendum will provide no immediate advantage to possible shortages this summer?

Steve McCabe: It can't be constructed this summer.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: There is nothing on this side of improvement; meaning the Referendum; that will bring about a better pumping and more water available; not on the Referendum side; anything on an improvement side?

Steve McCabe: No, it would take the summer to get through the program.

John Bushey: I'm a former mayor of the Town of Milton. I was the Mayor from 1996-2006 and during that time we borrowed \$1 million to make capital improvements, so we could welcome all the new folks to town and have the water to supply them, instead of sucking across the Broadkill River and the spillway on the pond; so we looped their system better, at that time; we recognized that when I first got on the Council in 1974, we talked about looping the system; we talked about a lot of these improvements that have not taken place yet, because of lack of funds. In those days, we tried to pay as we went. We didn't want to borrow money. So we did borrow money, because the group of the Council members said we're not going to get anywhere, unless we take this step forward and we did. So we borrowed \$1 million and made Capital Improvements and we fluoridated our water, did a major amount of work and now the concern with me is and he said supply. I don't connect that to the distribution of the system of the water. I connect that with the wells. You're operating three wells and I think the maximum capacity of those three wells is 670 gallons per minute, am I correct? In that neighborhood. We'll put it in that approximate neighborhood. To me, that's crucial. You should be able to pump at least 1,500 gallons per minute by putting the second well in, which is crucial and should not be delayed, whether you want to approve that or not, or you want to go for the money. If you don't want to spend the money, pay as you go. You're sitting on some bucks of \$500,000, \$400,000 if I read some figures right, then take that money and put the well in. It's necessary immediately, because you talk about supply. You're pumping 670 gallons per minute or thereabouts, you should be pumping at least 1,500 gallons per minute, because we talked about the requirements under the Fire Marshall's regulations under the Fire Commissioner of the State of Delaware, your tower supply should equal 1,500 gallons per minute for fire protection. I think it's crucial that you do put that other well in, because if you do have a well go out, then you're going to be down to two wells and they don't have the pumping capacity. You've heard the engineer saying you're running three wells, sometimes 21 hours a day. They are cutting down for a couple of times; or whatever; but I think that's crucial. He said supply. So you can do away with not borrowing the money to put the other loop in right up by Wagamon's West Shores over to Federal Street or doing the other stuff; but it's crucial that you get that well in.

Mayor Jones: Before you walk away...

<u>John Bushey</u>: And I also serve on the Water Committee and the Water Committee, with the engineer, analyzed what the situation was and tried to de minimis this down; we knew the taxpayer's were concerned where the counting of the lost water was and they would not support a Referendum for a water tower, several million dollars, until we had accountability; but there are certain things you need to do.

Mayor Jones: The price tag on the re-drilling of Well No. 5 was over \$800,000.

John Bushey: Well that's an estimate and you haven't gone out to bid yet.

Vice Mayor Booros: That also includes a treatment plant there.

John Bushey: Right. That's correct.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: The well could possibly be drilled first, without the treatment plant and the treatment plant added later; we could pay as we went out of the existing money that comes into the water department.

John Bushey: I'm just simply saying what the Water Committee was. There was something you said in that statement that I wanted to address, but it left me that quick. I think it's crucial and I know a lot of people have a lot of feelings about this, but I also have a lot of feelings that we need to do these things. I can just see things getting worse. You talk about Well No. 5 and the fluoride and chlorine in that system. I can tell you how that well got over there, because at the time that well was put in, the south end of town was only connected by a water main here in front of the library and we had a great concern that if anything happened there, we wouldn't be able to supply the south side of town with water. So we immediately... as soon as we had some finances to do it, we did it and I'm just amazed that it costs that much money to put a well in.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: That's what you're getting ready to borrow, Mr. Bushey. It costs \$800,000 to put the well in.

<u>John Bushey</u>: Let me tell you right now. I voted against the water tower thing. I am going to vote in favor of this Referendum. I'm going to tell you, I am in favor of it.

Vice Mayor Booros: That's fine. I don't have a problem with that.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Thank you. If Mr. McCabe's willing to stay... First of all, Norma Krause wanted to ask something.

<u>Norma Krause</u>: I was wondering if something was negotiated now for a loan from the State, without forgiveness, whether or not that loan can be renegotiated in the future, like next year or another year? Or do the terms of the loan remain static?

<u>Win Abbott</u>: Thank you Ms. Krause. The terms of the loan are static during each funding period, Federal fiscal year actually; and the reason why is because this is based upon the bonds that are sold and these bonds are able to finance it, but the State of Delaware or the town does not have to be the ones that are showing their credit worthiness for this; we're covered by the fact that these bonds were negotiated on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency, so it's not something that we can negotiate like a contract for the purchase of a piece of land and it's a movable thing. It is static from year to year, with the one variable and that is the principle forgiveness, which is at the discretion of the State of Delaware.

Jeff Dailey, 211 Gristmill Drive: Mayor and Council thank you very much for this opportunity to speak and your invitation to the public to be heard. It's very much appreciated. Thank you. In our meeting in the Fire House, I remember Mr. McCabe talking about the possibility of not borrowing or not utilizing all of the money that would be loaned to us from the State Revolving Fund; that we might take monies that we now have and put them to the reconstructing of the base of the water tower; so that was one thing, so to now talk about maybe using that money for Well No. 5, unfortunately we don't have an inexhaustible amount of money in our water fund and that's we're talking about borrowing. I like the sound of what will we be doing even if we should reapply in August and wait until this time next year to learn about whether or not we're going to get funding, with forgiveness, etc. So I really like that. Mr. McCabe just mentioned about mapping the system, which needs to be done. One thing I think we might want to consider and with his expertise here, one possible flaw in the plan, as we are addressing, is what if digging deeper with Well No. 5, doesn't relieve the sulfur smell? What if we're stuck with that and how

remote a possibility is that Mr. McCabe and is it a possibility? I've heard that by digging deeper, we will find water of the quality in the aquifer that we are pumping out of our other wells and that's to be expected if we go deeper, so again \$800,000 to address that well. Do we have money? Could it be less to dig deeper? Could it be less just to take samples, to know that once we go deeper, we will find water that is not with the sulfur? So that's a question that's hanging out there. I like Councilman Cote's thinking about the Referendum, applying not to a one-year period, but to a two-year period, which gives us an option. Mr. Thompson, could the wording be such so that the voting public would be clear on the fact that they're voting for a Referendum that stands for a longer time? I think that's something that we need to revisit. The Town Manager mentioned that the folks up there at the State Revolving Fund are salaried people and they're looking for a good faith gesture from the town; but at \$510,000, that's a high price tag on good faith and Vice Mayor Booros pointed out in a previous meeting that if you went back and looked at how much forgiveness was extended over a number of years, there was a pattern and it ranged from 5% all the way up to 30%...

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: It ranged to 50%.

<u>Jeff Dailey</u>: 50%! So waiting a year, without this Selbyville problem, should garner us some type of forgiveness.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: And she indicated to me that they're counting on 30% again, next year; they always base it on what the current year is.

<u>Jeff Dailey</u>: So I know I've put a lot out there, but that's only because some really good, sound thinking and input came from you all, my, our elected representatives and thank you and thank you again for letting me talk and I'm just giving you some more input if I've done that.

Gwendolyn Jones, 204 Atlantic Avenue: I'll be as concise as I can. The previous point has been raised in the previous Council, in this Council and also to the Water Committee, thank you Jack; I worked in the technical service field for 30 years, so I know a bit about water pumps blowing and things like that. I brought up the possibility of alternatives to feed the need for the water and I've seen all the charts; I've attended most of the meetings discussing everything here and it was really great; and my point was the use peaks during the summer time, admittedly there's a lot of other people who move in or are seasonal residents; that an awful lot of water goes to irrigation, which does not need to be treated. It basically can come from the ground; it goes back into the ground; and my point was, looking at some of the figures here and I've heard it before right here in the forum, value divided this out to the daily use per household, per account, was 127.3 gallons per day; we take very conservative measures and we use less than 30 gallons per day. That also means there's a lot of people who are using irrigation water on their lawn, which is increasing the need to provide and pay for all these improvements and impacting the fire station Jack; so I've brought this up before Council; I've brought it up before the Water Committee; Mr. Atkins flat out poo pooed the whole thing and I had to explain what seemed to me to be a simple as pie, several times you get the idea through alternative means that would not involve having to borrow millions of dollars to expand the water system, so somebody could sprinkle their lawn. Private irrigation wells are an alternative, we use rain barrels, which admittedly doesn't get a whole lot, but that's totally free. I just urge the opening of the possibility to consider alternatives to having to expand the system, so somebody can water their lawn and as far as borrowing the money to pay for the water system at this point, I agree with Vice Mayor Booros. Is it such an emergency need that we need to go ahead and blow the money; and to

put it off, which is highly likely as I understand to be reduced. If we have to borrow the money, because we know we're going to spending it now and there's no forgiveness, but I urge you to consider alternatives to having to pour millions of dollars, again, just so somebody can water their lawn and that impacts everybody, even us who take very good measures of trying to be conservative with using that water. We have a water irrigation system and I really didn't know how much it used. I got the first water bill, I was shocked and I never used it again, thousands of gallons; far more than we used in the household. It was just an idea and I've addressed it before and I'm hoping you'll address it. As far as the water referendum goes, as Mr. Bushey indicated, I am opposed to that, based on a lot of those things and I am happy to go into detail later on, but thank you.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Thank you. It's safe to say that short of Council considering irrigation wells immediately, that Council is pretty well aware of the need for conservation and I think that we certainly will be looking into that. We are almost at an hour on this one topic. If we have some more comments, I welcome them, could I ask you to keep them brief.

Fred Manasian, 120 Village Center Boulevard: I think we're beating a dead horse. We've kind of gotten to this point from our previous administration. We came down the line, we disapproved, the people disapproved \$4.5 million project. It appears most individuals understood the need for improvements in the town water delivery system, but I think in the same sense after they disapproved of the Referendum, they thought everybody lied, but it didn't. The underlying agenda was to get this one way or another, presented back into Council, back out to the people, they reduced the total amount, and then vote on it; which we have had a number of meetings here and we've all talked about it and we've talked about this until we're blue in the face. It came to the point we had even the dollar amount, the dollar amount was discussed. It was too high so we brought it back down, the Council brought it back down; so after their adjustments, the motion was put before the Council and it was approved. The discussion was on the wording of the Referendum. We have the wording for the Referendum, proposed and approved by Council. How did we get into this position right now?

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: A letter came the day after we voted on that saying they weren't going to give us the forgiveness.

<u>Fred Manasian</u>: That's what we're saying. Why was the letter not brought to the Council's attention prior to the vote?

Vice Mayor Booros: It didn't exist.

Fred Manasian: It didn't exist. You're positive about that?

Vice Mayor Booros: Yeah, it did not exist.

<u>Fred Manasian</u>: It did not exist prior to the vote, so it was unbeknownst. Okay. I was kind of wondering of the fact that if it had been withdrawn for the sake of that; so we're at this position now for the unforgiveness.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Yeah, I just thought it could be kept a secret, because last year there were some things that were kept secret, that were brought to light after they voted; this time something was brought to light after we voted; and I thought it needed to be brought up. <u>Fred Manasian</u>: So the \$500,000, or \$600,000, whatever we're talking about is the only encumbrance on the whole project. We actually probably need it and I'm on the south side, so I know what the pressure problem is.

Vice Mayor Booros: I'm on the north side and I know what it is too.

<u>Fred Manasian</u>: You've got it too. We've all got the same problem and it appears that the prior Mayor had a long talk and a discussion and these were all adjusted to the fact that we

do need the improvements and I think we all know that we do need the improvements, but we're still balancing the act on \$500,00; is that going to be the maker or breaker and if this goes to Referendum, I think it will probably be approved, because the amount is less substantial than \$4.5 million; but then that's just my opinion. Thank you very much. James Welu: Councilman Collier raised an interesting point that we're number seven. I don't know if we have any idea how much the total dollars requested from 1 through 6 are and whether we're even in the running if all 1 through 6 are approved? Secondly, I like the out that the government has given the town, that you can withdraw because there's not going to be forgiveness. What I would suggest is maybe we ought to negotiate with the State for a partial withdrawal; have enough money to do Well No. 5 and hold off the rest, if there's money even available. There may be a small amount of money that's left, that they've funded everybody else and maybe there's a half a million dollars left; maybe we could get that for the well and forget about forgiveness on that amount. Personally, I would recommend what the government has given us, that we opt out, at least partially and work our butts off to get the Referendum approved, so that we're in a position in August of this year to go forward with a full blown proposal. Thank you.

Mayor Jones: Thank you very much.

Lorraine Wassermann, 244 West Shore Drive: I just think we should hold off on the Referendum. We don't want the circus that we had in the summer, with neighbor fighting neighbor and reporting neighbors and all of that; and I just think we should hold off on it. I have an irrigation system and a lawn to water. I am not putting it on this year. I'm doing without. It will be fine. I'll also save money on my landscaper. He won't have to cut it as often, either. So there you go. I think it's foolish. I agree with Vice Mayor Booros. I think he has the right idea. He really cares about this town and he just wants his wallet to not be picked on all the time. That's all I've got to say. I agree.

Mayor Jones: As I've sat here and listened, there are a couple of points I would like to share with all of you. I deeply regret the timing of this reconsideration. It is confusing, can cause indecisiveness among our citizens, so I thank you for coming out tonight and listening. I don't know it's been made any clearer to anyone here. I think this town is facing this issue as well as some points that you may hear tonight among Council's discussion. The question of water improvement is, if not now, when? When do you start? How long do you wait? I agree and cannot argue with Vice Mayor Booros that a savings in money is significant to the Town of Milton, we are facing financial issues. There is no doubt. But we have a lot of infrastructure to look at; whether it is our water improvements, you'll hear from Streets and Sidewalks maintenance that is needing to be done; the money it will cost to do it. Right now that is the question and I think that that's what I will ask myself, is having a vote on Saturday, if that's the way this decision goes today, if we go to Referendum, that is the decision each one of us will make in that booth. I just am sorry if this creates any kind of confusion for the citizens. I'm not even sure, Mr. Abbott, I'm looking to you that we can supply anything at all, anything at all, on our website; more information and I say that without even knowing what that more information is, Mr. Abbott. The consideration of our using some of our funds immediately to start some of these water improvements so we are in a better position. It sounds to me like we could find ourselves in a bad situation for capacity this summer, as it is with our pumps running as full as they are able. So the town is facing this and they're facing it without this Referendum going to help out on that this year. We do, at this time, have a motion on the table and I think we've had ample discussion and unless someone from our Council would like to make any kind of a closing statement, we're

going to have to take a vote on this motion for reconsideration.

<u>Councilman Collier</u>: Mayor Jones, I have one question. We've talked about all this and the only thing nobody is answering, nobody seems to have addressed is, what contingency does the town have in place, should we withdraw and have a catastrophic system failure? Where does the money come from then? Are we forced to have to go into the commercial market and borrow it at considerably more, or do we just do without, or do we tell the people on whatever side of town is impacted, sorry about your luck? We've discussed a lot of things, but nobody has brought up what contingencies we have in place, if we choose not to go forward.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: If that happens tomorrow, there is no contingency. Period. If it happens tomorrow, we have no contingency. We don't have enough money to do it.

Councilman Collier: Well, hopefully it doesn't happen tomorrow, but if it does...

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: It could happen tomorrow, as well as it could happen six months from now Councilman Collier.

<u>Councilman Collier</u>: But at least six months from now, if we go to Referendum and the Referendum passes, we get approved, all the ifs; there's a light at the end of the tunnel. You snuff this out at this point and where's the light?

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Hopefully it's not my pocket, because my pocket will still have some money in it.

Councilman Collier: That may well be, so that's all I have. Thank you.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: The issue on the table is simply to whether or not go through reconsideration of this Resolution for Referendum. I have to ask this question. Are we voting yea, nay... Seth Thompson: We're still at Step One.

Mayor Jones: Which is if we're going to withdraw.

Seth Thompson: If we're going to reconsider.

Mayor Jones: If we're going to reconsider it. I'm sorry. Excuse me.

<u>Seth Thompson</u>: So if there's a majority in favor of this motion, then the items are back on the table for discussion. If a majority opposes this motion, well then the other Resolutions are in place; they remain in place.

Mayor Jones: Is there any other discussion? Let's start with a roll call vote:

Vice Mayor Booros Yes for reconsideration

Councilman West No
Councilwoman Patterson No
Councilman Cote No

Councilwoman Parker-Selby Abstaining. I do not feel I should do this at this

time, being I have missed so many of the in depth conversations about this, but I will definitely get

my eyes on this some more.

Councilman Collier No Mayor Jones No

Seth Thompson: Just so that everybody is clear, the Referendum will happen this Saturday.

Sam Garde: The language and the date approved in the Resolution.

Seth Thompson: Correct.

Mayor Jones: Thank you all for your time on that.

b) Council Workshop - Committee assignments

Mayor Jones: Tonight's workshop portion of our New Business, had to do with an opportunity for our Council to bring forward, talk among ourselves in front of the public, think outside of the box, come up with ideas, projects, visions that we have ideas for Council. I would like to start with just one brief bit of business that I bring and since it is under discussion and possible vote, there are two additional positions to the boards that I would like to make appointments to tonight and ask for the Council's agreement. One is the reappointment of Don Mazzeo to the Planning and Zoning Commission and the reappointment, if not continuation. I apologize I don't have her date, Amy Kratz to the Historic Preservation Commission. Those are the two names for consideration. Hearing no objections, do I hear a motion to approve?

Councilman Collier: So moved for approval.

Councilman West: Second.

Mayor Jones: All in favor say aye. Opposed. Motion carried. Thank you.

c) Council Workshop - Long range projects and goals

Mayor Jones: I hope that everybody made some notes, the idea tonight is I will write as fast and furiously as possible as I listen to your ideas. I brought a number of them myself. General ideas, as well as some follow-up issues that I know this Council will need to address. Some Committee notions, ideas for committees. A couple that I would like to start out with is the follow-up to Richard Miller's request for the Conflict of Interest Opinion in reference to our having two Cannery Village folks on our Council. So I do yet want to make sure that we address Mr. Miller and that the Council is understanding of your opinion on that issue.

Seth Thompson: Great. It's good to have everybody here, as well. So the main thing to understand is that Conflicts of Interest will typically arise when there is going to be some sort of... the Code uses the term "pecuniary" interests, so some sort of monetary benefit to a council member or a close relative, that doesn't accrue to other members of the same class. So if you want to think of it... To put it in plain English, if you're going to get a financial benefit or a financial windfall or if a very close relative will get a financial windfall from an action, you shouldn't be voting on that action. Now, of course, you have to measure it against the class and that's really where the debate occurs. So, for instance, everybody on Council could vote to lower the tax rate and you're technically accruing a financial benefit there; but it applies to the entire class. So that isn't a Conflict of Interest. All these are going to be very fact-sensitive, unfortunately. But that's the framework. I would encourage everybody, you can contact the Public Integrity Commission. They typically respond very quickly. You can often get some quick advice from them over the phone, or you follow-up with an email and their attorney, Janet Wright, will follow-up, so then you're entitled to rely upon their opinion. It's just a fact-sensitive analysis. It's just going to depend, frankly. But that's how that Conflict of Interest needs to be looked upon. You can always ask me for advice, too, because it's Attorney/Client Privilege, so I'm a resource, the Public Integrity Commission is a resource. The one thing that people can't do is vote to make somebody else to recuse himself or herself. It's a personal decision. The Conflict of Interest is not a tool to silence somebody else's vote, basically.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: And actually I have Janet Wright, next on my list, where I considered it could be beneficial if this Council; Councilman West and I sit the longest now; an ethics workshop for this Council and possibly a few other towns that may not host them by

themselves might be called in to enjoy someone from the P.I.C. I would imagine they would send the attorney, Janet Wright. I'm just guessing that. I'd like to organize that. Schedule something like that for Council. They're good workshops and she is a great resource. All you have to do is contact her if you have a question, but in the meantime, I know that they've done this for area towns and I think it could be a good stepping off point for Milton. Councilwoman Parker-Selby: In speaking to that, is there an organization for new council people.

Mayor Jones: No, Councilwoman Parker-Selby, there is not real orientation.

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: You just sit here and jump in?

Mayor Jones: Yes, you do. Yes, as far as orientation for council people, I think in terms of your having a mailbox at Town Hall and you're having an email that you'll become familiar with, and getting you business cards and the everyday business of it, as well, but as far as here on Council, as long as we all treat each other respectfully, yes, you just to need... Councilwoman Parker-Selby: The reason I asked this is that on previous boards that I've been on and you're speaking of Conflict of Interest, and so forth, that was done in an orientation session and you had to document, each board member had to sign, in fact I initiated that with Cape Henlopen Board, that we signed an ethics form that I learned at a conference and I think when you document and say that you're going to do something, there is no Conflict of Interest, then it's in writing in a file somewhere, in case someone does slip and forget, or what have you. But a lot of that's done in orientation. I'm used to jumping in and doing, but I just thought I would ask that question.

Mayor Jones: It's good to be educated in these things. Mr Abbott?

<u>Win Abbott</u>: I do have a council orientation packet, which I brought from Town of Fenwick Island, but Mayor Newlands declined the opportunity to use that. Perhaps you'd like to take a look at it sometime.

Mayor Jones: I would very much as I had a discussion with you about that.

Win Abbott: It's a Freedom of Information Act and so on.

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: That's all important information.

Mayor Jones: That's excellent. Thank you. One of the things that I've heard, this is one of the issues I want to bring up to Council is the possibility of placing our Town Council packages, without any legal compromising documentation, attached to them; being placed in either the Library or the Town Hall. That way it is more than an agenda. We will have to work through this, but it is something that I've heard through the public for many years, requesting more information; again, supporting documents to what the agenda shows. I want you to know that we've heard you and I'm just parroting that back, that you know we're working on it. I also, on my list, believe that it is important to look into, especially coming up to the budget time, an RFQ for perhaps an engineering firm. Now that will be up to Council, but that would be one of my recommendations, as we go forward. We have a lot of work to do. I would like to remind members of Council that when we sign up to go to the various meetings, the Delaware League of Local Governments or S.C.A.T., the town supplies the payment for our dinners or our breakfasts. If we do not attend those events, I would like to call upon Council to make sure they make right their debt at Town Hall for their absence. I think that is a fair requirement of Council, out of respect of taxpayer's money having sent you there in the first place. I have several more, but I don't think it's fair. How about if we take some time around table.

Vice Mayor Booros: Just start at the other end.

Councilman Cote: I would like to reset the Finance Committee. It went by the way, so far

and I would like to set that up, but I think we need to set it up with some specific duties, responsibilities, authorities maybe, so that when we do meet and we get involved in the process, we have more to do than sit... we sit at a table, but we're almost an audience; just closer. We need to work on the budget. We should work very hard to avoid the problems of the last couple of years of budget preparation and I'm willing to jump in wherever you need me.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: If I may to follow-up on that? As far as resetting the Finance Committee, there's only one reason I have, well more than one reason, but as I talked to you before on Finance, my note is I need you to define how this committee can assist Council in expenditure review and recommendations, budget review. Yes.

<u>Councilman Cote</u>: We do have two members of the prior committee who have expressed a willingness to go forward.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: I appreciate that and I will collect those names from you and any other suggestions that you think have talent that will serve on that committee; but I am still asking you because of my disappointment in the last year, I'm really asking you to give us a Mission Statement, is where I'm going, but that seemed a little formal. Yes, please. I think it's very necessary.

Councilman Cote: I'll work on formalizing that.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Okay. Councilwoman Parker-Selby, I did give you a heads up. Did you want to mention a few things tonight about your ideas and visions and views?

Councilwoman Parker-Selby: Yes. I've not been to recent meetings. I used to come to meetings a little more often in the past, but my schedule after retirement became busier, as most of you in the room know how that is. Anyway, it is my pleasure, first of all and I thank the Mayor and members of the Council for inviting me to do this next year, hopefully. I may go further, we'll see. My concerns as a citizen of Milton, having grown up here, as a little girl is I lived on the opposite side of what they call the Town and we annexed in, my parents and I decided we would annex in for sewer system and so forth in the 2000's we paid quite a bit of money to do that, so we didn't have any say or what have you prior to that; however, now since I am a town person I felt I better get out here and do some talking, because as some of you have mentioned. I had a concern about the water pressuring my home and I'm paying for this new water system and so forth and when they came and asked me about the new box, or what you, I had a concern about that because I really hadn't paid much attention coming to the meetings. I'm concerned mainly, one of my big concerns is that I live near Kwik-Stop, which is a very actively involved business on 16 and we have a fire hydrant there that's not been in service for more than a year now. They came out there, it was reported and they came out there and we thought they had it fixed, but that could blow the whole town up if we don't have correct water and so forth, so I think the streets and water people committee, or whatever you call it, I'd like to be actively involved in that to make sure that's not the only one that's not working and it all fits in with our conversation about the water and our needs here in the Town of Milton. The street lighting and so forth is another concern. Many people have complained about it, but you don't hear it a lot in our town and I think the commercial buildings and all are lit up, but we still have some streets that need to make sure that our lights are working, and so forth. Those are the kinds of things. I'm not here just to do that, but my main thing also is to hear from the people, because without the people, we don't sit on Councils and so forth and what the people go through is what the Council is supposed to help them do and I'm a helper. I'm a person who gives back and that's why I'm sitting here tonight and I'm hoping people will come to me

and call me and email, so that we can work together as a team and keep this town safe and a wonderful little town that it is; and anything else that comes up I'll let you know at the next meeting.

Mayor Jones: Or tonight, if you get another change.

<u>Councilwoman Parker-Selby</u>: Okay. <u>Councilman Collier</u>: I have a laundry list.

Mayor Jones: Will give a few and we'll share the time.

Councilman Collier: One of the things and this starts right with something that everyone at this table looks at every month. I would like to see more comprehensive department reports. The information contained in them doesn't give me a sense of what's being done, how much time is spent to get it accomplished and makes it a little difficult for me to be able to justify, to anyone, that the job is being done as expected. Example, if Public Works goes out and does a job, I want to know how many members of Public Works were involved, I would like to know how many hours they put in it, what equipment they used, what equipment is down. I'd like to know it's down and for how long and all this relates to being able to track the budgets of each department and everything else. It makes it much easier to determine that we're putting the proper dollars in the proper place, if we get this information. That would be the first thing I'd like. Then the next thing and these have been pets of mine long before I got to this table and I've called for these on more than one occasion. There are various and sorted policies I think the Town needs to develop and the areas, one of them is not mine, but it's still I don't think we've ever finished up with the Media Policy; which needs to happen. The Town pays for quite a few cell phones and I think there should be a comprehensive cell phone policy, so that we make sure that they're not being misused on the town's behalf. A travel policy, because there have been some questions concerning travel with some of the town employees and that policy should apply across the board, whether it be an employee or a council member. A uniform policy, because to this day I can't figure out how many different uniform combinations we have in our Police Department, as well as I understand and I see in the budget where we pay for uniforms for the Public Works staff, but I've yet to see a consistent looking uniform out of any of them. Possibly we need a policy, because if we're going to pay for them and they're not going to use them, why pay for them? And this one's probably controversial but because it only applies to one department, but I think we need to take a long look at a take-home vehicle policy and that's just it on policies. So then of course, I'll take a rest and let somebody else have a turn, because the other stuff will come up sooner or later.

Mayor Jones: Now Vice Mayor Booros.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: He said most of them, to be honest with you. The one thing since day one, even since before I was on Council, was some sort of policy on a non-disclosure form. When you're using people that are not members of the Council or aren't town police, including town employees, that they sign a non-disclosure form before they sit on these Ad Hoc Committees or whatever it is, to help interview people for jobs. I don't need to hear that this person from California is not being interviewed, because he's this or he's that or he wants too much money. I don't need to hear that in a coffee shop on a Tuesday morning. If somebody is going to sit on one of these boards and they're going to have personal information, whether it's an employee of the town, there has to be a non-disclosure agreement signed that they're not going to talk about this on the streets. Is that on your list? <u>Mayor Jones</u>: No, Mr. Thompson sent me this document today.

Seth Thompson: Just for everybody's benefit, the way it works and this came up a little bit

earlier, the Code of Conduct that applies to State Officials and State Employees is in Title XXIX; it applies to the Town as well. The only way a municipality gets out of that policy, is to adopt one that has been approved by the State as more stringent, so we do have a Confidentiality Duty that already exists. However, it's also very helpful I think, if people actually put pen to paper. It's somewhat of a more direct reminder.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Absolutely. How about when you've asked a private citizen to sit on some sort of an interview board, for a job interview and they're looking at personal information about this person and it doesn't need to be on the street. And it is. It's got to stop.

Seth Thompson: Right.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: That said, the cell phone, the travel policy, the uniform policy, the prisoner policy; you might want to put that on there too.

Mayor Jones: Prisoner Policy?

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Yeah. I think you know what I'm talking about on that one. Who's watching the shop? I have a pet peeve about the engines running; whether it's a police car and the guy's eating lunch, sitting at a desk or in a restaurant and his car's engine is running outside, eating up gas and they've just asked for a raise in their gas, or whether it's a maintenance guy who's gone back to Town Hall and his truck is sitting there running, sitting on the street, burning up gas. I think they've asked for an increase in fuel, we've increased the fuel in this year's budget and I see it all the time. Engine's running, burning up gas. Foot patrols of Police Officers in the park; we've seen some things in the park that were disgusting and I think that if the police had more foot patrols in the park, at different hours of the day or night, maybe some of that stuff would stop. Right now, that's about it.

Mayor Jones: Councilman West?

<u>Councilman West</u>: Well there was some talk, do we want to keep in mind about these security cameras that we were talking about and Councilman Collier brought up an interesting point about the cell phones and travel; you want to keep a count on all these cell phones and stuff, we ought to look into getting cell phones with GPS tracking, then you'll know exactly where all these people are at any given time of day. A person with the cell phone is in it.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: You started the conversation with security cameras; and I'm a little off on that. <u>Councilman West</u>: Yeah, we were going to put some security cameras up over here in the park to help be able to see who might be...

Mayor Jones: They haven't been put up yet?

Councilman West: No.

Mayor Jones: We talked about that last year.

Councilman West: Yeah.

Mayor Jones: Whose responsibility is it to put them up?

Councilman West: That's a good question.

Mayor Jones: Who owns the cameras? Do we own the cameras? Another good question.

Vice Mayor Booros: They were never purchased.

Councilman West: They were never purchased. It just fell off the chart.

Mayor Jones: Okay. Alright.

<u>Councilman West</u>: Like I said, what I was talking about the cell phones, we're paying enough for cell phones now. The State went to GPS tracking in the vehicles, but that isn't a cheap proposition, but it is a cheap proposition for these cell phones.

Vice Mayor Booros: It's very common to...

<u>Councilman West</u>: To put GPS tracking in all the cell phones, for all the town employees that are using these vehicles. That way there will never be any discrepancy of that; somebody would say well I went to Baltimore and he might have been in DC and never went to Baltimore and that way you can bring it right up and say, here it is.

Mayor Jones: Anything else?

Councilman West: No.

Councilwoman Patterson: Thank you, last but not least, and I want to thank my council members for the great suggestions. There are a lot of them. If I could just add two. We had talked about sidewalks. I walk down to Town a lot from the Cannery and I know sidewalks all over town have issues. In my particular area, with the kids, we're out all the time and a lot of people come into the Dogfish Head Brewery on vacation, touring, nice day, they might want to walk downtown and the sidewalks that lead from the Cannery down to the restaurants in town and what not, are just completely in disarray. So maybe me visiting the Streets and Sidewalks Committee and reviewing that. Another thing I wanted to revisit, we had discussed it about a year ago, with the previous Mayor, about the impact fees and the cost of development in town and we just sort of left it, I think. I was new, it was all sort of new, but from what I understand if a developer wanted to come into town it's \$8,000 per acre, this, that, the other. I'm not quite sure where everything left off with that. Mayor Jones: Impact fees.

<u>Councilwoman Patterson</u>: We talked about impact fees and just charging them for that, as opposed to the other, so I would like to see that revisited. And again the needs of the residents. Feel free to contact me any time with things that you feel that you need us to look into; and code enforcement. Some of the houses we were talking about, the town looking a little bit disheveled and even driving into town, all the different ways you can come into town and really just trying to polish up the town a little bit. So thank you.

Mayor Jones: Just so everyone understands, as I said, this is one of two meetings the Council will begin to define and then the public will have their free time in the month of May to do just the opposite and that was listen. I didn't want you to think we were restricting your talking about it this evening.

<u>Councilwoman Parker-Selby</u>: Excuse me Mayor Jones, when I said my little bit earlier, I had no idea of the things that you were speaking of and I come here assuming that we have our mission and our goals and everything all set in the town and then I'm hearing these types of things, it sounds like we really have a lot of work to do.

Mayor Jones: Yes, Ma'am.

<u>Councilwoman Parker-Selby</u>: I really assumed that the Town had all these things in order and this is something, I have to publicly state, I'm shocked, but I'm willing to do what I have to do to help you get it together.

Mayor Jones: Alright, you all are amateurs, because I've got a list. Items to revisit in a timely fashion, if not too late, the purchase or declining any interest in the Shipbuilder's property. It's been tossed around a very long time, I'm sad to say, not to my knowledge have we ever had a true definitive answer to the interest of Council and we now have many fresh faces, so you'll be seeing these items come back for definitive dispositions, so that we can make decisions and be done with them. The Orchard Street Property, I believe anybody who is familiar with this item, will understand that some work has been done on that property to make clear for a decision made by Council.

<u>Seth Thompson</u>: It's currently deeded to the Town. We received that deed. I recorded it. It's up to Council in terms of what they want to do with it.

Mayor Jones: We'll be revisiting that issue. Long since whoever buzzed in on this one, Councilwoman Parker-Selby, the quality of the streetlights and the absence of the streetlights. I wasn't sure whether to place that here, whether to place that directly on Streets and Sidewalks. I kind of crossed over a little bit in my attempt to make sure that the points were hit. The Ordinances, and more importantly the penalties, that need to be considered for the long, long vacant buildings in the Town of Milton that are not being actively sought to be rented or sold; I think that that is a lot of work that needs to be done and needs to begin immediately. I will ask Mr. Abbott for some guidance, Council for some guidance, whether or not that becomes a spin-off committee of what Councilman Collier's already on, which is the Charter and Ordinance Review Committee Ad Hoc, now. It was my understanding that the original charge of that was for you to look at that Charter and how it compared to our Codes and Ordinances. Is that correct? Your original charge.

Councilman Collier: That's correct.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: And we've had a discussion that maybe you are all better served, looking directly at Charter and having another group go forward with...

<u>Councilman Collier</u>: I believe that you need to start with the Charter, because it supersedes all else. There are some other areas within the Ordinances, that probably need to be addressed and there may be some things that we may decide are better served by removing them from the Charter and placing them in the Ordinances, because as the need to adjust them or revamp them comes up, instead of having to go through this long process and submitting it to the legislature for their approval and everything else, it could be solved at this table and moved forward in a timely fashion.

Mayor Jones: Okay.

<u>Win Abbott</u>: Pardon me Mayor Jones, but before you move on I have three model Ordinances regarding vacant properties; one's from the Town of Smyrna and one's from the City of Wilmington that I have ready and have circulated before; I'll be glad to share with you and it could help to speed up that process.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Are you or Mr. Thompson able to describe to us at this point, whether or not we already the ability to level fines or summonses against these property-owners. If we are, perhaps, is there an answer as to why we have not and maybe the answer to that is that they just don't have any teeth for penalty at this point. Are you able to answer that?

Win Abbott: I don't think I'm prepared to answer that right now.

Mayor Jones: Okay. Alright.

<u>Seth Thompson</u>: Just to give you a preliminary answer, you have a Property Maintenance Section, but that's really aimed at weeds and vegetation, but you do have a Housing Standards Ordinance, but that's going to aimed at emergency issues, so it sounds like you're looking for something to fill a gap potentially in your ordinances.

Mayor Jones: I see and eye witness it, also the ears of the community that regardless of whether a historic property is in the Historic District or not, we bill ourselves as a historic town and we welcome people here as a historic destination. If we allow these beautiful buildings to fall down around us, every day I see it happening; then we are equally guilty of contributing to the issue and since many of them are identified, I don't care where historic buildings are located, they are worth saving, because not many times can you replace that in the fabric of your town. So I do want to somehow beef up those particular ordinances that will begin to protect and hold the homeowners and landowners responsible for these beautiful places through town. One of the major infrastructure issues that I referred to earlier this evening, that I believe we will face is the flooding issue downtown. There's no

question that until we work with outside agencies, state, local governments to see if there is a way of helping, perhaps not eliminating, but reducing that issue of that flood plain that we're looking at, it's very hard for businesses to be drawn into downtown with a great deal of knowledge that they're going to be safe there and nothing will happen. These being tidal waters, we're absolutely at the mercy of bad storms, even full moons; so this is an infrastructure issue that we have. Front Street Extended is also a flooding issue, though, I fully understand that portion is not under our responsibility. It does affect the entranceway into the Town of Milton. It's amazing, if you just take a look at how something could be trimmed or picked up or cleaned up or a ditch raked out, how much better your entranceway, your gateways into town will look and I hear that often, that has to do with Code Enforcement, but on a grander scale. Again, these are our gateways. We don't always have control over them. Tree trimming downtown, I think this is definitely not the season, but I think if we could trim the trees downtown and have a little bit more visibility of our stores that are up and operating and open, it would just be visually a little better for all. I took a walk just yesterday. I was concerned about many of the sidewalk obstructions that are caused by nothing more than the beautiful planters and benches that are on the sidewalk. I'd be willing to bet that there are many cases that are not able to have a wheelchair pass easily. Not wishing to risk losing any of the beauty of those benches, or those planters, I think there are some very simple solutions of moving the larger, wider planters to places more appropriate and putting the longer, flatter, triangular ones in walkway areas, to create the beauty, but not the obstruction, so I wanted to work with the Garden Club on that. I'm not sure what can be done. The Star Property, which sits downtown, it is not completely cordoned off. You can not get into that property. I'm a long time Milton resident, if I'm looking to Mr. Bushey for that confirmation, it's been a tragedy that that's been empty. I think it does lend to the look of abandonment downtown and that is the big one on the corner there next to Mr. Post's antique store, that used to be used as a parking lot. Just consideration. After the tax appeals that we've heard within the last couple of months, I think there's been some conversation about the possibility of town-wide reassessment; whether or not that's something we would need to look into coming into the budget. To Councilman Collier, review of the Ordinances, particularly the sidewalks, it seems to me the running debate is who's responsible for them? The town faced having a problem seeking funding a couple of years ago because our rules state that the homeowners are responsible and if I'm not mistaken, Milton was turned down from that funding, because we couldn't get funding for something that we weren't responsible for fixing. I am looking for a definitive answer on the bond on Cannery Village. I'm looking for a definitive answer on the Dry Zone disposition. I think that training for Planning and Zoning, Board of Adjustments, Historic Preservation is warranted. I have made some contacts. Some folks I know may avail themselves to going and putting themselves through the classes that are available. I'd like to make those available to more members, so that the members certainly feel like they are having a great contribution to the town, by serving on these boards, which they are; but we want to make sure that they are educated and equipped with everything that we can give them, so that they have a feeling of accomplishment; some kind of training. I would like under budget reasoning, Welcome and Direction Signs making sure we have finances to complete the job over and above what the USDA grant, which the Economic Development Committee has applied for, may provide for signage through town. It is hard to stand up and be recognized. I don't know of many signs that say Welcome to Milton, You're Here. I think that's a point we need. Facades of our downtown building fall into Code Enforcement and

making sure that we have the Codes that will keep those buildings looking nice, keep the property owners responsible. Under Old Business, I believe we will need to revisit the Tidewater land purchase; just because we tabled it, did not make it go away. It's one of those things that I believe Council will have to make a definitive decision on. We've had auditor's recommendations having to do with some of the financial procedures and with Councilman Cote's help, I'm hoping for a recommendation from him in reference to some of those auditor's recommendations, how we might operate a little bit better. And Councilman Cote is already working on the possibility of placing our Financial Report on the website. Right now on a bi-weekly schedule, is what I think he's looking at; that this would make information which has been asked for for a long long time by the citizens, available more readily than the expenditure reports that come to Council for the month. Specifically, under the policies you all hit everything I did. I know that Mr. Abbott is working right now overtime completing under Personnel Issues, the very goals and objectives by which evaluations are completed and those goals and objectives have been lacking for quite some time. In order to render a really good evaluation, you have to know what you're being graded on and so the cart before the horse, for sure, but I know that he's working very hard because you're coming up on evaluation period. Are you not? Councilman Collier my last that I'm willing to say in public, under Streets and Sidewalks we've talked about this, but there are a couple of concerns I have needing desperate follow-up. The Route 16 and 5 light that we both were in attendance at the DelDOT meeting. The attention that is needed to be paid to that intersection, the Mulberry Street and 16 intersection, which I have also had a discussion with a number of residents about. Councilwoman Parker-Selby for sure is very aware of that corner. Chestnut Street and is it Wharton there?

Councilwoman Patterson: Yes.

Councilman Collier: It's Wharton on one side and Atlantic on the other.

Councilwoman Patterson: It's Wharton on side and Atlantic on the other.

Mayor Jones: Okay, it's Wharton one side and Atlantic Street on the other; that juncture of the three, we have heard from the public in the past that that is a dangerous intersection. Of course the first idea was to make it a 4-way stop, but perhaps that will warrant a little discussion and a look at too. Also, from a member of the community, the Route 16 corridor and the possibility of the land that passes through Milton being set up for a potential feasibility study of beautification, so that it is just a small strip, but it is Milton and whether or not we might add something to that little bit of property there, it says We're Milton. That's all I have right now. Sounds like lots to do. Does anybody else want to chime in on that. I would remind you each to begin, if you have any considerations for budget ideas, to begin to get those to Mr. Abbott. It is never too early.

<u>Seth Thompson</u>: The only other thing I would chime in, if any of the council members see anything in the Charter that they would like addressed this legislative session, it should probably happen soon because they go out of session in June and then they come back in in January; so anything in the Charter that we think needs to be addressed, we have to pass a Resolution on our end, requesting the legislature to change the language.

<u>Councilman Collier</u>: We've kind of viewed this as a process, where there probably won't be anything going this go around, because it's going to take some time to examine the document and go through it and of course, it probably won't make this go around, but I was aware of the time for that, yes.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: The one thing that hasn't been mentioned and I hate to be the one to mention it, the Police Department.

Mayor Jones: What about?

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Sitting 3, 4 miles outside of town on all sides of town. What's the deal? I get more calls from people about the Police Department, then anything else. At some point we have to address what's going on there.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: And it is my intention that the Ad Hoc Committee that's been created, will be able to serve as a place to look at some of these topics of concern; but also we're going to have let them find their way with a basic framework and then grow into what they feel they need to search for.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: I understand that they're going to do what they're going to do, but I'm telling you my constituents are calling me at 11:20 at night to tell me what's going on. That cannot wait for some Ad Hoc Committee. Somebody's got to look into what the heck's going on. Not what we need to look for for the future, the size, or anything else; what's going on.

<u>Mayor Jones</u>: Vice Mayor Booros I do not know how to answer this, other than to say anything that is a complaint against the Police Department is right now being investigated and reviewed by the Police Department only. So I am not sure of our position on Council for further review of those police issues, but we'll try to get you some answers.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: Because I did bring up an issue a month ago, six weeks ago, whatever it was and was told that they would have to look at the tapes. And then that's it. I've never heard back and that was my own issue.

Mayor Jones: Okay.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: I guess we never hear a resolution as to did it not happen; did you look at the tapes; do the tapes not exist? What's the deal?

Mayor Jones: Okay.

<u>Councilman Cote</u>: Madame Mayor, I think I don't want to have to be the one to go further than John just went, but I believe there are a number of issues with the Police Department. We have the take home cars. We had talked in the past about doing a study to see whether that was beneficial. To the best of my knowledge, that's not been looked into. I think there are overall operational things that... I don't know how to express it, but there's more than sitting 4, 5 miles outside of town and there's more than take home cars.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: I mentioned earlier engines running.

<u>Councilman Cote</u>: The gas. We upped the budget from the initial budget number last year. In the discussion process it got upped twice by over 30%.

Mayor Jones: On that note, Mr. Abbott, early next week I'd like to make sure that we set up the personnel committees next meeting, to not only continue where Mayor Newlands' administration left off on that meeting, to continue on and to possibly focus on some other issues as well. Okay? This doesn't have to end tonight. We can continue to build on this. What I would like to hear from each member coming back is prioritizing by committees, if that's the way we want to do it; some of these issues certainly belong specifically to Committees. Some of the old topics that need reviewing, belong specifics to committees and we'll need to get those on the agenda as well. When it comes to Parks and Recreation, you're working I know. I've been working on some new members to really be hands on, feet on the ground, work for you.

<u>Vice Mayor Booros</u>: And what I would like to do is not just set up a meeting, maybe set up a workshop with the new members and the old members, since they haven't met in so long, to let's go back and go over everything and see what it was we wanted, what it is we're looking for for the future and what needs doing; but more in a format like this, a workshop,

as opposed to having to put an agenda out there, because quite honestly we haven't met in two years and I don't know what we'd even put on an agenda.

Mayor Jones: Okay. We discussed also as a Council, there were some folks absent in April, about what we wanted to place on the website for our bios; whether or not we wanted to put photos there, whether or not we wanted to put short bits about ourselves. I think the majority idea was to make it short and sweet and I don't know that we ever decided totally about pictures, but now that there are three people here tonight, that were not there, I don't think we completed the assignment, or were we bringing that back up in May? I thought we were going to discuss that this evening. Perhaps not. Let's set that to make sure that we bring that up in May and bring some information so that we can share that with Mr. Abbott and get ourselves and that portion of the website completed. Any other business under this Council Workshop, long range/short range projects, plans, goals? Again, we'll meet on the 22nd to define some of these ideas and have perhaps even some folks on these committees who have some working ideas of what direction to go; what kind of help they'll need and we'll try to finalize some of these committees, as well. No more discussion on that?

11. Executive Session

a) Discussion/strategy session involving legal advice or opinion from an attorney-at-law, with respect to potential litigation, when an open meeting would have an adverse effect on the litigation position

Mayor Jones: Do I hear a motion to go into Executive Session?

Councilman West: I'll make a motion to go into Executive Session.

Councilwoman Patterson: I second.

Mayor Jones: All those in favor say aye. Opposed. Motion is carried. Thank you.

Councilman West: Madame Mayor, I make a motion we come out of Executive Session.

Vice Mayor Booros: Second it.

Mayor Jones: Any discussion? Vote. Aye.

12. Adjournment

Councilman West: I make a motion that we adjourn.

Councilman Cote: Second.

Mayor Jones: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye. Opposed. Motion carried. Meeting

adjourned at 9:55 p.m.