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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

TOWN OF COVENTRY

PROCEEDING AT HEARING :
:
IN RE: :
:
TOWN COUNCIL AND SEWER :
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING AND :
PUBLIC FORUM :

DATE: October 16, 2017
TIME: 5:30 P.M.
PLACE: Coventry High
School
40 Reservoir Road
Coventry, RI

BEFORE:

TOWN COUNCIL: GLENFORD SHIBLEY, PRESIDENT
GREGORY LABOISSONNIERE, VICE
PRESIDENT
KERRY MC GEE
KAREN CARLSON
DEBRA BACON

SEWER SUBCOMMITTEE: GLEN SKURKA
LEONARD PIETTE
MICHAEL SACCOCCIA
JOHN COLALUCA
JOSEPH SPADA
TONY RAPOSO

TOWN SOLICITOR: NICHOLAS GORHAM
TOWN MANAGER: GRAHAM WATERS
TAX COLLECTOR: MONIQUE HOULE
TOWN FINANCE
DIRECTOR: ROBERT THIBEAULT
SEWER AUTHORITY: STEPHANI IN
PUBLIC WORKS: KEVIN MC GEE
TOWN ENGINEER: ROBERT JOYAL

WESTON & SAMPSON: KEN NICHOLS
TIM DE GUGLIELIMO

1 (COMMENCED AT 5:36 P.M.)

2 MR. SHIBLEY: Good evening, everyone.
3 Sorry we're running about five minutes late, but I
4 think almost all of us are here tonight to start
5 off the council meeting.

6 First, I'd like to ask -- call the town
7 council, call the order and roll call. Mrs. George
8 is here -- no, she's not. Okay. Mr. Waters.

9 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Present.

10 MR. MC GEE: Here.

11 MS. CARLSON: Here.

12 MS. BACON: Here.

13 MR. SHIBLEY: Present. Okay. And then if
14 I could ask Mr. Glen Piette if he could call the
15 roll call for the sewer subcommittee. Excuse me, I
16 believe Mr. Skurka, the Chairman, is running a few
17 minutes late. So we'll go to the vice chairman who
18 will call the roll.

19 MR. RAPOSO: Here.

20 MR. PIETTE: Joe Spada? John Colaluca?

21 MR. COLALUCA: Here.

22 MR. SACCOCCIA: Here.

23 MR. PIETTE: Glen Piette, I'm here. And
24 Glen is late.

25 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Thank you. Mr.

1 Spearman, if you would be so kind to lead us in the
2 Pledge of Allegiance.

3 (PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE RECITED)

4 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you, sir. And also if
5 you could give the emergency evacuation plan, if
6 needed, which we hope not.

7 MR. SPEARMAN: Okay. In case of
8 emergency, there's exits up in the front, in the
9 middle, and in the back there. Go out there.
10 Follow the exit signs. Takes you right out there.
11 Okay. Thank you.

12 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you, Mr. Spearman.
13 Okay. Following the agenda, Item B1, we have
14 resolutions for discussion and action. I guess
15 I'll read it. Resolution Number 1, B1, resolution
16 authorizing the town manager to look into an
17 appropriate place to stop construction of the sewer
18 line on Hazard Street, and have the authority to
19 order construction to stop once the sewer line is
20 satisfactorily constructed to such point. So that
21 is the first resolution that we are handling
22 tonight. And with that, we're going to read the
23 entire resolution, Mr. Waters, or --

24 MS. CARLSON: Mr. President, I have a
25 question.

1 MR. SHIBLEY: Let me get my answer first.

2 MR. WATERS: That's up to you, if you'd
3 like to read the entire resolution --

4 MR. SHIBLEY: Well, just in case it has
5 changed a little bit from what we had, I think it
6 would be a good idea. Mr. Gorham.

7 MR. GORHAM: So this is entitled -- this
8 is the resolution, and the president just read the
9 title of the resolution, and here is what it says.
10 Whereas, town council by Resolution 59-17-4874
11 ordered the contract to construction sewers along
12 Hazard Street to John Rocchio Corporation at the
13 June 26, 2017 town council meeting, and authorized
14 the town manager to proceed with the project; and,
15 whereas, the contracted price of \$421,442 is the
16 amount that the town agreed to construct the Hazard
17 Street line and, whereas, the town has determined
18 that it is in the best interest of the town and its
19 residents to determine if there is an appropriate
20 place to stop construction of the sewer line on
21 Hazard Street based on unprotected and unforeseen
22 construction costs, if the town manager determines
23 it is necessary and appropriate; and, whereas, the
24 town council wishes to authorize the town manager,
25 in consultation with the town's consulting

1 engineers, Weston & Sampson, and the town finance
2 director, to determine if there is an appropriate
3 place to stop the project prior to completion; and,
4 whereas, depending on outstanding expenditures,
5 excess materials, and other factors once a stopping
6 location has been determined by the town manager,
7 the town manager, in consultation with the town's
8 consulting engineers, Weston & Sampson, and the
9 town finance director is authorized to act as the
10 agent of the town to ensure that the construction
11 is completed in an orderly and satisfactory fashion
12 up to such stopping point; and, whereas, the town
13 manager is authorized and appointed as the final
14 negotiator and signatory on the contract with
15 Rocchio, including termination thereof to the point
16 where the town manager determines that construction
17 of such line should be stopped; and, whereas, the
18 town manager will report back to the town council
19 on the final outcome of the Hazard Street sewer
20 project. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the
21 town council of the Town of Coventry, Rhode Island,
22 authorizes the town manager in consultation with
23 the town's consulting engineers, Weston & Sampson,
24 and the town finance director to act as the agent
25 of the town in all respects in executing the Hazard

1 Street sewer project, including the power to
2 terminate the contract with John Rocchio
3 Corporation and to select an appropriate place in
4 consultation with the town's consulting engineers,
5 Weston & Sampson, and the town finance director, if
6 necessary, to stop construction of the sewer line
7 and to negotiate such termination with John Rocchio
8 once the sewer line has been satisfactorily
9 constructed to such point. And then it just says
10 passed and adopted today. And so that is before
11 the council for discussion, Mr. President.

12 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you, Mr. Gorham. In
13 that the resolution before us has been read, and I
14 know we'll probably have discussion, but I firstly
15 would like to have a motion to accept.

16 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: So moved.

17 MR. MC GEE: Second.

18 MR. SHIBLEY: Is there any discussion?

19 MS. CARLSON: And I wrote this out just so
20 I wouldn't forget anything. Mr. President, I would
21 like to make a motion that the council postpone the
22 two resolutions under Item B until after Item C,
23 Numbers 1 and 2. This will allow council to
24 consider the expert and professional testimony from
25 the town manager, the sewer subcommittee, Weston &

1 Sampson, and Mr. Angelo Liberti, who is the chief
2 of surface water protection at RIDEM, who was
3 invited to our meeting by Senator Raptakis. We may
4 then consider changes, additions, or stipulations
5 to the two resolutions, and I also want to thank
6 the help we received from our state delegation and
7 I'd like to welcome everybody here. It's great to
8 see such a great size crowd. Thank you. So I'd
9 like to make a motion to postpone discussion and/or
10 action on these resolutions until we hear all the
11 other --

12 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. We have a motion and
13 a second. Later on that will be your, I guess if
14 ours doesn't pass, then you'll have your chance --
15 another motion. Mr. McGee, you have a comment?

16 MR. MC GEE: This would be a good time to
17 make my statement. I want to read a little
18 statement I made out concerning this whole
19 situation. Just bear with me. Take me a couple of
20 minutes.

21 I would like to make a statement about our
22 sewer program. When I took office seven years ago,
23 we already had a sewer infrastructure and a sewer
24 fund and a facility plan in place. Part of our job
25 as elected officials was to maintain the sewer fund

1 so it will be self-sustainable and to do what we
2 had to do to continue the growth of the sewer fund
3 and ultimately the sewer projects. We have
4 attempted to make the assessments more feasible,
5 but it is very difficult with the high cost of
6 construction. The assessment process is pretty
7 much done the same way throughout most towns and
8 cities in the State of Rhode Island. As mentioned
9 on Tuesday's council meeting, if we do not continue
10 our sewer program, the sewer fund will not be
11 solvent within a short period of time. The payment
12 on our bonds will have to be paid out of our
13 general fund and cause a tax increase to every
14 taxpayer in town, whether you have sewers or not.

15 In my eyes that is not fair to those
16 taxpayers that will not benefit from the program,
17 which includes approximately 30,000 people.
18 Furthermore, it is not fair to those taxpayers who
19 have already paid their sewer assessment and now
20 would have to pay taxes again. I feel that the
21 sewer program is right for the Town of Coventry.
22 However, I hear my constituents' concerns about the
23 financial hardships that the sewers would cause, as
24 District 3 is full of hard working, blue collar
25 families. I hear you.

1 After last Tuesday's meeting, hearing the
2 discontent and concern, I had a conversation with
3 our town manager and my fellow councilman and sewer
4 subcommittee member Greg Laboissonniere, and we
5 thought it would be a good idea to halt the sewer
6 projects until we could do a socioeconomic survey
7 throughout the whole town to re-evaluate the needs
8 and wants for sewers.

9 I did a survey of the Quidnick area in
10 2011, sending out approximately 250 surveys with
11 frequently asked questions including sewer
12 assessments. About one-fifth of the surveys were
13 returned, which is 48 out of 257. Hazard Street
14 had four residents for sewers, six against, and
15 three with no opinion. Of the approximately thirty
16 homes on Hazard Street, that made our decision a
17 difficult; but at the time, the minimum assessment
18 would have been \$23,000 per household. We decided
19 to put a moratorium on sewers until we could find a
20 more cost-effective way to do it. Fast forward to
21 2017, the sewer subcommittee decided to combine
22 more expansion areas like Hazard Street with less
23 expensive areas like Tiogue Avenue to make it more
24 cost effective.

25 I repeat, the decision to continue the

1 sewer projects was a unanimous decision by the
2 sewer subcommittee brought to the town council for
3 a vote by unanimous decision 5 to 0, not 4 to 1 as
4 told to the taxpayers. To move forward with the
5 Hazard Street sewer project, the Hazard Street
6 taxpayers have not been ignored. We are trying to
7 come up with a fiscally responsible way to solve
8 this situation, professionally and respectfully.
9 For all those responsible -- responsibility and
10 negative comments to fall on the back of Councilman
11 McGee is totally unfair and unsubstantiated.

12 I understand that I work for the taxpayers
13 of District 3 and our community has always been a
14 great place to raise a family. The values that we
15 share with our neighbors are the envy of other
16 districts. Let us stop the negativity and cruel
17 comments. Let us take a breath and work for our
18 district, our community, and our town.

19 To the voters of District 3, I will
20 continue to be your voice of reason to move the
21 Town of Coventry forward in a positive manner.
22 Thank you.

23 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Thank you, Mr. McGee.
24 Appreciate your comments as well. Any other
25 comments regarding the initial motion and second?

1 If not, having heard the additional motion, would
2 Mr. Laboissonniere and Mr. McGee care to withdraw
3 the first motion and second?

4 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Withdraw the second
5 first or the motion?

6 MR. SHIBLEY: Withdraw the motion.

7 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: I will withdraw the
8 motion at this time to accept this resolution due
9 to Mrs. Carlson's concerns. And if you have any
10 other questions or statements as to things that may
11 or may not be in here, because, I mean, the intent
12 is to stop the project, where it says --
13 substantially close to where it is now, in light of
14 the information that has come forward. But in
15 respect, I will withdraw my motion.

16 MS. CARLSON: I'd actually like to include
17 both motions in my motion because I'd like to get
18 more information, but also -- I meant, sorry,
19 resolutions -- got too many motions up there --
20 because I think, yes, we have to halt this project,
21 absolutely; but there are other -- probably other
22 ways we can explain it and put some more
23 information out there before we vote on these
24 motions -- resolutions.

25 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Thank you.

1 Mr. McGee, would you care to withdraw your second
2 on the initial --

3 MR. MC GEE: I would not care. I think
4 this is a good resolution. I think we're going to
5 stop the project, and we can still have discussion
6 after the resolution. But I do not want to
7 withdraw my second.

8 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. So --

9 MS. CARLSON: I'm not throwing the
10 resolutions out. I would just like to get more
11 discussion. I agree with the intent of the
12 resolution. Plus we just got the new revised one
13 when we sat down. So I didn't -- I haven't even --
14 and I know --

15 MR. SHIBLEY: All right. Thank you,
16 Mr. McGee. I guess it's -- motion has been
17 withdrawn. So the second is sort of like not
18 germane. Thank you for the legal jargon at this
19 time. All right. So at this time, the motion --
20 presentation before the B1 and B2. Okay. That
21 motion has been made, right, you agree, all right,
22 to move the public forum ahead of B1 and B2. We
23 have a motion and a second at this time, and all in
24 favor of that motion.

25 (VOICE VOTE: PASSED)

1 MR. SHIBLEY: That's 4 to 1. Okay. So at
2 this time, Mr. Waters, I guess we have Weston &
3 Sampson starting off on this one; is that correct?

4 MR. WATERS: Yup. We will have -- just
5 for the audience, we will have a presentation.
6 This is similar to the presentation that was done
7 back on September 25th at the town council meeting
8 by our engineers, Weston & Sampson. Mr. Nichols
9 will be leading the presentation. You can see
10 visuals on either wall, followed by our finance
11 director, Bob Thibeault. He'll be doing a historic
12 presentation on the finances of the sewer program
13 overall; and then after the two presentations, it's
14 my understanding that we'll have the public forum,
15 at which there'll be an opportunity for the public
16 to come forward and ask questions. Our town
17 solicitor, Nick Gorham, will be moderating that
18 public forum to help maintain order. We do have a
19 microphone over here, correct, yup. So if you have
20 questions at the end, you can come up to the
21 microphone and then we'll go from there. So at
22 this time --

23 MR. SHIBLEY: If I could just --

24 MR. WATERS: Do you want to -- to help
25 keep order, do you want to limit questions to two

1 or three minutes?

2 MR. SHIBLEY: Well, we haven't gotten
3 through the presentations yet. I think that's
4 probably a good idea, but let's -- the
5 presentation -- incidentally, let me just precede
6 the presentation with the general intent of this
7 meeting tonight was informational. That's why
8 we're having this meeting. In between scheduling
9 this informational meeting to the residents that
10 are concerned, the town manager decided it would be
11 not a bad idea to go temporary, stopping the sewer
12 project, and I think he talked to all council
13 people, and I think basically we're in agreement
14 with his idea, a total stop on Hazard Street up to
15 the point where they can cut it off.

16 Again, that said, that's where we're
17 leading up now to the informational part of the
18 meeting. I must say, however, my opinion, sewers
19 are a good thing. I only have to drive by my
20 neighborhood today, and I see a septic system being
21 put on residence at the corner of Laurel and
22 Princeton, big septic system going in. I also
23 heard yesterday morning that two houses down, they
24 need a big septic system project going to be done
25 in the near future. So I would love sewers in Oak

1 Haven. I've said that for 38 years that I've lived
2 there. Unfortunately, we're not on the high
3 priority list. Okay. And we're probably -- I
4 don't know if we'll ever see them in Oak Haven, but
5 they're going to spend, spend, spend on putting in
6 the septic systems that, at best, will be
7 temporary, where sewers are permanent. Okay.
8 Mr. Nichols, are you here to start that
9 informational hearing now and project? Go right
10 ahead. Please bear with us so we can get through
11 this.

12 MR. NICHOLS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So
13 for those of you who don't remember me, I'm Kent
14 Nichols with Weston & Sampson. With me tonight on
15 my left-hand side is Tim DeGuglielmo who has been
16 the principal author of the more recent versions of
17 the Coventry wastewater facility plan. I actually
18 wrote probably the bulk of the original plan that
19 we put together back in the '90's, early 90's, and
20 spent a lot of time at that point studying various
21 sections of Coventry and the sewer needs. So I
22 think we're actually pretty well prepared to answer
23 a bunch of questions. In the interest of time
24 tonight, we're going to go through a very quick
25 summary of the facility planning process and kind

1 of the history of where we've been with sewers in
2 Coventry. As I said, we're going to do that
3 relatively quickly for two reasons. One is I know
4 a lot of you may have already seen my summarized
5 presentation at one of the past town council
6 meetings. I'm actually hopeful that maybe a few of
7 you actually came to our public meeting when we did
8 the facility plan when we actually did this and we
9 tried to get people to be interested and come out
10 and talk about sewer planning. And you -- so you
11 may have also seen it either in front of the sewer
12 subcommittee or actually at our public hearing that
13 we did back when we did the facility plans.

14 And so the first question is what is a
15 sewer facility plan, if we could click the slide.
16 Ed, how does that work? I just wave to you? Good.
17 Okay. So the first thing is a little discussion of
18 why we do facility plans, how that works. Facility
19 planning is a historic thing where the town takes
20 on a challenge, in this case a utility challenge,
21 dealing with where to extend sewers to and has to
22 make some decisions, where does that happen? It's
23 not random. We try to make good decisions with
24 that using physical, geophysical, sometimes ground
25 conditions, and some calculations and engineering

1 judgment, and we also take into account a
2 collection of data to the degree that we can
3 capture information from the public and from as
4 many sources of physical information as we can.
5 That means DEM's records and other places like
6 that.

7 In the case of facility planning in
8 Coventry, facility planning actually dates back to
9 shortly after the Clean Water Act was passed in the
10 '70's. The state started to take on this
11 opportunity to look at what needed to be done to
12 protect water resources in all areas; and believe
13 it or not, there are a lot of places that had
14 sewers going back, you know, into the 1800's when
15 they were dense cities, but most places like
16 Coventry didn't have any real sewers at all. And
17 if they did, they were limited to some of those
18 very densely developed mill neighborhoods, and they
19 were just pipes that went out to the river. So the
20 goal at the point in the '70's was to figure out,
21 well, where should we extend infrastructure to and
22 why. The '70's culminated, late '70's culminated
23 in a facility plan by C.E. Maguire for Coventry
24 which was done circa 1977. That was predated
25 actually by the 208 regional area wide management

1 plans that were done by the state and Federal
2 governments. It kind of pre-did that and said
3 there are certain areas of various towns in all
4 states that will eventually need sewers. So
5 Coventry actually undertook it in the mid to late
6 '70's, they finished their first facility plan.
7 That facility plan pretty clearly showed areas of
8 eastern Coventry that needed sewers. Thereupon, on
9 a pretty regular basis, the town took to refine
10 that plan, to revisit that plan, to see if there
11 were other things made. As most of you know, we
12 did not build a serious large scale system of
13 sewers in Coventry in the 1970's. We also didn't
14 do it in the 1980's. We did, at some point in the
15 late 1980's, the town did vote for a couple of
16 sewer extensions that were done circa 1988, '89.
17 And honestly there was a couple of facility
18 planning steps in between there.

19 In general, the goal of the facility plan
20 is to make sure that the information that's
21 presented and used to make decisions is current and
22 is relevant to the decision-making process. It
23 revisits the physical information as much as it
24 does the cost of sewers as well as has anything
25 changed; do we have a need to change the approach

1 that we've used.

2 So in the case of Rhode Island DEM's
3 regulations, they actually, in order for us to stay
4 current with their funding program for sewers, the
5 state revolving fund loan program, the town has to
6 complete a reaffirmation as a minimum or an update
7 to the facility plan every five years. And so as
8 you look at the schedule, starting in the '70's,
9 there was a plan done in the late '70's, one done
10 in the early '80's. I think the first one that we
11 were involved in was done in the '80's. It was
12 kind of revisited with some isolated studies
13 through the period of the '80's. We then -- the
14 first one I was involved in personally to a great
15 degree was undertaken circa 1992, culminated in
16 about 1995. We then revisited that again circa
17 early 2000, the 2003 facility plan. Reaffirmation
18 was notable because that's when the fast track
19 sewer project was built including the interceptor
20 down Tiogue Ave. and Sandy Bottom Road and up
21 Washington Street to West Warwick. Again,
22 revisited in 2010; and most recently we presented
23 an update to the facility plan in 2016.

24 So there have been a lot of opportunities
25 through that time to try to collect information. I

1 would say the thing that's most notable in that
2 facility planning is the areas, the principal areas
3 that we've been discussing for sewers in Coventry
4 have not changed significantly in that period of
5 time. There are a number of areas that have been
6 captured in the prior facility plans that, little
7 by little, we've actually decided probably can be
8 handled with onsite wastewater treatment systems or
9 OWTS's to use the term that DEM uses, and those --
10 or septic systems for what most people would say.
11 Those systems we felt like had advanced enough that
12 we could take some areas off safely and frankly the
13 process of building sewers has been very slow in
14 Coventry. So we just haven't extended out to too
15 many places over that period of time. But as you
16 can now see, there's been a pretty long history of
17 the facility planning.

18 So one thing I thought was of note and I
19 presented this at the last meeting, this is
20 actually a photocopy of a figure from the 1977
21 facility plan, again, offered by C.E. Maguire at
22 the time, and as you can tell, probably a little
23 hard to read this, but if you look really closely
24 at those areas outlined in gold and yellow, those
25 are, pretty much, all the areas that we're

1 continuing to discuss for sewer extensions in
2 Coventry at this point in time. Over a period of
3 40 years, very little change in that. Flip to the
4 next one, if you would.

5 We did undertake a goal of trying to
6 refine that plan as much as we could. So going
7 through the later facility plan, starting in the
8 circa '95 plan, we broke the town up into areas and
9 actually back when we did this, these sub areas
10 were actually used to do some analysis. And one
11 thing that's been discussed is a questionnaire. At
12 the time this was done, we actually sent a
13 questionnaire to every home that was in these
14 service areas, and we compiled those back. We
15 actually used the sub consultant to compile those
16 back into a database of what people thought, both
17 to get input on what people felt their septic
18 systems were capable of and how they were
19 functioning, but also to try to collect people's
20 opinions on sewers, which sewers aren't always
21 popular, but we wanted to try to get that
22 information. And that factored into the equation
23 originally. As each subsequent update and
24 reaffirmation of the facility plan proceeded, we
25 started little by little to take their results.

1 So what you'll see is some gray blobs in
2 this figure. Those are actually areas that we've
3 since taken out of the equation that, right now,
4 don't appear to actually need sewer long term and
5 they're not figured into the plan. The big picture
6 for Coventry has always been to try to get the
7 densely populated areas in eastern Coventry,
8 particularly areas around the lake and around the
9 rivers, to be served by sewers at an eventual
10 point.

11 So what did we do in the last facility
12 plan. This is kind of a quick summary of kind of
13 where we were. We had built a few sewers already,
14 and I'll talk about the areas of town that had been
15 sewerred up until this point in time. One of the
16 main things we do is we recheck the flows to see
17 where we stand. So for those of you who hadn't
18 heard, Coventry actually made a decision back in
19 the 1980's to join the West Warwick regional
20 system. West Warwick had a facility plan that
21 actually showed that they could build a very
22 sizeable wastewater treatment plant down on
23 Pulaski -- I mean, down on Pontiac. And they
24 actually built a facility that was large enough and
25 eventually could be upgraded to allow some capacity

1 for Coventry. So at that point in time, Coventry
2 made the option of, instead of building its own
3 plant that originally would have been located along
4 the shores of the south bank of the Pawtuxet River,
5 we actually ended up joining the West Warwick
6 regional facility; and Coventry purchased at that
7 time 2.25 million gallons a day of sewer capacity,
8 average daily flow basis, which is actually quite a
9 bit. It's enough certainly for all those areas
10 I've shown you, enough to service and long-term
11 treat, treat to a very high level and discharge
12 cleanly to the environment, the effluent from all
13 those areas in eastern Coventry.

14 But as I said, the facility plan moved
15 slowly; and over time, we found that the needs were
16 changing slightly. So we rearranged the flows a
17 little bit here and there. At the end of these
18 processes, we did see that areas like Contract 6
19 and 6A, which was the Lakeside Drive area, the area
20 bounded by Tiogue Ave. and Arnold Road and Lake
21 Tiogue were pretty high-needs area. That was done.
22 In addition, the town decided that they could get a
23 grant, a little bit of grant money to help
24 institute the sewers up on Industrial Drive all the
25 way up to the town hall. So that was kick-started

1 a little bit. And then the other thing is we
2 actually made provisions in there for the town to
3 make an acquisition of the Woodland Manor force
4 main, which actually runs from the Woodland Manor
5 development way out on Nooseneck Hill Road, all the
6 way to the West Warwick line. And long term, it
7 had always been envisioned to be a better fit for
8 the town to own and maintain. It had previously
9 been privately owned.

10 So with that, we also had utilization of
11 those lines planned, and we decided that this
12 facility plan adopted in 2016 would help us kind of
13 guide the program forward as we see it. So -- so
14 one thing that happens in the facility plan and
15 this goes back to the original plan and has been
16 updated each time is we talk a lot about physical
17 conditions in the planning area. We talk about why
18 we might actually need sewers and what actually
19 governs the need for sewers in these areas. A lot
20 of the criteria are about what's happening in the
21 ground. And the reason we do that is because
22 septic systems, once you have a septic tank at the
23 end of this, the real treatment in a septic system
24 actually occurs in the ground in the leaching
25 system that goes beyond your septic tank. Most

1 people think my septic system is running really
2 well if I can flush my toilet and my system never
3 backs up, but that doesn't necessarily govern what
4 makes a septic system function well. What actually
5 makes it function well is a zone of unsaturated
6 ground below the septic system discharge field and
7 then a zone of saturated below that which allows
8 the biology to establish and do some treatment in
9 there.

10 Things that contribute to making areas not
11 suitable for septic systems include shallow
12 groundwater, shallow bedrock, extremely steep
13 slopes, specific type of soils. Glacial till tends
14 to be very tight. It doesn't really percolate
15 well. Some other types of soils tend to be very
16 loose. Good gravels and sands are very nice, and
17 they drain well for a septic system, but the water
18 doesn't stay long enough to give good treatment.
19 So soil suitability is a big issue. We also looked
20 at things like if you were in proximity to a
21 wetland, very close proximity to a water supply or
22 really small lots where the actual construction of
23 a compliant septic system doesn't really work. So
24 we worked through all those issues as well.

25 So in the end, Coventry had been through a

1 process of building sewers, and I'll kind of go
2 back through the history a little bit; but for
3 those of you who kind of followed along the
4 discussion, we started by building very small
5 inlets of sewer all along the West Warwick border.
6 A lot of those were built privately. Some of those
7 were built by the town. Things like in the 1980's
8 we built small extensions to some industrial and
9 commercial facilities. The Victor Electric sewer
10 up in Harris is a good example, what was at the
11 time the Cal Chemical line that extended a small
12 pump station down at the very southern end of
13 Arnold Road. The line that served the North Road
14 Terrace Housing Authority property off of Tiogue
15 Ave. right near the West Warwick line, but there
16 was principally never really a substantial sewer
17 system in Coventry.

18 So that changed most drastically in the
19 early 2000's, circa 2003, the town began to
20 identify an opportunity that came about when West
21 Greenwich was entertaining the location of the
22 Immunex Bionix project which then later became the
23 Amgen facility; and at that time, there was a need
24 to extend some additional sewer service to get a
25 very large quantity of wastewater from that site

1 back to the treatment plant in West Warwick. And
2 so Coventry entered the negotiations for that; and
3 through negotiation was offered a grant of
4 approximately \$6 million from that group, a little
5 over \$6 million to buy their portion of what would
6 be the Town of Coventry's main interceptor sewer.

7 And basically what happened at that point
8 in time is, and I apologize for the map, but at the
9 end of the session, we also brought a big board up
10 that we'll put up in the front if anyone has a
11 real -- Tim's actually already assembled it --
12 which actually will show you all the lines in
13 Coventry if you're interested. But this map kind
14 of color codes them. Essentially what happened is
15 at the end of Hopkins Hill Road, we picked up flow
16 from the Amgen facility. We brought it all the way
17 down to Tiogue Ave. We ran it down to Sandy Bottom
18 Road. We built a new, large-scale pump station;
19 and if you ever drive down Sandy Bottom Road, you
20 see that big pump station every day you drive by
21 there and that station then pumps up around the
22 corner to about Knotty Oak where it goes back again
23 by gravity down Washington Street all the way to
24 the West Warwick system, continues to flow by
25 gravity pretty much all the way through there down.

1 And that system principally allowed Coventry to
2 have access to what we call the lateral sewer areas
3 in the town, the areas that had always been
4 identified as needs areas but that we couldn't
5 previously treat because Coventry had no principal
6 sewer system.

7 So the sewer program kind of most recently
8 after that we culminated in a few sewer projects.
9 We did Contracts 4, 5, 6. Recently, the town did
10 Contract 7 which, as I said, was the Industrial
11 Drive area up to the town hall. And then we had
12 designed a Contract 8, which was Quidnick; and I
13 think as Councilman McGee had said earlier, there
14 was a stopping point where we kind of said well,
15 Quidnick is looking very expensive because --
16 mostly because of a lot of rock. So we set
17 Quidnick aside. And, honestly, everything had been
18 set aside until we restarted with the Arnold Road
19 pieces. And the two Arnold Road pieces are notable
20 because they were driven primarily by the town's
21 decision and vote to reconstruct the roadway and
22 the challenge is we did not want to dig up a newly
23 reconstructed beautiful roadway to put sewers in
24 after maybe five or so years, and Tiogue Lake being
25 as sensitive as it is, that thought process was

1 let's get some sewers in under the ground. So we
2 ended up doing the Northern Arnold Road and the
3 Southern Arnold Road projects which are essentially
4 complete at this point in time and you've seen a
5 lot of construction out there. What you see out
6 there right now is actually the road reconstruction
7 because the sewer work is done.

8 So, again, just to revisit existing
9 planning areas in the town, 2016, they, as I said,
10 do not look vastly different from what was done
11 back in the earlier days of the sewer program. The
12 areas that we have proposed for sewers in addition
13 to that hazardous part of Quidnick, portions of the
14 areas along both sides of Hopkins Hill Road, the
15 additional in-fill areas, down along both sides of
16 Arnold Road, in particular the areas lying close
17 along the lake where there's water quality issues
18 in the lake to be thought of. Those primarily
19 include the West Shore Drive and the East Shore
20 Drive areas. And then a number of other small
21 in-fill areas both along the south branch of the
22 Pawtuxet and, as I said, pieces of Quidnick that we
23 know the soil conditions and rock quality issues
24 are up there.

25 So with that, I think I will wrap and pass

1 back to Bob. All right.

2 MR. WATERS: All right. Did you want to
3 put up our finance presentation, please. Our
4 finance director will now go over a little bit of
5 the finances of the current sewer fund,
6 particularly the borrowing that's outstanding as
7 well as some of the options for going forward and
8 what the status of the town sewer fund is
9 currently. Bob.

10 MR. THIBEAULT: Thank you. Hi. My name
11 is Bob Thibeault. I'm the finance director for the
12 town. As the manager stated, I'll be giving a
13 brief presentation on the finances of the sewer
14 program from its inception to today. And you can
15 follow along on the walls as you do with Mr.
16 Nichols.

17 When the sewer program began in 2004, the
18 following funding sources were utilized to start
19 that program: \$6 million -- \$6 million grant from
20 Immunex, which is now Amgen; a \$6 million tax
21 anticipation note; and a \$3.4 million loan from the
22 state Economic Development Corporation. The town
23 has expanded the program over the years by securing
24 the following loans: \$3.2 million, Rhode Island
25 Clean Water financing agency loan, 2006; 5 million

1 in 2007; 2.9 million in 2009; 2.4 million in 2012;
2 2.1 million in 2013. The Economic Development
3 Corporation tax anticipation notes were retired and
4 rolled into a loan in 2013 at almost \$8.2 million
5 and this calendar year, \$1.2 million loan from All
6 American Financing.

7 The town also has annual loan obligations
8 to the Town of West Warwick as governed by the
9 intermunicipal agreement between the two towns for
10 sewer services, and those are as follows: 2003, a
11 \$20.9 million wastewater facilities upgrade at the
12 plant in West Warwick of which Coventry's share is
13 22.2 percent. 2004, Upper Maisie Quinn interceptor
14 upgrade project, \$3 million of which Coventry
15 shares 27.39 percent. 2005, lower Maisie Quinn
16 pump station force main project, \$7.7 million,
17 Coventry's share is 27.39 percent. 2006, upper
18 Maisie Quinn interceptor upgrade project, an
19 additional funding of \$500,000 was needed to
20 complete that project, of which Coventry's share
21 again was 27.39 percent. 2007, Clyde interceptor
22 project, \$1.675 million, of which the town's share
23 is 44.2 percent. And 2015 a phosphorous removal
24 upgrade project at the West Warwick treatment
25 facility, \$12.5 million, Coventry's share of that

1 is 21.38 percent.

2 The town's FY '18 debt service for
3 sewer-related bonds, both its own issue and West
4 Warwick's issue, would be \$2,593,369. Up until
5 about Fiscal '12, the realized revenues were pretty
6 sufficient to pay debt service and other expenses
7 without making any major impact to the fund
8 balance. Since Fiscal '12, fund balances trended
9 downward as noted below. FY '10, the fund balance
10 was \$3.97 million. FY '11, 4.7 million; FY '12,
11 5.4 million; FY '13, 3.3 million; FY '14, 4.2
12 million; FY '15, 3.9 million; FY '16, reduced to
13 1.48 million. Fiscal 17 preaudit subject to change
14 fund balance is 2.4 million. The source of all
15 those numbers from Fiscal '10 to '16, our annual
16 audited financial statements with the exception of
17 Fiscal '17 which is pre-audit.

18 Per the trust indenture between the Town
19 of Coventry and Wells Fargo Bank and Rhode Island
20 Infrastructure Bank, formerly Rhode Island Clean
21 Water, the annual fund balance must be 125 percent
22 of Coventry-issued annual debt service. For Fiscal
23 '16, fund balance was only 106 percent of the
24 annual Coventry-issued debt service. Fiscal '17
25 the pre-audit fund balance is 167 percent of the

1 annual Coventry-issued debt service.

2 Major reasons for the downward trend in
3 fund balance are as follows: The 2012 Rhode Island
4 Clean Water loan, the annual debt service on the
5 loan is exceeding the assessments billed by
6 approximately \$47 1/2 thousand a year. Some of the
7 individuals have paid their entire assessments
8 upfront; but as we continue to bill, the debt
9 service exceeds the annual billing that we're
10 sending out. The 2013 Rhode Island Clean Water
11 loan, the annual debt service is greater than the
12 assessments by over \$160,000 because we're
13 currently not billing any assessments on that 2013
14 loan. The 2013 loan is the loan that, in part,
15 help construct Arnold Road North, was constructing
16 Hazard Street and whatever other projects that
17 we'll move forward at that point.

18 In 2013, the tax anticipation note that I
19 previously mentioned, that data from 2004, was
20 converted to a bond where previously we were paying
21 just interest on that note, we're now paying
22 principal and interest because it's a full bond and
23 that -- that's an additional \$364,000. The 2015
24 West Warwick phosphorous upgrade is an additional
25 187,000 plus. 2016, we had to take a one-year

1 prior period adjustment for change in construction
2 progress which was \$1.4 million. Prior to
3 tonight's town council vote which I assumed was
4 going to take place before this presentation, the
5 vote -- prior to the town council's vote this
6 evening to re-evaluate the sewer program, which the
7 vote is taking place after now, the following
8 actions were to be utilized to improve the health
9 of the sewer program's fund balance: Mandate
10 physical hook-ups for all prior and future
11 projects. Construct sewers using the unused \$2.2
12 million from the 2013 Clean Water loan. Sewer
13 Arnold Road south which would stay dry until
14 Contract 9, which would potentially be Briar Point
15 would be completed and then the Briar Point area
16 and the Arnold Road South line would then become
17 active, allowing us to assess.

18 Current options that could be considered
19 to improve the financial health of the sewer
20 program are as follows: Continue construction in
21 neighborhoods that want sewers. Inquire about
22 restructuring existing debt. Revenue anticipation
23 notes or fund balance stays -- stayed below the
24 previously mentioned 125 percent and general fund
25 pays a portion of the sewer fund debt service with

1 voter approval at the financial town meeting.
2 Again, a fund balance stayed below the previously
3 mentioned 125 percent. And that's my presentation.

4 MR. WATERS: So what everybody heard from
5 our town engineer, sewer consulting engineer, as
6 well as our finance director, as a sort of the
7 history of the town sewer program, as well as sort
8 of the financial situation which the fund balance
9 for the sewer fund is currently -- which is not too
10 positive, one of the main drivers that the town
11 council considered in 2016 when reinitiating the
12 sewer program was to help the fund balance of the
13 sewer program. If action hadn't been taken in 2016
14 to re-initiate the program, then the general fund
15 would have to subsidize the sewer fund and that
16 means that the town would have to charge taxpayers
17 an amount of money that would help offset the
18 expenses of the sewer fund.

19 So in 2016 when the town council heard a
20 presentation from our sewer engineers as well as
21 our finance director, part of the consideration was
22 what areas of town would help -- are dense enough
23 to bring more customers on line as well as keep the
24 cost of sewer assessments low, as well as the
25 environmental considerations. So those were some

1 of the things that the council back in 2016
2 considered when re-initiating the project. Again,
3 it's never easy to face a \$20,000 sewer assessment;
4 but, unfortunately, that's what it cost. From my
5 understanding, it's similar cost to installing a
6 new septic system. But that's -- I'm guessing I'm
7 over simplifying that. It depends on what type of
8 septic system you install.

9 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you, Mr. Waters and
10 Mr. Nichols. I thank the sewer subcommittee for
11 coming out tonight and I thank the council for
12 being here. This information has been conveyed a
13 few times. I don't think the information is
14 changing. And, again, 40 years on the sewer
15 program in Coventry and we have a very, very small
16 percentage of areas and streets in our town that
17 will even ever see sewers or have experienced some
18 sewers. And in the future, as costs go up and up
19 and up, it's probably going to be very doubtful
20 that most of the town or if even some of the town
21 may see sewers in the future.

22 However, we have done some sewer work.
23 The sewer work that has been done has been good,
24 and, again, I only have lived in Coventry 38 years.
25 I know we're not the City of Cranston. We're not

1 the City of Warwick. We're not the City of West
2 Warwick or the Town of West Warwick. We're the
3 Town of Coventry. We've got varied acreage, 64
4 square acres and not everybody is even thinking
5 about sewers. Of all the years we've been doing
6 sewers, this is, to my recollection, the first time
7 there has been a question on it, an outcry -- well,
8 2011, I wasn't on the council and I didn't read too
9 much in the papers. So let me qualify that. Maybe
10 the first time that I've been on the council three
11 different times over 35 years, and this time we're
12 facing it.

13 So what I'm going to do now is, and,
14 again, we were going to vote for the two
15 resolutions first, and I think -- I think we're
16 going to go that way. But before that, we do
17 have -- in that we've moved up the public forum and
18 the information program from our town engineers,
19 sewer engineers, and our town finance director, and
20 our town manager. So what we're going to do is
21 open up some question time, but we are going to
22 limit it and I don't know, is Mr. Warzycha there
23 with a -- do you have a timer?

24 MR. WARZYCHA: Two minutes or three
25 minutes?

1 MR. SHIBLEY: I'd say -- I'd say -- we'll
2 start with three minutes; and if it gets too over
3 cumbersome, we'll go two minutes. You've got the
4 time, and Mr. Spearman, are you around to call on
5 people? Okay. Let me -- Mr. Gorham has pointed
6 out and we would appreciate the noise being held
7 down. Three minutes is what we did on our
8 financial town meeting, and we do it every year,
9 and three minutes, believe me, is -- I consider
10 more than fair, and I majored in communication at
11 the University of Rhode Island. So we're going to
12 go -- Mr. Gorham is going to handle this, and
13 Mr. Spearman. It will be three minutes and
14 Mr. Warzycha will time it. And if it becomes too
15 much, we'll go two minutes, and then we'll call for
16 a vote. Mr. Spearman. What's that? Are you doing
17 it?

18 MR. GORHAM: The only rule I think is
19 we're just going to --

20 MR. SHIBLEY: Listen up, please.

21 MR. GORHAM: I think the rule is we're
22 going to let people speak and express their ideas
23 on what they've heard and the two resolutions; but
24 if you could focus on the resolutions, I think it
25 would be most helpful to the council because they

1 are going to vote on them. So that and the three
2 minutes, I've been the moderator for the town
3 financial meeting for the last couple of years. We
4 do the three-minute rule and there's rarely any
5 dissent. People find that to be a reasonable
6 amount of time to speak. So we'll just play it by
7 ear. If somebody has something extraordinary to
8 talk about, we can always try to extend the time.
9 Otherwise, it's three minutes. Just give your name
10 and address and, you know, try to keep your
11 comments directed toward the council and the town
12 manager.

13 MR. SPEARMAN: We're going to use this row
14 here. So anybody who has anything to say, just get
15 in line. If there's room -- time for -- to come
16 back again, you can also do that. Take three
17 minutes and try to refrain from any, you know,
18 insulting remarks or anything to the council, and
19 they will do the same for you. They will do the
20 same for you. Okay. You can start now.

21 MS. WHITTINGHILL: Kate Whittinghill, 586
22 Old Main Street, Coventry. I have a question.
23 Very simple question. Where does \$20,000 come
24 from? How did you get to that number, please?
25 \$20,000 assessment. I'm asking the question.

1 MR. WATERS: For sewer assessment?

2 MS. WHITTINGHILL: How did you get -- yes,
3 to the 20,000 for the sewer assessment, please.
4 Thank you.

5 MR. THIBEAULT: The current ordinance
6 calls for assessment -- the cost of construction
7 must be covered by assessments. The assessments
8 are based on design flow. So, for example, a
9 three-bedroom house would be 115 gallons times 3
10 would be 345 gallons times the rate and that would
11 give you the assessment. So it's not a \$20,000
12 number. It's the cost of construction applying the
13 formula as given in the ordinance, and that's how
14 we come up with it. It's not an arbitrary number.
15 It's a calculated number.

16 MS. WHITTINGHILL: No. I understand it's
17 not an arbitrary. Did it used to be per foot on
18 the frontage of the property? Can I ask what
19 changed that?

20 MS. HOULE: It's never been per foot. It
21 used to just be a basic number per house, per
22 residential unit, or a certain dollar amount per
23 thousand of commercial value, but that wasn't fair.
24 So we did it based on DEM gallons per day, and we
25 would take the entire contract, figure out the

1 cost, then take every single property, figure out
2 the gallons per day, and basically divide the
3 entire contract by the total gallons per day and
4 then you multiply it.

5 MS. WHITTINGHILL: And get an average
6 number. Thank you.

7 MR. LE BLANC: James LeBlanc, 43 Hazard
8 Street. I just want nobody to be misled tonight.
9 Mr. Waters, you said it's going to be \$20,000. So
10 if I owned a home on Arnold Road and it was a
11 four-bedroom home, the calculation would be 115
12 gallons per day times four bedrooms is 460 gallons
13 per day. And Mr. Thibeault can confirm, but the
14 price per gallon is \$64. So my four-bedroom home,
15 the assessment would be \$29,440. Now, after the
16 loan that the town would provide me at 6 percent
17 over 20 years, the interest alone would be \$21,180.
18 So the total of the assessment would be \$50,620;
19 and when I flush my toilet, I still would not even
20 be connected. So you would have to pay an
21 additional five to seven thousand dollars to
22 connect as well. So when Glen Skurka did his
23 presentation on June 23, 2016, he wanted to give
24 homeowners an option to connect to sewers. This is
25 mandated on us. This is America, not Russia. We

1 should get options.

2 MR. HETHERMAN: My name's Tom Hetherman.
3 For the purpose of this meeting, it'll be 110
4 Arnold Road, although I live at a different spot in
5 Coventry. I think the problem, from what I'm
6 hearing here, is actually the resolution that was
7 pushed in 2015. For instance, on the section of
8 Arnold Road that I live -- that has the building
9 on, it's \$835,000 being divided by 43 properties.
10 When you really figure it out, the pipe is sized to
11 carry the whole other section of Arnold Road. So
12 the pipe -- the engineering firm, I would ask this,
13 is obviously larger at the end going up to Route 3,
14 correct?

15 MR. NICHOLS: You're at the northern end
16 of Arnold Road?

17 MR. HETHERMAN: I would assume so. I'm
18 right down near Route 3.

19 MR. NICHOLS: So if you front on the
20 section of gravity between, Tim, Montana --

21 MR. HETHERMAN: I'm on a force main.

22 MR. NICHOLS: Between Montana and out,
23 your pipe would be sized for the area south of the
24 causeway. But if you're on the low pressure
25 sewers, that pipe is not sized for the higher.

1 MR. HETHERMAN: So basically at my house
2 or my building, we're sized to be carrying that
3 whole load up above, correct?

4 MR. NICHOLS: The gravity sewer side and
5 the upper end is sized higher. The low pressure
6 sewer is not.

7 MR. HETHERMAN: I would just question,
8 before from the calculations, if it were based on
9 the percentage, \$35 per thousand, we would be
10 \$7,700. Now I'm at \$29,000. You want me to get an
11 engineered plan. You want me to submit money to
12 the Town of Coventry, to the Town of West Warwick
13 to move forward with all this. The question still
14 remains whether or not, because I'm zoned
15 residential, it just seems like where did the
16 thought go into this because how did we get from
17 7,700 to \$29,000 in such a short period of time? I
18 don't know of anything else which has gone up
19 almost 400 percent. Can somebody answer that? I
20 understand construction costs have gone up. They
21 haven't gone up 400 percent. So I would say it's
22 the way you're looking at it and billing it is
23 where the issue is, and I would like to see you
24 repeal the way that was done in 2015.

25 MS. HOULE: My question to you is where

1 did you ever get 7,700? That was never a price.

2 MR. HETHERMAN: It was \$35 for a
3 commercial rate, correct?

4 MS. HOULE: But it was \$35 per thousand --

5 MR. HETHERMAN: Yes, and my property, I
6 can do quick math is \$220,000 which comes out to
7 \$7,700.

8 MS. HOULE: 220 times 35 is only \$7,700?

9 MR. HETHERMAN: You want a calculator?
10 You can do it if you'd like.

11 MS. HOULE: Yeah, because -- I'm sorry.

12 MR. HETHERMAN: So somehow it's gone up
13 400 percent or pretty close to it, and I haven't
14 even hired the contractors to come hook up. This
15 is just --

16 MS. HOULE: They are minimums back then as
17 well. So I don't see how it went up that much.

18 MR. HETHERMAN: I'm going by your numbers.
19 I didn't make these up.

20 MS. HOULE: Now it's just based on -- now
21 it's just based on gallons per day.

22 MR. HETHERMAN: Which, if you really want
23 to do gallons per day, I'm glad you said that
24 because it's an accounting firm. We have two
25 toilets and we have two sinks. It's maybe about 21

1 gallons per day.

2 MS. HOULE: Right, but when we go on the
3 DEM website and we look up 110 Arnold Road, it
4 shows 345 gallons per day.

5 MR. HETHERMAN: Okay, and that matters to
6 me how?

7 MS. HOULE: I mean, that's what it shows.
8 That's what it shows, that you're designated 345
9 gallons per day.

10 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Your question has
11 been noted.

12 MR. HETHERMAN: Noted, but not answered.

13 MR. SHIBLEY: Right. All right. Next.

14 MR. EARLY: Good evening. My name is
15 Richard Early, 50 Leisure Way, Coventry. I have
16 written concerns for the town council if they would
17 be interested. The CliffsNotes are first, we are
18 all for Mother Nature. It's the money that is the
19 concern. My sewer assessment has gone up a hundred
20 percent in the last seven years. And this year for
21 2016, my sewer assessment is ten times that of the
22 water. So I think we should have enough money to
23 take care of it. Thank you.

24 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you. Next, please.

25 MR. WILSON: Eric Wilson, 48 Hazard

1 Street. I'm going to open up with two quotes from
2 current members of the town council. I've said
3 before and I'm saying again. It's in regards to
4 the fire district debacle that happened in this
5 town. June 2015, Providence Journal --

6 MR. SHIBLEY: Excuse me. Try to keep it
7 pertaining to the --

8 MR. WILSON: This does pertain.

9 MR. SHIBLEY: Fire districts, it really
10 doesn't.

11 MR. WILSON: Terry McGee, District 3,
12 stated it is not the town council's job to save the
13 district from poor management. Glen Shibley,
14 yourself, the Council President --

15 MR. SHIBLEY: Sir --

16 MR. WILSON: -- the district's own
17 residents -- the district's own residents voted
18 against giving any more money. So how in the blue
19 blazes would any council give it to them now. It
20 wouldn't be right politically or financially. We
21 didn't get a chance to vote -- we didn't get a
22 chance to vote --

23 MR. SHIBLEY: We're going to make it much
24 shorter if it is pertaining to the resolution --

25 MR. WILSON: You supported the taxpayers

1 then --

2 MR. SHIBLEY: Not fire district. Not fire
3 districts, all right. So -- and you've talked to
4 the council a few times. Please continue. We'll
5 give you two more minutes.

6 MR. WILSON: You can reset that for me, by
7 the way. Town council made those statements in
8 support of the taxpayers. What happened? Now, I'm
9 being cut off short. Skip that. Why was the
10 assessment fee left out of our initial notice,
11 especially on Hazard Street where it's so
12 astronomical? Was it the town's intent to complete
13 the project and bill the residents after the fact?
14 A surprise \$20,000 bill for something I did not
15 vote for, for something that town council decided
16 to force upon me? I assume that the state
17 revolving fund with the state account funded by tax
18 money for town projects. Call me naive. Not a
19 state account funded directly by the residents. So
20 who is it that failed to notify the residents
21 properly? Because if I failed in my job, I'd be
22 fired on the spot. We were not notified.

23 At the September sewer committee meeting,
24 I pleaded with the town to adjust the procedure in
25 notifying residents months in advance, if not

1 longer. That notice should include the estimated
2 start date for the sewers, the estimated assessment
3 fee, whether it's projected to go up or projected
4 to go down, the average cost to have a licensed
5 plumber tie you in, as well as loan options. About
6 three weeks later, over four weeks into when ground
7 broke on Hazard Street, keep checking the clock, I
8 received a notice mentioning assessment fee. Still
9 did not include the assessment fee clearly because
10 this would happen. The blow back.

11 Now, another thing I want to bring up but
12 I don't know if you're aware of this, there's a
13 significant amount of ledge on Hazard Street. The
14 vibrations from those heavy machines from about 7
15 A.M. to 4 P.M. is constant nonstop and intense.
16 Who's going to be responsible if a resident's
17 foundation was damaged, if the structural integrity
18 of their home is compromised? What if the
19 vibrations created lead dust? A lot of those
20 houses are old. I have lead paint in my house that
21 I'm dealing with. What if it created lead dust?
22 You talk about environmental concerns. What about
23 that, in the air, in my house, around my daughter,
24 in the ground, in the groundwater. You're claiming
25 that my system is polluting the world, the ground.

1 I have no proof of that. It passed all tests when
2 I bought my house. It's still functioning to this
3 day. So prove to me how that's polluting the
4 ground. Speaking of lies --

5 MR. GORHAM: Mr. Wilson, it's three
6 minutes for the next person. Can you just try to
7 wrap up so the next person can speak, please.
8 Thank you.

9 MR. WILSON: And it's been mentioned about
10 the evils of social media at previous town council
11 meetings as well as today. Social media is the
12 only outlet providing residents with information,
13 and we all know who's responsible for that. I
14 checked on that page. The -- what was it called --
15 the residents against mandated sewers Facebook page
16 is the one being referred to. It's photos, videos,
17 and documents with the town's letterhead on them.
18 There's no lying. There's no slander. There's no
19 nothing. It's just facts. That's there. So how
20 do you respond to that? Exactly. Oh, and the
21 whole change order debacle from last time, too,
22 about no one being -- certain people, excuse me,
23 not being informed about change orders, things
24 being made on the spot to tie in to this street or
25 do that, add more funds --

1 MR. GORHAM: Mr. Wilson, I asked you to
2 wrap it up and --

3 MR. WILSON: I have a cell phone. I have
4 a cell phone and you probably all have contact
5 information of each other. You can send a text
6 out.

7 MR. GORHAM: We had a rule at the
8 beginning --

9 MR. WILSON -- keep people informed.
10 They're on the committee so they can express their
11 opinions in regards to a change order.

12 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Thank you. Again,
13 next gentleman.

14 MR. PERRY: Hello. Joe Perry, 14
15 Larchmont Drive, Coventry. I'll make this short
16 and sweet. For me, it's -- I don't like the word
17 "mandated" for anything, Okay. When it comes to my
18 government mandating me to do something, I don't
19 like it. But somebody like me, I have one child,
20 okay. I'm married. My son is, you know, another
21 year or two, he's going to be driving. I have to
22 come up with money for a car. College will be
23 coming up in few years, but it's not just me. I
24 can probably take the hit. I don't like it. It's
25 a bitter pill that I do not like to swallow, but

1 it's the people across the street from me who have
2 three children, who are barely making ends meet to
3 keep their Caravans running, okay; and you're
4 throwing like 20, 30, 40 thousand dollars at them
5 and expecting them to cough up with this money when
6 they have not just one like me, they have two more
7 children that they have to bring through college
8 and pay for -- help them get through life, okay.
9 Or it's an elderly person living on the other side
10 of the street who is living on a fixed income and
11 you are forcing them to, you know, dish out all
12 this extra money. Those are the people that I'm
13 concerned about. My relatives -- I mean my
14 friends, my neighbors, okay, that live here in
15 Coventry and, you know, really for this not to be
16 our decision as members of the community, you know,
17 is really unfair, and it's an atrocity. Okay.
18 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

19 MR. ROBIDOUX: Kenneth Robidoux, 21 York
20 Drive, Coventry, Rhode Island. It only cost
21 between 5 and \$15,000 to put a septic system in.
22 You will not be paying usage for that water every
23 single year. You will not carry on every single
24 year. If I sold my home, I don't think I should
25 have to put \$20,000 down and connect to a sewer for

1 somebody to buy my home. This is my town. I'm a
2 taxpayer here. My taxes have gone up at least
3 \$5,000 since I've moved here, and I vote every year
4 for my taxes to go up. Now you want to force me to
5 pay this money for something I do not want. That's
6 all I have to say.

7 MR. BOOD: Ron Bood, 15 Florida Avenue.
8 You said in your presentation that pretty much
9 nothing has changed from the original plan going
10 back 40 years ago. Well, I just, you know, a lot
11 of things have changed back then. First of all,
12 you use -- say the main reason is for pollution
13 around Tiogue Lake and the Pawtuxet River.
14 Pollution in the -- both Warwick systems are ten
15 times cleaner than when you first proposed these
16 things. Tiogue Lake is trout waters. Pawtucket
17 (sic) River -- I mean, these waters are cleaner now
18 than they ever were. So that's not a reason. In
19 addition to that, you give a presentation and you
20 say-- you show the debt that you've incurred for
21 the last 10, 20 years on the sewer system with less
22 than 8 percent, 10 percent of the people connected
23 as of this date. And you're dumping that
24 assessment pretty much onto the people all off of
25 Arnold Road in District 4 to pay for the debt that

1 you've already incurred. And with the prices that
2 you're mentioning for the cost of the sewer system
3 and your goals of 80 percent of Coventry, you're
4 talking billions of dollars, well over a billion
5 dollars that you're putting on the taxpayers of
6 Coventry without them having a right to vote on it.
7 If that was done legally, I propose that something
8 has to change in this charter and things got to be
9 looked at differently because you shouldn't be able
10 to make a decision for billions of dollars and put
11 that cost on the taxpayers of Coventry.

12 MS. SEWCHUK: Hi. Jennifer Sewchuk, 32
13 Hazard Street in Coventry. I wanted to first
14 address Mr. McGee from the statement that you made
15 earlier when we started. I did request a copy and
16 reviewed the letter that you did send out in 2011
17 because, as an educated homeowner, I remembered
18 getting your letter, the survey. I assure you that
19 the decisions that were made then to not proceed
20 with the project had you proceeded with the project
21 then, Mr. Shibley, you would have seen this kind of
22 response. The reason that you did not was because
23 it never started based on the surveys that everyone
24 had returned. I am confused as to why when you
25 state that everyone on the council voted and is

1 aware, why Mrs. Carlson and Mrs. Bacon frequently
2 shake their heads no. So I am wondering are you
3 all aware every day of the changes that are
4 happening with what's going on with this project.
5 That concerns me that you're still shaking your
6 head no when we are being told sitting right here
7 tonight that you all are aware. That really
8 concerns me. And the information also in that
9 letter was not -- did not say this our assessment
10 would be 23,000, it said it would be 12,900, okay,
11 which is different than the 6,600 that was paid out
12 in Western Coventry. So, again, even at that
13 amount, 12,900, people had concerns about it and
14 now you're talking 20 to 29,000. The rate that you
15 offered for your loan back then was 8 percent,
16 which now is 6, but still twice what you're paying.
17 So I just have a lot of concerns as to where the --
18 even making the motions and all of that, it just
19 seems like things happen quickly and we have two
20 council women who are sitting and shaking their
21 heads and I find it very distracting when I'm
22 speaking, when you, Mr. Shibley, continue to just
23 look at the clock.

24 MS. SERPA: Good evening, everyone.

25 Representative Patricia A. Serpa, 194 Kimberly Lane

1 in West Warwick, Rhode Island. However, I do
2 represent a section of Coventry that is under
3 consideration for sewers. Mr. Gorham, you asked
4 that we focus tonight on the resolutions, and I'm
5 doing exactly that. Number 2 is specially
6 problematic to me. I think it's very poorly worded
7 and I'm wondering, frankly, how this committee is
8 going to gather the socioeconomic (sic) demographic
9 information in any area. What is your plan? I
10 think these people have a right to know how you're
11 going to gather that information. Do you have
12 access to the U.S. Census? Are you going to send
13 them a mailer because frankly if I got a mailer
14 from the Town of West Warwick asking for my
15 household income, it would end up in the recycling
16 bin. If someone came to my door asking me for my
17 household income, I would say thank you very much,
18 but I'm really not interested in disclosing that to
19 you.

20 So what is your plan to gather that
21 socioeconomic information? How are you going to
22 gather it? And then, say, under the best of
23 circumstances, you do have a good way of gathering
24 it and you determine there are 20 houses, I don't
25 know, pick a street, Eleanor Drive, and six people

1 on that street make over 150,000 a year and the
2 others make under 40. So in someone's mind, they
3 will determine that the higher-end people can
4 afford the sewers, and the lower-end people cannot
5 when, in fact, you don't know the entire
6 socioeconomic condition of that family that you
7 consider higher end. So in my humble opinion,
8 Number 2 is poorly worded. I don't know how you're
9 going to execute it, and if someone could
10 elaborate, I think these people have a right to
11 know that. Thank you.

12 MR. RAPTAKIS: Leo Raptakis, 2080
13 Nooseneck Hill Road. Couple of questions and a
14 couple of comments. I think from the beginning of
15 this whole project about installing sewers in
16 Coventry over the last 40 years has not been well
17 thought out. I think in realty if these
18 resolutions do pass tonight that you should form a
19 study commission and start from where this sewer
20 project starts for Coventry, whether it's for today
21 or for the future from A to Z. I think that has
22 not happened. We don't have a clear, concise of
23 what the total cost of installing sewers in the
24 Town of Coventry. Second of all, we've had a lot
25 of comment about there's been large septic systems

1 installed up in Oak Haven. That's not the way to
2 go. Well, individuals spend \$15,000 on the average
3 three-bedroom home, install a brand new septic
4 system if their cesspool or older septic system has
5 failed. I'd like to hear from the installers to
6 tell us the integrity of how long a system lasts,
7 and I believe the average brand new system that is
8 installed today is going to last at least 25 to 30
9 years. I think we should get that information
10 directly from the installer. So \$15,000 times
11 50 -- for 50 years, it's two systems, it's only
12 going to cost you 30,000 over 50 years, not a
13 minimum of \$32,000 to install the sewers which
14 makes -- the math doesn't make any sense. Number
15 2, we have DEM here who can probably answer a lot
16 of the questions that folks might have, that it's
17 not mandatory to install or connect to sewers
18 unless there was a state grant or Federal grant.
19 I've only seen one small grant of \$209,000; but in
20 this handout which I think, councilman, there's
21 about 20 questions, it states that it's mandated.
22 That's totally false. It's not mandated, unless
23 there was a Federal grant or a state grant and that
24 grant should help defray the costs, not add to the
25 cost to the homeowners.

1 Another question is why is the town
2 charging double? If you're being charged 3 percent
3 to borrow the money, why isn't it 3 percent? So
4 I'm asking tonight that in the resolution, we
5 cannot charge not 1 percentage point or a half a
6 percentage point over what the town borrows. So
7 that should be out. Also, I think we should also
8 ask a geologist to come into Coventry and determine
9 really what areas really do need sewers if we pick
10 a point. I saw a map earlier from a presentation
11 and there's sewers needed on Coventry Drive, Ada
12 Court. There's another one up on Hazard, there's
13 another one on -- it's piecemeal. That's not a
14 well thought out proposition. And, lastly,
15 somebody made a comment that we need to keep
16 connecting in order to make this sewer project
17 whole. It reminds me of a Ponzi scheme. That's
18 what it does. Thank you.

19 MR. LOWELL: Mike Lowell, 390 Fairview
20 Avenue and, no, not the Mike Lowell from the third
21 baseman from the Red Sox. If I had his money, I
22 wouldn't have to worry about sewers. So, anyway,
23 my street is not getting sewers right at the moment
24 but I've been told by the town that I will be
25 eventually getting sewers. My questions are, from

1 my understanding, this has been put before the town
2 as a referendum many times, and it has been voted
3 down by the citizens. Many things that need to be
4 voted on by referendum such as a new police station
5 or capital improvements, the schools, things like
6 that, which cost many millions of dollars have to
7 go before a town referendum, why would something
8 like sewers that cost many millions of dollars not
9 go before the town as a referendum? Also, my
10 parents have lived at their house in Scituate for
11 45 years. When they built the house, they put in a
12 septic system, which is still running perfectly
13 fine today. Thank you.

14 MR. AIELLO: David Aiello, 24 Coventry
15 Drive. I've sent everyone an e-mail on this side.
16 I've heard back from Mrs. Bacon, Mrs. Carlson,
17 Mr. Waters, appreciate it. Took you a little
18 while, but you did it. Mr. Laboissonniere, I
19 checked my spam folder. You haven't responded to
20 me even though the last meeting you said you did.
21 You responded to everybody. That's not true.
22 Whatever. My question is, someone, I think it
23 might have been you, Mr. Laboissonniere, last time,
24 septic systems fail. You said that. Septic
25 systems fail. Now, do sewer systems fail at all,

1 like the pipes that go in the ground because you
2 said they don't. Is that true? And my other
3 question, my other question, before you cut me off
4 because I know you will, my other question -- my
5 other question is, this was supposed to be a
6 question and answering session. Everyone's asked
7 questions. I haven't heard answers. If you could
8 please respond to us, everyone would like to hear
9 that. Thank you.

10 MR. LOPES: My name is Christopher Lopes,
11 46 Woodmist Circle. I think the sad reality to
12 part of this is we all still have septic systems.
13 Mine failed recently three months ago. I had to
14 pay \$14,000 to get my whole yard ripped up and my
15 system somewhat expanded so that way we could
16 withstand this. If I were to get an assessment
17 added to that, you're talking about people in this
18 room might have systems that are in the process of
19 failing or will eventually fail, you're going to
20 have to put more money into it. I'm saying if I
21 have \$15,000 in the tank already, and now you put
22 an assessment upon me of this 20,000 plus dollars,
23 how does that -- how does that go with the people;
24 how do we afford on top of that if we've already
25 had to address our system while you're in the

1 process of going through all this?

2 MR. SHIBLEY: Again, new systems, if
3 they're approved, then it's a ten-year deferral.

4 MR. LOPES: I wasn't aware of that. That
5 was part of the question I'm going to get to
6 because my concern would be when I went to the
7 town, all these things had to be filed and
8 documented. No one ever said wait a second, you
9 know what, if you put a thousand dollars into your
10 system now, you might be able to get two more years
11 out of it. A ten-year deferment, I'm still going
12 to be paying this for -- the \$20,000 that I had to
13 take out of my 401(k) loan to afford it, I'm still
14 going to be paying that in ten years.

15 MR. SHIBLEY: Next.

16 MR. SNOW: Kevin Snow, 36 Edward Street,
17 Coventry --

18 MS. CARLSON: Excuse me, excuse me. I
19 thought this was going to be a session where if
20 taxpayers had questions, we were going to provide
21 answers? I don't understand what's -- this is like
22 -- well, okay, I'll tell you what, when you come
23 up, if you have a question, can you wait for -- to
24 see if we can get you an answer because this is
25 like public comment at a council meeting where you

1 comment and we don't answer. So give the experts a
2 chance to answer so you get some satisfaction
3 tonight. Thank you.

4 MR. SNOW: Kevin Snow, 36 Edward Street,
5 Coventry. A couple of my questions that I had were
6 asked by Senator Raptakis and Mr. Lowell. The
7 first being, and we never heard any answers, so if
8 I'm the first one that maybe can get some answers
9 that would be great. We're being charged twice the
10 percentage rate the town is for the sewers. Why?
11 Why? Can somebody answer that?

12 MR. SHIBLEY: If you'd listen. Bear with
13 us.

14 MR. WATERS: The town ordinance says 6
15 percent in the ordinance. That's why we charge 6
16 percent.

17 MR. SNOW: We're being charged double --
18 we're being charged double that you're being
19 charged. Why is that? It doesn't seem very fair
20 to me. It also doesn't seem to me that the
21 president of the sewer committee is also an
22 employee of the contractor doing the work, that
23 doesn't seem to be brought up. Would anybody like
24 to respond to that?

25 MR. WATERS: Sorry. What's the question?

1 MR. SNOW: The president of the sewer
2 committee is also employed by D'Ambra Construction
3 which is doing the majority of the work.

4 MR. WATERS: So what's the question? Why
5 is he an employee of D'Ambra Construction?

6 MR. SNOW: It seems like it's a conflict
7 of interest. Why is it -- am I an idiot or -- I
8 don't think I am.

9 MR. WATERS: I don't think you are either.

10 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you.

11 MR. SNOW: Is that a conflict of interest?

12 MR. SHIBLEY: No, it is not.

13 MR. SNOW: That's not a conflict of
14 interest? In what country is that not a conflict
15 of interest? I thought this was where -- I thought
16 I was the first one to see questions answered --

17 MR. SHIBLEY: We're trying to answer
18 but --

19 MR. SNOW: If I'm talking loud, I'm trying
20 to speak up so you can hear me.

21 MR. SHIBLEY: All sewer contracts go out
22 to bid and generally it's the lowest bidder, if
23 they do the best work. And it doesn't matter who's
24 where. What we like is people -- if I can talk --
25 what we like is knowledgeable people on our sewer

1 subcommittee that know what's going on and we've
2 had good people for years. I -- always two council
3 people, and -- out of the seven members and we try
4 to get a random selection, three residents,
5 individuals that know and volunteer and it's not,
6 you know, not easy work and try to come up with a
7 plan and listen to the engineers and take into
8 consideration the needed areas with DEM and the
9 cost, and costs only go up. And I remember when it
10 was \$6,600 sewer hookup and, unfortunately, it was
11 too low. They came up with that figure and then it
12 went to 12. I remember when it went up to 12; 12,
13 9 or something, and that was too low.

14 MR. SNOW: Was it mandated at that point?

15 MR. SHIBLEY: I'm not exactly positive. I
16 can't remember, but I think -- yes, it was. Now
17 it's gone up more, and I thank you for your
18 question. That's with the resolutions, we're going
19 to try to look into this.

20 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Mr. President, one
21 thing that we're going to -- I mean, a lot of these
22 question are all with the stenographer as well,
23 too, and we certainly want to use a lot of those
24 questions to come up with viable answers and a
25 study committee. That's the whole idea, the

1 resolutions that we were looking to stop the
2 project to re-assess how we're going to move
3 forward with this program. And we can do that,
4 that's the whole point of getting questions, et
5 cetera. Maybe you can't get an answer directly
6 right now and some of them we have, some of them we
7 don't have. But we certainly want to get all of
8 the questions answered, and they'll be on the
9 stenographer's record, and we will all get copies
10 of that question. We have our own. Mrs. Carlson
11 has written out a bunch of them. We've submitted
12 questions of our own, and those are the answers
13 that we need to try to come up with to find
14 solutions to the whole program, but we're not
15 avoiding questions again -- we want to answer those
16 questions. Is everything going to be immediate?
17 Certainly not. But we'll try to answer what we
18 can. We can't do it when everybody's yelling and
19 screaming and then shooting, you know, numerous
20 questions at us at the same time. And --

21 MR. SHIBLEY: Just stated, that's the
22 whole reason for the two resolutions tonight, the
23 town manager has recommended. Talked to each
24 council person, and I think we're all in agreement
25 with it.

1 MRS. CARLSON: No, no, no.

2 MR. SHIBLEY: At least that's why we're
3 here tonight with the resolutions. All right.
4 Next.

5 MS. BACON: Excuse me. Excuse me one
6 second. Do you mind? I just want everyone to be
7 aware, I was not consulted by the town manager or
8 anyone else on the council and I don't believe
9 Karen Carlson regarding these two resolutions.
10 Actually, they've been --

11 MS. CARLSON: Until today.

12 MS. BACON: Until today. I mean, I'm
13 just -- so I just want everyone to be aware, we did
14 not -- we were not consulted about that at all.

15 MR. MC GEE: Mr. President, if I may, just
16 to answer the last gentleman's question. He
17 mentioned something about the head of the sewer
18 subcommittee working for D'Ambra Construction.
19 Glen Skurka works tirelessly on the sewer
20 subcommittee. He was instrumental in trying to
21 rewrite the sewer ordinance. He is a civil
22 engineer. He has a wealth of knowledge. These
23 bids go out to a competitive bid. It is no
24 advantage. To say that there is a conflict is
25 absolutely wrong because this is competitively bid

1 and there is no advantage to this contractor as far
2 as knowing the price of the bid. The guy has a
3 wealth of knowledge --

4 MR. SHIBLEY: Let's hold down the noise.
5 You've got a councilman talking. Have some
6 respect. Next.

7 MS. CASTELLI: Lisa Castelli, 15 Chopin
8 Street. My first question is to my councilman,
9 Mr. McGee, you did a survey in 2011. What does
10 that have to do with 2017 in our area? There's
11 been numerous new people in my neighborhood off
12 Hazard. Actually, I am new to the area. So I
13 never got -- there's -- I can name about four or
14 five houses that are new. So I don't understand
15 what that survey has to do with today.

16 MR. MC GEE: I sent a survey out in 2011
17 because at the time -- it is correct. The survey
18 did state that at the time, there was a \$12,900
19 assessment. However, because we knew there was
20 ledge there, it was going to cost much more and it
21 was going to be a minimum of \$23,000. This was
22 back six, seven years ago.

23 MS. CASTELLI: So why would you come up
24 that road when you knew it has that much ledge and
25 it could possibly cost more than that because

1 they've been digging in one area for four weeks?

2 MR. MC GEE: Our thought process was that
3 we wanted to combine areas such as the Tiogue area
4 that had a lot of sand and that was less expensive
5 to do, combine them with the Hazard Street area to
6 keep the cost down, because we knew that the cost
7 was going to be up there in the Hazard Street area.
8 Now, my point is when we sent out these surveys,
9 unfortunately, one-fifth of the residents that I
10 sent the surveys to did not respond.

11 MS. CASTELLI: But that was it 2011.
12 We're talking 2017.

13 MR. MC GEE: I'm sure there's been some
14 houses that have changed like yourself. I'm sure
15 there has been some changes as far as ownership of
16 the house, but I handed out a sheet of frequently
17 asked questions and it talked about the
18 assessments, it talked about the price of the
19 assessments back in 2011. Granted, it's all
20 changed and everything; but to say that you were
21 not aware of assessments is just false.

22 MS. CASTELLI: It is false because I
23 didn't live in Coventry then.

24 MR. MC GEE: There's probably -- there may
25 be a few houses, I don't know how many, but there

1 may be a few houses that are new, but if anybody's
2 been there over five years --

3 MS. CASTELLI: There is twenty -- there is
4 quite a few. My point is then why don't you send
5 out a new form giving the real assessments and take
6 a survey on that.

7 MR. MC GEE: That's why we have decided to
8 stop the program and send out surveys and get some
9 more feedback and get some, you know, ideas because
10 with all the discontent and --

11 MS. CASTELLI: My next question is why
12 doesn't -- you put this to an all-day referendum
13 and have the town vote and not be mandated. And my
14 third thing -- my third point is you're saying this
15 gentleman works for the construction company. How
16 do we know he didn't go in and know the bids and
17 went for a lower bid to get that job? Don't tell
18 me it's a con -- not a conflict of interest. This
19 is Rhode Island, and I see how the politics works
20 because right on this council you got two women
21 here that didn't know anything about what was going
22 on.

23 MR. MC GEE: On a competitive bidding
24 process, nobody is privy -- it is open -- they open
25 up the bids at a meeting. Nobody knows that the

1 bids are. It is not done --

2 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay, next, please.

3 MS. NOCKOWITZ: My name is Lisa Nockowitz,
4 21 Beach Street. If we do or you choose to suspend
5 the program tonight, what happens to the money
6 that's already been spent as far as the general
7 taxpayers are concerned?

8 MR. WATERS: So any debt service that
9 cannot be paid by the sewer fund will have to be
10 paid by the general fund. So the council will have
11 to appropriate money from the general fund to cover
12 that.

13 MS. NOCKOWITZ: Do you have a sense for
14 what that may be?

15 MR. SHIBLEY: Excuse me, there is a person
16 at the mike -- there is a person at the mike. Go
17 ahead.

18 MS. NOCKOWITZ: Do you have a general
19 sense for what that repercussion might be?

20 MR. THIBEAULT: Lisa, what we did is we
21 had a discussion with our -- the gentleman who we
22 work with when we issue the bonds, and one of the
23 discussions we had is out of all the possibilities
24 that I mentioned earlier was refinancing the debt.
25 There's also a possibility that we -- any of the

1 unused funds that we have received that we haven't
2 expended yet, we could possibly return to Rhode
3 Island Clean Water. So there's a variety of
4 options that just go beyond taxing the general
5 fund. When we get into the situation where the
6 fund balance becomes low, then that's another
7 discussion; but for the immediate, right now, we
8 have several options to deal with the money we
9 haven't spent from the 2013 A loan, which is about
10 \$1.2 million.

11 MS. NOCKOWITZ: That you have or have not
12 spent?

13 MR. THIBEAULT: We have not. That's the
14 money --

15 MS. NOCKOWITZ: My question was for the
16 money that has already been spent for Arnold Road
17 South, in particular, I'm assuming that money needs
18 to be starting to be paid back somewhere. And if
19 we're not going to have any assessments, how is
20 that money going to be paid back?

21 MR. THIBEAULT: The sewer fund balance can
22 probably cover that expense. We won't know until
23 we have the final audited numbers; but if that's
24 not the case, then we'll consult with the manager
25 and others, other finance professionals, to see

1 what our options are. Most notably would be we can
2 ask to restructure the debt to make the payments
3 lower so we're not in a position where we're using
4 fund balance.

5 MS. NOCKOWITZ: So is there any --
6 Mr. McGee suggested prior that perhaps it would
7 land on the taxpayers of the town.

8 MR. THIBEAULT: As I discussed previously,
9 that would be one of many options, but I would
10 consider that an option of last resort.

11 MS. NOCKOWITZ: Okay. And this resolution
12 says suspend temporarily. Do you have any sense
13 for what temporarily means?

14 MR. WATERS: Temporary, not permanent.
15 The idea is to, as I stated in my press releases,
16 to have the council take a step back and
17 re-evaluate the program to see if there's a better
18 path forward and to take in all the feedback that
19 we have gotten from the residents.

20 MS. NOCKOWITZ: I mean, there are people
21 who are trying to make decisions on purchases of
22 homes, replacement of septic systems. And so it
23 would just be helpful to know if it's going to be
24 six months, a year, whatever it might be.

25 MR. SHIBLEY: Mrs. Nockowitz, I don't

1 think you'll have the answer right now. That's why
2 temporarily fits the bill until we find the
3 answers. You can't say 30 days, 90 days, 50 days,
4 a hundred days because we don't know how long it's
5 going to take to find the answers out, and then
6 sooner or later a decision is going to have to be
7 made, whether assessments go out, how long they get
8 to be to be paid, whether the town help picks up
9 the bill, split 50-50. There's a lot of things to
10 consider. This, again, is not a new thing, sewers,
11 and Arnold Road has been done now and it's
12 completed. And the bill is going to have to be
13 paid, yes. So that's -- temporary I think is a
14 good word. It's not trying to hide anything or --

15 MS. NOCKOWITZ: I'm not insinuating that
16 you are trying to hide anything.

17 MR. SHIBLEY: No. I'm just saying that
18 some people might think that. Temporarily, we
19 don't know the answer.

20 MS. NOCKOWITZ: I'm just looking for some
21 sort --

22 MR. SHIBLEY: We don't know the answer,
23 but thank you. Okay. Yes, sir. Next.

24 MR. TEFFT: How are you, sir? I take my
25 hat off for a little respect to you, I hope you

1 show a little respect.

2 MR. SHIBLEY: You're a gentleman, sir.

3 MR. TEFFT: I live at 400 Tiogue Avenue.
4 Ronald Tefft. You know, I hear about Tiogue a lot
5 because I live on Tiogue and if I'm recollecting
6 like four, five years ago, the DEM inspected the
7 lake, the water quality in Pawtuxet River. It was
8 good enough they put trout in it; but now all of a
9 sudden, our sewers are failing and you want to put
10 all these new sewer lines in there and you're going
11 to have an assessment, and I guess I'm not sure
12 it's based on road frontage or what, but what about
13 the people. I look around here. People -- there's
14 people older than me here and a lot younger and I'm
15 on a fixed income, how am I going to afford this?

16 MR. SHIBLEY: Again, that's what's got to
17 be looked into. I understand Tiogue Lake has
18 gotten better over the years because, again, I've
19 only been around almost 40 years. I know it wasn't
20 so clean before and that's a credit to the town and
21 DEM and the Lake Tiogue Association have been
22 working diligently to try to keep that lake clean
23 and the whole idea of sewers is to continue to keep
24 it clean because, you know, that's vulnerable area,
25 all around the lake. That's my district, that

1 District 4. I wish they'd come to Oak Haven.
2 Again, I can only say that, but we're not going to
3 see it. You try to protect the water, but I
4 appreciate -- and that's what we're going to look
5 into. All right. Thanks.

6 MR. TEFFT: Like I said, I'm wondering the
7 elderly people here like myself and the young
8 people, how are we going to afford this? When
9 you're on a fixed income, we pay enough fire tax,
10 town tax, insurance on our property and on top of
11 that, you want to charge us interest. You know,
12 I'm not rich and --

13 MR. SHIBLEY: I understand what you're
14 saying.

15 MR. TEFFT: And the younger generation,
16 they're not going want to come to Coventry.

17 MR. SHIBLEY: I understand. Again, I am
18 retired. I don't have a job. My wife is retired.
19 And I understand, and I'm not as old as -- let's
20 put it this way, my father-in-law -- but I
21 understand the concern, but sewers have to be paid
22 for. They're not free. All right. But, thank
23 you.

24 MR. TEFFT: It would be nice, like I heard
25 a gentleman on Channel 12 said he spent \$12,000 to

1 put a new system in, the town okayed it. Now,
2 they're saying he's going to have to mandatory tie
3 in there. You know, what's the story with that? I
4 feel bad for that poor guy.

5 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you.

6 MS. DELIBERIS: Karen Deliberis, 49 Read
7 Avenue. I'll just read something. My numbers are
8 rough so if the young lady right there would like
9 to recalculate, you can do so. A 20-year loan at 6
10 percent will be \$34,389. 34,389 divided by 20 is
11 1719.45 a year. 1719.45 a year divided by 12 is
12 143.29 a month. If I had to live on my disability
13 check of \$800 a month, how am I going to do that?
14 Can you tell me that?

15 MR. SHIBLEY: No, I can't.

16 MS. DELIBERIS: And what about the 93 year
17 old woman that lives on Coventry Drive, a widow,
18 who we all know, Mr. Laboissonniere, cannot afford
19 that. And I would like to know, Mr. Waters, who
20 looks for grants? Why are there no grants? What's
21 up with that? Grants don't get paid back.

22 MR. WATERS: I don't know why there aren't
23 any grants left.

24 MS. DELIBERIS: Who looks for them?

25 MR. WATERS: I've talked to our Federal

1 delegation, and there's no Federal money available.

2 MS. DELIBERIS: And who is your Federal
3 delegation? If other towns and cities are finding
4 the grants, why are not we?

5 MR. WATERS: I'm not aware of other towns
6 and cities --

7 MS. DELIBERIS: One of the richest cities
8 or towns is Lincoln. They pay \$1800 for their
9 assessment. Why is that? Why is that?

10 MR. WATERS: We can look into that. If
11 there's grants available --

12 MS. DELIBERIS: You need to find more
13 money. You're paid for this position. We elected
14 these people here to work for us, and only two of
15 those people up there really care about us.

16 MS. ELDERKIN: Hi. Sherry Elderkin, 979
17 Victory Highway. I'm having a really hard time
18 wrapping my head around how you're doing the sewer
19 assessments. So you're telling me that a
20 90-year-old woman or man who live in their house
21 that they bought when their children were little
22 whose now children are all grown and that house may
23 be a five-bedroom or a four-bedroom house is going
24 to pay the same exact as somebody who is actually
25 utilizing that sewage waste. Is that what I'm

1 understanding; is that what I'm hearing? I did ask
2 a question.

3 MS. HOULE: Yes. The sewer assessments
4 are based on when the line goes by, and the
5 connection is the sewer use.

6 MS. ELDERKIN: How is that fair to that
7 90-year-old woman or 80-year-old man or woman,
8 whichever, that is living in their family home that
9 they've had all their lives and that they've grown
10 memories in. You're going to force these people to
11 have to move out of their homes because they will
12 not be able to afford them. I don't understand how
13 that is fair when you have a family of six people
14 who may be actually utilizing that sewer and
15 they're paying the same as that 90-year-old woman.
16 It's not fair to that 90-year-old woman. You need
17 to rethink how you're organizing that and where
18 you're coming up with these monies. I think you
19 need to figure out how many people are living in
20 each home and do it accordingly based on who is
21 living there. And when the changes come and new
22 people buy in, then the assessments change. There
23 has to be another way to do this. It is not fair
24 to the elderly and the disabled that are at a
25 disadvantage that you guys are taking advantage of.

1 MR. PIERSON: Thank you. James Pierson, 8
2 Nichole Lane. Two brief points. I won't belabor
3 the sentiment that's been raised here. A lot of
4 good feedback has been given to you already. I was
5 reading a recent housing study and two numbers
6 jumped out at me, the first of which is 30 percent
7 of homeowners are already stressed financially. A
8 large portion of their income is already going
9 toward housing, which means it's not going to other
10 places like food, clothing, and things like that
11 just to live. It's even higher for renters. It's
12 above 40 percent. Where do you think these
13 assessments are going to go? The landlords are
14 going to put that into the rent. And they're going
15 to be even more stressed. We have a very stressed
16 financial situation in our community. In 2016
17 foreclosures in this town jumped over 100 percent.
18 A large jump. Things to be aware of.

19 My second point is an interesting one and
20 this is what made me jump up because I'm
21 disappointed in the comments from Mr. McGee and
22 Mr. Shibley. I won't say anything more about why
23 I'm disappointed other than you are not the
24 determiners of what falls under the ethics code,
25 the Ethics Commission, and you're doing Mr. Skurka

1 a disservice by telling him he's not in violation.
2 We're going to find out very soon if he is. Thank
3 you.

4 MS. RUTLEDGE: Hi. My name is Claire
5 Rutledge. I live at 33 Rawlinson Drive in
6 Coventry, Rhode Island. I've been here three
7 years. I've never -- I've lived in Wakefield,
8 Massachusetts. We always voted on everything. I
9 think I'm free. Everybody should be free. I think
10 the people should have sent out letters, not
11 mandate. I just think it's wrong. I just have one
12 question. The septic systems that are in our
13 backyards, who is going to be responsible for
14 taking those out or can we leave them there? So
15 that's more money. What about the water bill, is
16 that going to be increased, too? Okay. So this is
17 just some points. I live here. It's a beautiful
18 city, but I'm sad. I'm retired. I have cancer.
19 My husband's retired. I don't know how I'm going
20 to come up with the money. Thank you.

21 MR. LOMASTRO: Hi. Jorge Lomastro, 751
22 Washington Street. And there seems to be financial
23 issues obviously, environmental issues, and I
24 suppose ethical issues as well, and I'm just trying
25 to help out as far as subcommittees go and this,

1 that, and the other thing. Now, to the engineers,
2 if you can design the septic -- well, pardon me,
3 the sewerage line so that they're environmentally
4 sound, correct -- there's a mike right there.

5 MR. NICHOLS: I would assume the answer is
6 yes.

7 MR. LOMASTRO: Okay. That was the first
8 question. So the second question would be could
9 you not also engineer a septic system so that it's
10 environmentally sound? And I've been all over this
11 nation, so I already know the answer, but let
12 everybody else know.

13 MR. NICHOLS: So there are --

14 MR. LOMASTRO: Can you design a septic
15 system in a given property that's environmentally
16 sound?

17 MR. NICHOLS: So you can design --
18 engineering is such that you can design a solution
19 to virtually any problem given the right
20 financial --

21 MR. LOMASTRO: That's the answer.

22 MR. NICHOLS: -- investment.

23 MR. LOMASTRO: Now, I talked to a
24 gentleman that has five family members that lives
25 on the street. I'm not speaking for myself at the

1 moment, although I'm a member so -- if all five of
2 those residences have dumped 20 grand at once,
3 that's a hundred thousand dollars on his entire
4 family. What are the odds of all five septic
5 systems failing at the same time?

6 So that might help make a decision for you
7 is my point, you know. My grandfather, boy, I miss
8 him, wise man. He had a saying, don't throw good
9 money after bad. That's it. That should help you
10 make your decision. It's simple, but it really is
11 that simple. And then it comes back to the people
12 issue. It's really about people anyway. And that
13 issue would be -- I've got 46 seconds left. I
14 can't dance anymore, but maybe I can sing a
15 little -- how do we pay for this? And I've already
16 brought it up. But listen, folks, we all got to
17 help one another dig out of this hole. You can't
18 dump it on just one person here and one person
19 there. If we all kick it all in a little bit, we
20 can get out of this hole quick. That's really the
21 only way to do it. I've already paid for mine. So
22 I'm here to help you all out. I could just stay at
23 home and go -- I'm okay. It's their problem. I'm
24 with you. We all got to help one another out on
25 this one. It's the only way. Hopefully that helps

1 you guys out, and it will help us out, too. Okay.
2 Check this out. I could be on the radio.

3 MR. NUNES: Jason Nunes, 4 View Road. I
4 just purchased the property a year ago. The septic
5 system is five years old. I live in the house
6 alone. Two-bedroom home. Virtually, the septic
7 system should be my lifetime. Now, with this
8 assessment coming up, and this has been in the
9 works for years, there should have probably been a
10 disclosure or do I call my closing attorney?
11 That's unfair. They should not be mandated by no
12 means, no means at all. And I don't think we're
13 going to hear the end of this one.

14 MS. STENSON: My name is Janice Stenson.
15 I live at 670 Knotty Oak Road. So to follow up on
16 what Representative Patricia Serpa said, how many
17 of you up there make more than \$100,000? How many
18 of you make more than \$50,000? I see a few people
19 squirming. How many of you make less than \$15,000?
20 So for you to say that you want to ask everyone
21 else to disclose their information, their personal
22 information, to some stranger that comes to the
23 door or to send it out via mail, via whatever, for
24 anyone to look at, why is it that it's okay for all
25 of you to be uncomfortable and not disclose but you

1 want all of them to. That's not acceptable.
2 Secondly, how many of you up here across the whole
3 panel, how many of you is this sewer project
4 actually going to affect? How many of you are
5 getting the sewers? I don't see any hands. You
6 want to mandate something on town's people that
7 make a fraction of what you make every year. You
8 want to put them into debt where they cannot
9 recover. You want many of them to lose their home.
10 When they lose their homes, are you going to buy
11 that home? How are you -- how are they going to
12 sell their homes? No one is going to want anything
13 to do with this.

14 Now, onto another question. Thank you. I
15 still have time because you haven't answered any of
16 my questions yet. So when you went -- entered into
17 this project, how many of you reached out to your
18 colleagues in other cities and towns and said how
19 did you guys tackle this? Two people that have
20 nothing to do with the town council that's
21 mandating this? Seriously? That's your job, every
22 one of you. You're mandating these people to spend
23 all of this money, all of us, to take part of this,
24 when they can't afford it. You have no clue what
25 they're dealing with day to day, but you're

1 mandating this on them. You're mandating that they
2 lose their homes, and you sit up there, and --
3 excuse me, this is directed to you, sir, the only
4 one who sat there and said that he majored in
5 communications. So you sit there, and you tell
6 everyone who's upset about these sewers that you
7 majored in communications so you know that every
8 time that you're shaking everybody off, that you're
9 not looking at one person that stands up here to
10 speak their mind, that implore you to please listen
11 to the citizens, you sit there and you look at the
12 clock, you look around, you look at everything else
13 that you possibly can and you know especially full
14 well what that body language says.

15 MR. SHIBLEY: Next.

16 MR. HANNA: Hi. My name is Bob Hanna.
17 I'm on Arizona Street. So I'm on the -- I'm in the
18 Tiogue Lake area. I've been paying the assessments
19 since 2011. And in 2011 after the assessment came
20 and it was initially -- came in -- we're actually
21 going to pay an 8 percent interest, not 6, it was 8
22 at that time, we came to a meeting; and then for
23 whatever reason, it was put down to 6, which it
24 currently is now. But my wife and I did some
25 research as far as we were -- we had some questions

1 as far as grants go and, you know, why weren't
2 there Federal grants paying for this. And at the
3 time, we came upon some community development block
4 grants, specifically for preserving clean water
5 that the Federal Government has made available.
6 And so were any of those received ever for this?

7 MR. THIBEAULT: At the last meeting that
8 we had about three weeks ago to discuss issues very
9 similar to tonight, information was given out about
10 community development block grants for individuals
11 needing assistance tying into the sewer and also
12 assistance with a septic system if that's what they
13 needed. That information was given out. If you
14 need that information, you can, or anyone else, can
15 call the town manager's office and they'll send you
16 to the right department.

17 MR. HANNA: Okay. So there were Federal
18 grants given to the town?

19 MR. THIBEAULT: Well, the individual who
20 needs the assistance would have to apply for a
21 community development block grant. And that
22 information is available in the planning office.
23 So you can call the planning office directly or
24 call the town manager's office to get the number
25 over to planning.

1 MR. HANNA: I see. Okay. And then my
2 other question is what -- is there a plan yet for
3 any recourse for the people in my area who have
4 been paying for the last six years on the
5 assessment as far as if things are going to be put
6 to a halt, are we -- what are we to do from here?

7 MR. WATERS: The people who live on
8 Arizona Street, no, there's no plan to put the
9 assessments to a halt.

10 MR. HANNA: So we keep paying?

11 MR. WATERS: Yes.

12 MR. HANNA: Okay.

13 MR. BENJAMIN: Roger Benjamin, 30 Cecile
14 Avenue, Coventry, right on top of MacArthur
15 Boulevard. I said this several times. I know, you
16 guys don't -- all the hardships -- I don't know --
17 I like to know what you guys are thinking of up
18 there while we're talking and trying to explain
19 people that have hardship. I mean real hardship.
20 You have to think of those people. Hundred
21 thousand dollars a year, oh, man, I could do
22 wonders with that, but that's beside the point. I
23 voted the Town of Coventry -- I should say we, the
24 people of the Town of Coventry voted for the sewers
25 not to have them. Okay. Many years ago that

1 happened. How come we got them? Anybody that can
2 answer that I'd like to know.

3 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: I think we have them,
4 Mr. Gorham, through state enabling legislation --
5 that our legislators back in, you know, I don't
6 know, was it '97 that it was pulled together, 1997,
7 and, again -- no, no, no, no, no, the enabling
8 legislation that was brought forth to the State
9 House, again that was something done long before
10 all of our time on the council, but I believe it
11 was something that had to do that if, and I believe
12 in the legislation, and Mr. Raptakis might be able
13 to tell us that. He was on the legislation that
14 moved some of these things forward here. Like I
15 said, in '97, it's not for all of the taxpayers to
16 pay. I think what the enabling legislation that if
17 it was put in, it would be financed by the people
18 who are on the sewer line which is why it probably
19 didn't have to go to a vote by the people. Again,
20 I don't know why or how it was put in at that
21 point. But I believe, if I'm correct, Mr. Gorham,
22 could you speak to it. You are a legislator and an
23 attorney.

24 MR. GORHAM: That's correct --

25 MR. BENJAMIN: My time is running and you

1 guys are answering my question.

2 MR. GORHAM: I'll try to answer your
3 question a different way. The law in Rhode Island
4 provides that the town can borrow money based on
5 revenues, anticipated from the installation of
6 sewers and that's what allowed the town to go
7 forward with the sewer project without having a
8 voter approval referenda. It's the legislation
9 that's in place and has been in place for several
10 years.

11 MR. BENJAMIN: So we're wasting our time
12 voting; is that what you're telling me?

13 MR. GORHAM: No. I'm saying that the law
14 has changed since the referenda was placed before
15 the voters. It is not always necessary for the
16 town to obtain voter approval in order to expand
17 the size of its sewer system.

18 MR. BENJAMIN: Okay. So the -- let me get
19 this straight now. We're going to have a vote,
20 correct? You guys are going to vote on whether
21 we're going to go ahead with this project or not?

22 MR. GORHAM: I can answer the question a
23 little further for you, sir. The town council, if
24 it wants to, can ask for voter approval on -- on
25 the expansion of the sewer system. And I think

1 it's fair to say, based on the reaction, that that
2 is something that they'll probably consider and
3 examine very carefully.

4 MR. BENJAMIN: The only other thing I want
5 to say is I hope you guys do the right thing. We
6 don't want them. Just don't want them. It's as
7 simple as that. I can't get any clearer than that.
8 We don't want it. You can hear -- you can hear the
9 complaints. You can do whatever you want. The
10 bottom line, we don't want them because they're
11 going to create more hardship than we already have.
12 And we don't have the money, number one. I'm
13 retired. I got people that live on my street that
14 are retired that walk around with canes and
15 walkers. You don't really care, do you? No, you
16 don't care. I know youse don't. You can tell by
17 looking at -- because you voted it in. Okay. I
18 want them stopped. That's it.

19 MS. LAW: Hello. My name is Mary Law, 10
20 Knight Street. First question is do any of you
21 know where Knight Street is?

22 MR. MC GEE: Yes, I do.

23 MS. LAW: Who knows? Okay.

24 MR. MC GEE: I do.

25 MS. LAW: Well, let's go back to 2011

1 because nobody on Knight Street got one of your,
2 whatever it was you sent. And another thing back
3 in 2011 a lot of those houses were foreclosed,
4 abandoned. Many, many in that neighborhood are
5 apartments. They're not going to respond to your
6 survey, and that is a problem. The other thing I
7 wanted to say, too, was -- I forgot. I'm
8 embarrassing my daughter now. The cost was
9 supposed to be, like, 13,000. We were promised
10 that at the meeting in 2011. Mr. Cote told us at
11 that meeting that why our area was being targeted
12 was because it has a majority of housing in it. So
13 that would bring in more tax revenue to continue
14 with the sewers and basically that's what it's
15 about. But just to let everybody here know when we
16 came in 2011 and there's a lot more of you here
17 now, it got voted down and it got postponed. So
18 I'm hoping that's what happens tonight. Thank you.

19 MR. MOZZI: Good evening. My name is
20 Gregg Mozzi. I live at 56 Benoit Street. And I
21 don't really know what to say, but I've seen your
22 language and I've seen the way that you all looked
23 at us tonight. I think it's repulsive what you
24 have done. You are not considering any of these
25 people's voices. When was the last time you had a

1 town hall meeting with 1600 people in it. They're
2 all saying no. Why would you mandate something
3 that nobody in the town wants? Remember, all these
4 people behind you voted for you, and they've all
5 said no. For the people, by the people. That's
6 what we grew up on, right? Remember that 1776.
7 Yeah.

8 One other thing I want to say to you. How
9 can you guys really look us in the eye and say
10 we're going to charge you 6 percent, but we're only
11 paying 3? Where's that 3 percent going to go?
12 And, also, the man who's on from D'Ambra
13 Construction, really? That is definitely a
14 conflict of interest because he stands to get a
15 paycheck from this. His company stays in business
16 because he's going to get the contract for the
17 Coventry sewer system. That's wrong. Any lawyer
18 knows that you have to recuse yourself out of that.
19 It's Rhode Island politics. It's almost, I hate to
20 say that word, I'm going to say it right now, 38
21 Studios. You guys are making some money on this,
22 and none of you guys even have the sewers in your
23 district. Why would you even vote for that? What
24 are you guys thinking? Why don't I charge you
25 \$25,000 and get my stuff taken care of? Would you

1 like that? I don't think you would. So I hope you
2 guys do the right thing, forget the sewers, because
3 no one in Coventry ever wants them. I lived in
4 Warwick my whole life. I just moved here a year
5 ago. They don't want sewers here. Everything is
6 fine. It's a great little town. Let's keep it
7 that way. Let's get the tax rate down. Save some
8 money for the people. Thank you.

9 MR. BUCACCI: Ray Bucacci, 11 Centre
10 Street. Forty years ago when this whole project
11 started, everything was different. We had a lot of
12 manufacturing. We had big farms. We didn't have
13 Federal regulations, state regulations. Bodies of
14 water today are a lot cleaner than they were 40
15 years ago. So what I'm saying to you is this.
16 Everybody's on a roll for the sewers because we've
17 been on a roll for the sewers for 40 years. The
18 reason we put the sewers in because we were harming
19 the waterways and the local drinking water. That's
20 gone. The big manufacturers and the farms that
21 were polluting the rivers and the lakes aren't here
22 anymore. The water is cleaner. Unless you can
23 show harm to these bodies of water from not having
24 sewers, what are we doing? That's why we have
25 sewers to stop the harm from our water supplies.

1 We don't have harm to our water supplies anymore.
2 Why do we have sewers? Good septic systems don't
3 last 20 years. They last forever. The problem why
4 a septic systems fails because the majority of
5 people that have them don't realize you can't put
6 bleach in your septic system. You can't put fats
7 in your septic system. When you have a large group
8 of people at your house and you make food, and all
9 that oils from your dishes you throw in the
10 dishwasher goes into your septic system, it will
11 block your leach field. You have to wipe down all
12 those oils and put them in the trash. How many
13 people want to do that? You can't use a dishwasher
14 if you've got a septic system. That material that
15 feeds a dishwasher that cleans the dishes is too
16 caustic and too acidy and it hurts your pH balance
17 of your tank. All the people that put the septic
18 systems in make a lot of money, \$15,000, they're
19 making almost half profit. No one's looking into
20 any of that. People need to be more aware. If you
21 have a septic system, you have to maintain it. You
22 have not shown that we've harmed the waterways and
23 we have to continue doing sewers. Unless you can
24 show harm to the waterways, what are we doing? We
25 just keeping going on and on, and we got someone

1 that we're paying and D'Ambra's paying and they're
2 saying it's not a conflict of -- of course it's a
3 conflict of interest. It's insane. You can't do
4 that. That -- if that man's being paid on that
5 job, if he works for D'Ambra, he has to give up his
6 job or he has to give up his job at D'Ambra.
7 That's conflict of interest. That's just simple --
8 that's the way it is.

9 We don't need sewers because the problem
10 isn't there anymore. Most of the people that were
11 dumping everything into these rivers were
12 manufacturers and commercial interests and they
13 started the sewer projects because they wanted the
14 taxpayers to pay for their damages. Now you're
15 asking all the taxpayers to keep building this
16 sewer system when you haven't even shown a need.
17 Where is the damage to the water system? The state
18 and DEM make sure you can't have cesspools anymore.
19 You've got to put in operating septic systems.
20 They're not cheap; \$15,000 is not cheap, and
21 they'll last forever if properly maintained. Why
22 do you need sewers? You've got to show the harm.
23 That's it.

24 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you.

25 MR. BOOD: Ron Bood, 15 Florida Avenue.

1 MR. SHIBLEY: Could you say that again.
2 We didn't get that.

3 MR. BOOD: I said Ron Bood, 15 Florida
4 Avenue. I just wanted to ask before we leave, I
5 just want to understand what's going on here. Now,
6 nothing is actually being voted on tonight? You
7 put in two proposals, and then you put in a
8 proposal to wait until you got more information.
9 So what you're saying is things are just going to
10 keep on going the way they're going, and there's
11 not going to be any stop and how long is it --

12 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: No. Mrs. Carlson
13 moved to -- Mrs. Carlson moved to put those
14 resolutions after all of the forum. They will be
15 voted on this evening.

16 MR. BOOD: Okay. I just want to say it's
17 not a question, but I mean, I have two properties
18 in Coventry. One of them, my septic system is
19 three months old and the other one is three years
20 old, you know, at a cost of like 15,000 a piece,
21 you know, and you're going to mandate me, tie it
22 into a sewer. It's crazy.

23 MR. LE BLANC: James LeBlanc, 43 Hazard
24 Street. I think I have a minute 43 left if you
25 want to clock me. Just so everybody here knows and

1 the town council knows, Chapter 191-16 which is our
2 sewer ordinance, it states, "Changes in
3 regulations. These regulations may be rescinded or
4 modified or added to by the town council at any
5 time when, in its opinion, such action is for the
6 best interest of the Town of Coventry." Five
7 people do not make up the Town of Coventry. We do.

8 MR. RAPTAKIS: Leo Raptakis once again.
9 If I may, Mr. President, Members of the Council. I
10 just want to clarify a point that it's been said
11 tonight that us in the General Assembly, my
12 colleagues that are here, are responsible for this.
13 Ladies and gentlemen, any bill, legislation
14 pertaining to this town, whether it's sewers,
15 whether it's the school bonds that we repaired all
16 the schools, are requested from the town council.
17 And there's a resolution asking us to facilitate to
18 put a bill in. We have no authority, and we're not
19 to blame because I think the blame game has already
20 started, and it's the General Assembly's fault why
21 there's a sewer authority. And back in 2006,
22 Mr. Laboissonniere, yes, I was in the General
23 Assembly. A bill was sponsored by Senator Blais
24 and myself and Representative Sullivan, Murphy,
25 Moffitt, Landroche, and Williamson by the request

1 of the town council, drafted by the solicitor, and
2 a resolution asking us to introduce this and that's
3 the proper protocol in the State of Rhode Island
4 because the towns do not have authority to do
5 anything.

6 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Mr. Raptakis, what I
7 was trying to get at before was that you would be
8 able to know more about something on the Senate
9 floor enabling legislation than I would. You've
10 been there. That's what I was asking tonight.

11 MR. RAPTAKIS: But you blamed -- you
12 blamed me Monday night and I have the video. I
13 think a lot of people saw the video --

14 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: No. I said --
15 Mr. Raptakis --

16 MR. RAPTAKIS: Blaming Representative
17 Noonan and myself. Blaming us. It wasn't us. It
18 was your body.

19 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: There's no need for
20 getting -- no, no, no, no. There was a whole
21 different conversation, I think, but I'm not
22 willing to get back into that tonight. I asked you
23 tonight, again, maybe if you could lend some light
24 to the enabling legislation that stated what we
25 needed to do.

1 MR. RAPTAKIS: I can. The town council
2 and the solicitor drafted it. Why are you asking
3 us the question? You should be -- not you, but the
4 past councils should be answering that question,
5 how the legislation was enacted. Don't blame us.
6 It's all in black and white, ladies and gentlemen.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. DAVIGNON: My name is Gordon Davignon.
9 I actually have two houses in Coventry, one at 8
10 Hickory Road and one on Harrington Road, right on
11 Tiogue Lake. And I'm looking at my own situation
12 right now because my wife and I would like to
13 retire on the lake and rebuild a home, and I'm
14 getting prices right now between 25 and \$35,000 for
15 a septic system. So for me, personally, whatever
16 way we go, I just would like to know which way
17 we're going because in a couple more years I'm
18 going to be retiring. And at this point, I'm
19 getting the feeling that I don't know where to go
20 at this point. It seems like everything is in
21 limbo at this point.

22 I do want to personally thank Councilman
23 Laboissonniere. I have spoken to him quite a few
24 times about these issues, him being on the
25 subcommittee, sewer subcommittee, and he's been

1 extremely informative to me. I can only give him
2 kudos for him getting back to me on a daily basis
3 sometimes. And I understand the impact on everyone
4 financially here. I really do. I mean, I can just
5 hear it. And I also feel for everyone up on that
6 stage of what it must be like being yelled at by
7 your father, but my question is this. Say the
8 sewers go in and there is a lien on my property.
9 Seeing that I don't have a mortgage on the house on
10 the lake, would they become the first lienholder on
11 my property; and say I want to get a construction
12 loan, if they are the first lienholder, would that
13 have to be paid off prior to me getting that loan.

14 MR. GORHAM: Typically, the banks treat
15 sewer assessments in the same fashion as taxes. In
16 fact, the enabling legislation that was put in
17 place for the town when it began the sewer system
18 specifically provides that the tax -- the
19 assessments and the use charges are to be collected
20 in the same fashion as taxes. So you don't have to
21 pay the lien off if you refinance your mortgage or
22 if you sell your house. It's something that would
23 be assumed by the next buyer. They'll have to know
24 about it. It will be on the lien certificate
25 that's issued whenever anybody buys a house in

1 Coventry, all the taxes that you owe are shown.
2 But it doesn't require you to pay it off if you're
3 going to do construction on your house or anything
4 like that.

5 MR. DAVIGNON: Okay. The next thing, I
6 was just doing some math and I took \$35,000 divided
7 by 220, which is 12 months times 20 years, divided
8 that out and it came out to \$145 per month, divided
9 by thirty days, and it came out to like \$4.88.
10 Personally, I bought a Subway sandwich that cost me
11 \$10 today. I'm not saying -- listen, everyone is
12 in a different position here. Okay. And I'm not
13 here to have people clap for me. I'm not here for
14 that. What I'm just saying is I think we have to
15 keep cool minds here, and I think through this type
16 of debate, things are going to be better for the
17 Town of Coventry. And whatever way it works out,
18 they're hearing what the people are saying, and I'm
19 sure and the people are expressing their emotions
20 and they're also expressing their opinions about
21 the situation. Okay. But I think what has
22 happened here if people are saying that it's just
23 not fair, well, you know, folks, we live in Rhode
24 Island. What is fair in Rhode Island? Personally,
25 I don't find anything fair in Rhode Island. Thank

1 you.

2 MR. ROBIDOUX: Kenneth Robidoux, 21 York
3 Drive. I have a question for Mr. Shibley. I'd
4 like to know if the taxpayers can get the same deal
5 that they got when we sold Anthony, \$930,000, we
6 sold it for \$60,000. Can we get the same deal on
7 our sewers or on our taxes. Can we?

8 MR. SHIBLEY: I guess the answer is no.

9 MR. ROBIDOUX: Why not?

10 MR. SHIBLEY: I mean, that's an answer.
11 That was an economic --

12 MR. ROBIDOUX: 900,000 to \$60,000.

13 MR. GORHAM: Sir, thank you for asking
14 that question. It's come up a couple of times, the
15 issue with Anthony Mill, which was an approximately
16 120-unit mill that was renovated, and a question
17 arose at one of the prior meetings about why they
18 didn't have to pay a sewer assessment. And the
19 simple answer as for this council is this council
20 never waived any assessment for Anthony Mill, ever.
21 It was prior councils who put together a deal and
22 charged nothing. And so this council was faced
23 with the very difficult decision of how do you --
24 it was -- we were actually approached by the staff.
25 We said we have this huge looming obligation that

1 was never paid, and there's nothing on paper to
2 substantiate why it wasn't paid. This is the
3 \$900,000 sewer assessment you're talking about. So
4 let me answer your question.

5 So the town made a demand upon Brady
6 Sullivan who was the owner of the Anthony Mill and
7 had paid no assessment, and we went back and forth
8 from many months. To bring litigation to collect a
9 sewer assessment that a prior council had waived
10 and had no paper to prove anything would have been
11 a very difficult and challenging lawsuit for the
12 town to bring and one thing was for absolute
13 certain, it would be an expensive lawsuit. After
14 many months of going back and forth, the town put
15 together the best deal they could get in the
16 circumstances. And you have to remember, the
17 circumstances were not good, but they got
18 something. They got something. They got \$60,000.
19 You're absolutely right, but it's not fair in my
20 estimation to blame this council for trying to fix
21 something that they got that was very badly broken.

22 MR. ROBIDOUX: I don't blame this council
23 for this here. I blame this council for this. You
24 are telling me to get a sewer, mandating me to hook
25 up to go down my street to pay for this -- wait a

1 minute -- when they paid nothing. I don't care
2 what the council is or who the council is. You
3 have no right to make it everybody in here to have
4 a sewer if they don't want one when they got away
5 with this. I don't care who the council was or
6 what they was. Now, we have to pay for them. Not
7 right. You pay for them. Not me.

8 MS. STENSON: Thank you. Thank you. My
9 name is Janice Stenson. I'm at 670 Knotty Oak
10 Road. So regarding Brady Sullivan, in case you're
11 not aware, because, unfortunately, it does seem
12 that way, Brady Sullivan, anyone can look up really
13 easily on Google, that's a multi-billion dollar
14 company, multi-state company. That company comes
15 into little cities and towns. They buy up tons of
16 little -- old mills. They refurbish them. They
17 get all kinds of tax credits. Some deserved, some
18 not. Did you research this company, any of you,
19 because honestly at least somebody was here during
20 that time. Yes?

21 MR. GORHAM: Were there members of the --
22 what do you mean?

23 MS. STENSON: Were you the solicitor at
24 the time?

25 MR. GORHAM: No, I was not.

1 MS. STENSON: Did any of you research that
2 company at all?

3 MR. GORHAM: What I researched was the
4 value of our case, the -- how likely we were to
5 have success if we went all the way to trial with
6 the case. That's what -- the company clearly had
7 the resource -- you're right. The company had the
8 resources. If we could establish an obligation to
9 pay, they had the resources to pay it. I don't
10 think they're a multi-billion-dollar company as you
11 stated. I don't think that that's factually
12 correct; but, nonetheless, your point is taken
13 well. They probably have the resources to pay an
14 assessment, but that wasn't the only criteria that
15 we had to use to decide --

16 MS. STENSON: They make it a habit of
17 taking advantage of cities and towns. Do your
18 research before you enter into a contract. That
19 contract, before they came here, that contract
20 similar to what Providence just did, that contract
21 should have had a clause in there saying that, yes,
22 you can have maybe some of these tax rebates, but
23 in exchange you have to make sure that you hire
24 from local, from here. You have to get your
25 materials from here. You have to spur the economy

1 in this town, never mind out of state where most of
2 their contractors are from Massachusetts,
3 Connecticut, New York, Florida. Why should we have
4 ever paid for their economies to boost a little?
5 It shouldn't happen. But the point is it required
6 research. So on this particular sewer project, now
7 that you charge them \$60,000 but you're going to
8 charge a lot of town's people here close to 50,000
9 because that's so acceptable, so comparable.
10 Right? So now that you have all of these -- you've
11 singled out who has to have these sewers, how many,
12 off the top of your head, how many homes are in
13 this town? I heard one person could answer, could
14 formulate an approximate answer. How many homes
15 are going to be affected by this project? If this
16 is a question-and-answer session specifically for
17 this, you should have these facts and figures. You
18 should know the answers. You can't come here and
19 say we're going to have all the answers for you and
20 then just sit there and look around and not have
21 any answers. Is that because, as you said the
22 other day, your mind is already made up? Check the
23 tape. You did say that.

24 MR. SHIBLEY: We have decided that Brady
25 Sullivan, the previous owners had paid for the

1 sewer line. They came in and renovated the empty,
2 desolate building and then with another council and
3 then -- but I'm just saying, we didn't make an
4 agreement with them.

5 MS. STENSON: You're not listening.

6 MR. SHIBLEY: You aren't. I said that we
7 were going to lose --

8 MS. STENSON: The train of thought is the
9 pattern of behavior of not checking out the facts.
10 Not doing -- not vetting everything. Not doing
11 your due diligence of finding out all the facts
12 beforehand.

13 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. We weren't on the
14 council. I mean --

15 MS. STENSON: Regardless. The two
16 situations in this town that still set up the
17 taxpayers for pick up for you.

18 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you for your comments
19 and you've made your point a couple of times
20 around. So I'd like some other people who haven't
21 talked yet and then we're going to get on, I think,
22 with the evening. Thank you for your comments.

23 MS. STENSON: So how many of these local
24 companies that you're hiring here, how many people
25 do you think you are actually employing from the

1 town?

2 MR. GORHAM: Ma'am, with all due respect,
3 you've been given significantly more than the three
4 minutes that other people have abided by --

5 MS. STENSON: You were speaking for most
6 of that time. But this is just a continued
7 pattern --

8 MR. GORHAM: You asked a question. I
9 answered it.

10 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you.

11 MR. KENNEDY: My name is Bill Kennedy.
12 I've lived in Coventry 30 years. I have a septic
13 tank that works perfectly, quite frankly, like most
14 people here today. Now they tell me I have to come
15 up with another \$20,000; and I'll tell you, I'm 84
16 years old. I'm a senior citizen. There's no way
17 that I can come up with that kind of money. Me and
18 my wife love living in Coventry, but we've already
19 decided that if we're going to be faced with this
20 kind of a problem, that we're going to have to move
21 out of Coventry. I don't want to do that. Like I
22 said, I love Coventry, but you're putting us in a
23 position where we have no other way. Our budget is
24 stretched as far as it can stretch with the fire
25 taxes, the water taxes, the state taxes. And when

1 you're on a fixed income, there's no place to go.
2 And I just say I'm against this thing and, you
3 know, I just think it's wrong because I know most
4 people in here think it's wrong, and they probably
5 have the same type of system that I have and it
6 works. So why change. Thank you.

7 MS. FERRI: Linda Ferri, 6109 Flat River
8 Road in Greene. I don't really have a question,
9 but I'd like to make a statement. I live in
10 District 1, and I would like to tell you that we
11 fully support everybody in District 3 because we
12 know very well what it is like to have a majority
13 town council jam something down your throat that
14 you do not want and did not ask for. So we fully
15 support you in your fight. Thank you.

16 MS. DELIBERIS: Karen Deliberis, 49 Read
17 Avenue. First thing, no questions. This should
18 not be Republican against Democrat. This should be
19 everybody helping the people of this town. I don't
20 care. I don't -- I'm not a Republican. I'm not a
21 Democrat. I am for who is perfect for the job.
22 When is the next town council election?

23 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: November 2018.

24 MS. DELIBERIS: Thank you. Town of
25 Coventry, please remember this come November of

1 2018. My next question is how do we go about
2 getting a referendum for the town people who pay
3 the taxes and vote you in. How do we get a
4 referendum going?

5 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Referendum for what?

6 MS. DELIBERIS: To get -- to give us a
7 chance to say no once again.

8 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: I think that's
9 probably we're looking --

10 MR. SHIBLEY: To get the resolution voted
11 on.

12 MS. DELIBERIS: All right. My next
13 question. Mrs. Carlson, you asked about some
14 invoice that wasn't submitted yet at the last
15 meeting. Has that been submitted yet? Do the
16 people of Arnold Road, do know that there's still
17 an open invoice and they could still add money to
18 what they may have told you already? And
19 Mr. Waters, my house was built in 1965. It is
20 still the same septic system. Knock on wood.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. WILSON: Thank you. Eric Wilson, 48
23 Hazard Street. If over 40 years have gone by and
24 we got 7 percent connected, how is the town \$29
25 million -- over \$29 million in debt with the sewer

1 fund? We pay assessment fees. Those assessment
2 fees assumingly cover the cost of construction, the
3 contracts, material costs, what have you. On top
4 of that, if we are overcharged in our assessment
5 fees, the town keeps that money and on top of that
6 as people mentioned before, a 2.75 percent loan you
7 get, you charge us at 6 percent, and I assume the
8 people that are connected are paying sewer tax. So
9 how are we \$29 million in debt right now?

10 MR. THIBEAULT: The \$29 million in debt is
11 over the life of the remaining debt, which I think
12 brings it out to approximately 2035. So that's the
13 number over the years that the debt is still
14 active. It's not a current number that we have to
15 pay this year.

16 MR. WILSON: So what is the current number
17 we have to pay this year?

18 MR. THIBEAULT: About \$2.5 million, a
19 combination of our West Warwick loans and the loans
20 that we've take out ourselves.

21 MR. WILSON: That's what the town owes?

22 MR. THIBEAULT: Yes, sir.

23 MR. WILSON: What's coming in for
24 assessment fee charges, sewer tax, whatnot?

25 MR. THIBEAULT: Sewer use and assessment

1 is approximately 2.1, 2.2 million dollars and
2 there's other small sources of revenue. So for the
3 last few years, maybe four years, fund balance has
4 been used to offset the differential.

5 MR. WILSON: Fund balances?

6 MR. THIBEAULT: Yes, sir.

7 MR. WILSON: So how are we -- so if we're
8 overcharged for this assessment fee, you keep that
9 money. Yet how are you in debt, especially with
10 the whole loan program where you're doubling your
11 money or doubling the interest?

12 MR. THIBEAULT: The last couple of
13 years -- the last two loans the town has taken out
14 through Rhode Island Clean Water, which is 2012 and
15 2013, the debt service that we're occurring on an
16 annual basis is not as high as the assessments that
17 we're taking in because we're not assessing --

18 MR. WILSON: So is that the engineer's
19 fault for not estimating the cost of all the
20 drilling, hammering, whatnot?

21 MR. THIBEAULT: No, sir. In 2012, the
22 funds that were actually earmarked for 2012 was
23 Quidnick -- those funds were earmarked for Quidnick
24 Village; and when the decision came not to sewer
25 Quidnick Village, those funds were diverted as a

1 matching grant for the 117 project. At the same
2 time, funds were issued in 2013. Those funds were
3 to be used for the 117 -- Route 117 project. But
4 since the 2012 funds were used, the 2013 funds sat
5 without being used for several years, but the town
6 was paying debt service on that. So we have the
7 2012 loans which, because we received Federal money
8 in 2012, the Federal Government said that you have
9 to assess commercial. You don't have to assess
10 residential for a period of time. So the
11 assessments that we're taking in and use fees
12 taking in on Route 117, which is the 2012 money,
13 it's less than the amount of the debt service. And
14 on the 2013 loan, we're taking in no assessments
15 against that debt we're paying.

16 MR. WILSON: Did everyone get that? How
17 much money is in the sewer fund right now, just out
18 of curiosity?

19 MR. THIBEAULT: Approximately \$2.1
20 million. That's the fund balance.

21 MR. WILSON: So why was a loan taken out
22 using the city -- excuse me, town hall annex as
23 collateral?

24 MR. THIBEAULT: We're required to maintain
25 125 percent of one year's payment of fund balances.

1 Because we were under 125 percent, a decision was
2 made to go to a third-party lender because Rhode
3 Island Clean Water would not fund the loan because
4 there was a dry line. They have a policy where
5 they don't fund that. So a decision was made to
6 seek a third-party loan to put a sewer line in
7 Arnold Road South, which is Veterans Market towards
8 the landfill and ultimately tie that line into
9 Briar Point -- Briar Point neighborhood once that
10 was built, and then it drives the entire line.

11 MR. WILSON: Okay, but, I mean, I'm not an
12 expert, I'm not right up on my laws or whatnot, but
13 can town property be used as collateral in a loan?

14 MR. THIBEAULT: The entire loan process
15 was thoroughly reviewed by our town solicitor who
16 agreed that it was appropriate to do so.

17 MR. WILSON: So it's appropriate, but not
18 legal. Well, let me move on. I got one last
19 point.

20 MR. SHIBLEY: All right because the
21 gentleman behind you --

22 MR. WILSON: -- was not answered, my
23 question earlier. I guess this refers to the
24 engineers. The amount of ledge on Hazard Street,
25 as I mentioned, you're making next to no progress

1 from 7 to 4. It's just constant hammering and
2 drilling by those massive machines for this ledge.
3 Were there any boring reports done saying this is
4 undrillable, this is unsmashable? Also, if the
5 structural integrity of my home, and I assume
6 everyone else here, their home, the foundation of
7 their home or, you know, the lead paint issue I
8 brought up, I hold the town solely responsible and
9 if you want to go after the engineer company, feel
10 free to do so. But I hold you solely responsible
11 for those damages. Along with the vibrations, I
12 was wondering if there's any vibration reports
13 taken to ensure that the structural integrity of
14 all these homes are safe as well as the water main
15 that is feet, if not inches, away from where you
16 are hammering away.

17 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you. Yes, sir.

18 MR. BACON: Hi. Richard Bacon, 16 --

19 MS. BACON: Hang on a second. I'm sorry,
20 Rich, sorry. I'll interrupt you. He's my husband.
21 That's why. No, the gentleman before asked a
22 couple of questions regarding boring reports and
23 vibration reports, correct? Okay. Could those
24 please be answered.

25 MR. NICHOLS: Yeah. Some good questions

1 in there. I'll try to answer the pieces that are
2 answerable. Yes, we do soil borings in every area
3 before we try to proceed with sewers. In
4 particular, one of the things we look at is we look
5 at whether there is rock; and if there's rock, is
6 it significant? We try to characterize that to
7 some degree. Indeed, we understood that Hazard
8 Street had rock on it. It's impossible to drill
9 every two or three feet down the road so we don't
10 get a perfect profile. And rock tends to move up
11 and down in New England pretty steeply. So at the
12 very beginning of Hazard, we did actually hit more
13 rock than we expected to hit. In addition, the
14 rock on Hazard is -- a lot of you know if you live
15 there -- is extremely hard. And that's one of the
16 reasons they've been having such a hard time
17 actually hammering that rock. That methodology
18 that they use with vibratory hammering is actually
19 required when we work in the vicinity of sensitive
20 areas, in particular sensitive utilities. Most
21 places when we deal with rock of that nature we do
22 blasting. We'll actually use dynamite and drill
23 holes in the blast rock. We do not do that in
24 Rhode Island in close vicinity to utilities. The
25 rock excavation is pretty significant, that being

1 said. The installation we try to move as quickly
2 as we can. We do have to hammer that rock to get
3 it out. The contractor, I believe, is pretty much,
4 Tim, out of that first big nub of rock. He's
5 hopefully only got a couple more days before we
6 hopefully come back out of that piece and I do
7 expect, I hope, for all the folks in the
8 neighborhood's sake, that we can come out of that
9 and reduce that amount of hammering. We agree that
10 it's very annoying and very difficult to listen to
11 if you're in the neighborhood the whole time. The
12 challenge is there's not a lot of other ways to get
13 the rock out. There's only blasting and hammering.

14 To the question that you asked about
15 damage to your property, we do require that the
16 contractor maintain insurance if something happens,
17 and that's something that you've got to monitor on
18 an individual basis. If we were doing blasting, we
19 would be out there doing more monitoring. If you
20 note something in particular of concern, we do ask
21 that you bring it to our attention with your house;
22 but for the most part, the rock that's being taken
23 out up there, that's the only method that we have
24 to actually address it.

25 MR. WILSON: So if there's a crack in my

1 foundation, and it affects the structural integrity
2 of my house, how do I prove to you that it's your
3 fault?

4 MR. NICHOLAS: Well, you don't do that
5 with us. If you want to file a claim, what would
6 happen is you would present that claim to the town
7 and the contractor's insurance company and that
8 contractor's insurance company and the town would
9 then assess that claim. Generally, the insurance
10 company will go out and take a look at the crack.
11 I can promise you that in older homes, cracks are
12 pretty common, and it's oftentimes you don't notice
13 them until you actually start to go looking for
14 them. So the insurance company can make whatever
15 they will of it, but I would not discourage you if
16 you feel like your property's been damage from
17 taking whatever actions you think are appropriate.

18 MR. SHIBLEY: The stenographer can't hear
19 your questions if you don't come to the mike.
20 Again, ask the question again.

21 MR. WILSON: The question about the
22 structural integrity and the foundation to the
23 house? The lead paint? So a lot of people in
24 those houses, excuse me, all the houses in that
25 neighborhood are fairly old. My house was built in

1 1925, and is one of the newer ones. A lot of these
2 houses are dealing with lead paint. Some people
3 have the finances to take care of it; some people
4 don't. I, myself, am slowly taking care,
5 especially with the windows because the windows,
6 there's lead paint in those. Friction, opening and
7 closing them, creates lead dust. Lead dust comes
8 in the house. That's how children get lead
9 poisoning. But these vibrations, that's
10 unstoppable. If I open a window, I can wipe it
11 with a damp cloth. That takes care of the lead
12 dust. That's what I do for the windows I haven't
13 taken care of myself. Constant vibrations from
14 your company constantly drilling away for eight
15 hours, nine hours a day, nonstop -- by the way,
16 they're at the bottom of the hill and I can feel it
17 in the ground at the top of the hill just for
18 safety sake.

19 What about the lead dust issue? Those
20 constant vibrations are going to create led dust,
21 been coming in my house and go out into the ground,
22 in the soil and the groundwater. If we're doing
23 sewers because of, you know, the pollutants from
24 septic and cesspools that, from my understanding,
25 pretty much are working, what about the pollution

1 from all this lead dust?

2 MR. NICHOLS: So your question is you
3 believe that you have loose lead paint or --

4 MR. WILSON: It doesn't matter, chips,
5 lead paint, or not. If there's friction caused,
6 that creates lead dust.

7 MR. NICHOLS: So, in general, if you have
8 a condition in your home where there is freedom for
9 the lead paint to be moved about, you need to be
10 very cautious with that. If vibrations from the
11 work can cause that to dislodge, other things that
12 would happen in your home, including movement about
13 your home could do that, too. We do not
14 specifically survey any of the individual homes for
15 lead paint. That's something that is up to the
16 landlord if it's a rental property or the
17 individual homeowner. I would suggest to you that
18 you would want to be pretty cautious if you have
19 paint that you can actually see dust moving around.
20 I would suggest to you you want to be pretty
21 cautious with that. If you have children in that
22 house and you see that dust floating all around the
23 place, I would --

24 MR. WILSON: What if I don't see the dust?

25 MR. NICHOLS: I -- again, you need to know

1 if you have lead paint in your home --

2 MR. WILSON: I do know I have lead
3 paint --

4 MR. NICHOLS: We don't do that survey. On
5 our end, we don't take that survey. So --

6 MR. WILSON: What about the boring
7 reports, what were the readings on that in regards
8 to Hazard Street?

9 MR. NICHOLS: So as I said before, we did
10 take soil borings on Hazard Street. We found rock
11 in various places as we expected --

12 MR. WILSON: How far apart were these?

13 MR. NICHOLS: Borings are generally done
14 for sewer work approximately every 300 feet down
15 the road, standard. We sometimes will intersperse
16 those closer or put an extra one at an
17 intersection. I'd say that I think about half the
18 borings on there showed rock, Tim, maybe more than
19 half. We pretty much got refusal on every single
20 hole.

21 MR. WILSON: So if there was a refusal,
22 how do you expect to drill for it for a sewer?

23 MR. NICHOLS: So what we were hoping in a
24 number of those places that we got refusal, the
25 refusal was fairly deep and what we're shooting for

1 is to get through some of these minor nubs of rock
2 and get through the spot where we could get over
3 the top of the ledge which is still what we expect
4 to happen once we get up around the Knight
5 Street -- just before we get up to the Knight
6 Street area, but, as I said, you know, we did hit a
7 little extra on the beginning of the road, a little
8 more than we expected to hit.

9 MR. WILSON: So you agree there's a lot of
10 ledge; there's to be a lot of drilling on Hazard
11 Street? So is that the reason the town decided to
12 target Hazard Street, so there could be an enormous
13 assessment fee for each resident to make money?
14 Thank you.

15 MR. SHIBLEY: All right. Next. Go right
16 ahead. That's a ridiculous question. Go ahead.
17 Sorry for the interruption. Your turn.

18 MS. BACON: I'll say it after everyone
19 else does. Thank you. Just remind me.

20 MR. BACON: Richard Bacon, 16 Catalpa Way.
21 I hear everybody tonight, you know, everybody's got
22 hardships and it's costing -- I hear 25,000;
23 50,000, and we come back to this Brady Sullivan and
24 it really bugs me. It really bugs me. It's almost
25 a million dollars. We act like, we say, oh, it was

1 a previous council. It was a previous solicitor.
2 There was nobody here that was part of that?
3 Nobody can explain what happened? So we put sewers
4 in for almost a million dollars. There was no
5 contract. How does this happen?

6 MR. MC GEE: I can explain that. I was on
7 the council at the time and let me tell -- that's
8 absolutely false. When we had the negotiations
9 with Brady Sullivan, which is a very reputable
10 company and we did do our homework, they did hire
11 local contractors, especially when they did the
12 Harris Mill. Besides that, when we were making a
13 tax incentive plan, we were told by the solicitor
14 that we could not use sewer for any tax incentive
15 plan. There was not a betterment clause in the
16 sewer -- the assessment is done to pay for the cost
17 of the sewer line. There was already a sewer line
18 at the property. We could not charge them for
19 assessment because there was no betterment clause.
20 There is a betterment clause in the new way we
21 assess, but there wasn't at the time that program
22 was made. So it's absolutely false. We did not
23 use sewer fund as a negotiating tool to bring --

24 MR. BACON: I didn't say that. I'm just
25 asking like how this happened.

1 MR. MC GEE: But that's the reason there
2 was no betterment clause and we could not charge
3 them. A betterment clause is if you're going to
4 change the use of what you're using it for, then
5 you get to charge them for use. That's a
6 betterment clause, and they did change the use.
7 They went from an industrial/manufacturing to
8 residential. There was not a betterment clause
9 when we were negotiating the tax incentive plan.
10 So we could not use the sewer fund, and we did not.
11 Thank you.

12 MR. BACON: So there was -- why did it
13 come back around to the town that they decided they
14 were going to charge for a sewer assessment if it
15 was not possible to do so. So suddenly the town
16 goes oh, we got a huge bill here. We've got to go,
17 you know, charge this company and then we suddenly
18 go, oh, we have no recourse. So there was no --
19 why is there never any communication around here.
20 The other day we talked about adding four houses on
21 the street off of -- Sand Street. And then this
22 gentleman here is saying well, you have to make a
23 call in the middle of a construction job and, well,
24 it was always supposed to be in there anyway.
25 Well, if we were engineering that, why didn't we

1 put it in in the first place. Why do we have to
2 have this revelation from a resident says, oh, I'd
3 love to have a sewer. So now we put them in and we
4 just kind of swing it through without voting on it
5 as a resolution or anything like that. This town
6 is getting way too big and our budgets are getting
7 way too big. There's too much money, too many
8 taxes to not have checks and balances and then you
9 wonder why people are aggravated and, everybody,
10 you cannot forget tonight why you're here because
11 these gentlemen put this resolution out tonight to
12 quiet you down. They didn't care until last
13 meeting when somebody called for their recall.
14 Then suddenly they're like, oh, let's do an
15 economic study so we can find somebody else to pay
16 for it. Just like, you know, somebody said
17 earlier, it's like a Ponzi scheme. We spent all
18 this money and now we need to find new suckers to
19 pull into this. We cannot keep doing this. Thank
20 you.

21 MR. SHIBLEY: All right. This will be the
22 last two people talking, then we're going to get on
23 with our council business. The last two I said,
24 ma'am.

25 MS. STENSON: This is a town meeting,

1 right, not just yours.

2 MR. SHIBLEY: And I'm town council
3 president, and you're the last two. Go ahead,
4 ma'am.

5 MS. STENSON: Yes, you said that, but not
6 for long.

7 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you.

8 MS. STENSON: Janice Stenson,
9 S-T-E-N-S-O-N, 670 Knotty Oak Road. So I asked
10 previously if you knew how many homes were
11 affected, but none of you were able to give that
12 answer, correct? So if you're not able to answer
13 that question, then it's pretty obvious, I would
14 think, that you're not able to know how many of
15 those homes have failing septic systems, correct?
16 You've assumed that septic systems are going to
17 fail and that they're failing and, therefore, we
18 need these sewers. That's an assumption, rather
19 than arbitrarily choose a couple of streets that
20 you say must have it. As part of your research,
21 should you not have looked at the records first if
22 it's needed? If someone just put in a septic
23 system, how long does that work? If I can ask the
24 engineers, do you have any idea? Can you please
25 tell us. Generally a brand new septic system, how

1 long should that be able to continue without any
2 issues?

3 MR. NICHOLS: So do want me to just answer
4 that one or go back to your other questions because
5 I can answer some of your other questions, too.
6 So for instance --

7 MS. STENSON: You have the numbers but
8 these --

9 MR. NICHOLS: Hazard Street has 30 homes
10 served. That's one of several numbers that we
11 have. Depends on how much -- so it's hard to
12 answer a question like that when it's not specific.
13 So, for instance, Hazard Street has 30 properties
14 served. Each of the areas that we serve have a
15 different number of properties served. The entire
16 sewer program for what we see for eastern Coventry
17 going forward has something on the order of 4,300.
18 4,365 was the penciled-in number from the facility
19 planner. Total number of residential properties
20 that will be served.

21 MS. STENSON: Penciled-in --

22 MR. NICHOLS: Total residential properties
23 that would be served. That's a mix of commercial
24 residential, but remember that we don't always
25 have -- because it takes so long to build

1 everything, we don't always have accurate
2 information on what gets built and changed and how
3 many units they have. So those numbers tend to be
4 a little bit round until we get into each area.
5 But we do actually have a -- we know the numbers as
6 we go into each area.

7 MS. STENSON: So you know that on Hazard
8 Street there was approximately 30 and overall
9 they'll be approximately 4,300. How many of those
10 have septic?

11 MR. NICHOLS: So all the homes that we're
12 putting in have septic systems, obviously. And
13 so --

14 MS. STENSON: Don't say obviously because
15 if we're still in the year period where everybody
16 has to change over from septic to -- cesspool to
17 septic, so possibly some of them may not.

18 MR. NICHOLS: You're right. Some
19 homes have -- every home has an on-site system of
20 some type. Some of them are cesspools, some are
21 true septic systems, some are alternative systems.
22 At one point in time when the facility plan was
23 done, there were still some homes that had a pipe
24 that went out somewhere into the back --

25 MS. STENSON: God only knows where, and

1 it's scary, and I get that. So those definitely
2 need to have something done to them. But for
3 someone who's just put in a septic, as you've heard
4 many have, within the last year, the last two
5 years, three years, generally, especially with
6 brand new septic systems, we've come a long way
7 from those pipes way back years ago. How long do
8 they last?

9 MR. NICHOLS: So determining how long a
10 new septic system will last is a very difficult
11 thing. It depends on a lot of factors and a couple
12 of folks that have spoken here tonight have
13 actually mentioned some of those factors. One of
14 those that's very significant, one gentleman talked
15 about how you treat your septic system. Folks that
16 do a really good job of maintaining a septic
17 system, if it was built to modern standards, can
18 probably expect to get a very long service period
19 out of their septic system, certainly in excess of
20 twenty, possibly thirty years and upwards of fifty
21 is not unusual. Septic systems generally over
22 time, though, will eventually fail because they
23 generally get plugged. A small amount of solids
24 escape the septic tank when you actually dose a
25 septic system. It's not something you can prevent.

1 It's in the nature of the design of the septic
2 system. So over time, the field tends to plug.
3 It's possible for folks who use a very small amount
4 of water, that that could take a very long period
5 of time, but it is very unpredictable. There are a
6 lot of folks I know who their septic systems fail
7 pretty quickly because they discharge things and,
8 again, the gentleman that made the comments was
9 pretty good there. You discharge either some type
10 of chemical to your septic system or one of the
11 worse ones is grease or you put in a garbage
12 grinder and you grind garbage and you put it out to
13 your septic system when you really shouldn't be
14 doing that on a septic system.

15 So there's a lot of things that factor in
16 to how long your septic system will give you
17 service. There are septic systems, though, that
18 can be in place and can be -- appear functional
19 that aren't really performing up to the standard.
20 This is one of the things we talked about.

21 Septic systems generally are thought to be
22 working by the homeowner as long as they don't back
23 up, and we can actually say that there are a number
24 of things, if you poison your septic system, it
25 doesn't always back up, but it can stop treating

1 and it can discharge different things into the
2 environment. We also have an issue if the soils
3 are very well drained where the water, if it goes
4 away, you generally assume it's working and it
5 isn't always working. In point of fact, a septic
6 system whose leaching field is in contact with the
7 groundwater table has categorically failed. That's
8 something that's universal across the country.
9 It's not a Rhode Island standard. It's not
10 anybody's individual standard. Those are just the
11 things we know because of the way a septic system
12 is designed to treat wastewater.

13 The challenge with the type of problems
14 that we have here is we can't build sewer systems
15 to serve people that currently have failing septic
16 systems and it's actually one of the things we'd
17 really like to do. In a perfect world, we would
18 very much like to wait for a street to all have
19 problems with their septic systems and then go in
20 and say don't worry in six months we'll have a
21 sewer in that street for you and address it.

22 In general terms what tends to happen is
23 if we can catch one or two people on a street at
24 the time that their septic system is actually
25 experiencing failure problems, that's usually a

1 pretty good hit rate and I know that doesn't sound
2 great, but legitimately that's the way it works
3 because the systems all fail at different times by
4 their very nature.

5 MS. STENSON: They do all fail at
6 different times. So there are ways that you can
7 figure out if they're failing, though, right? Not
8 necessarily you personally, but there are ways of
9 learning whether it's failing or not.

10 MR. NICHOLS: And I forgot to answer that
11 one -- I apologize for jumping in. I did forget to
12 answer that part of your question, too, and that
13 was a good question, too. Every time we redo the
14 facility plan, we actually pull the most recent
15 data, I think I mentioned that at the last town
16 council meeting, we actually go through the
17 previous five years of data from DEM's files and we
18 look at everything that's happened with anybody's
19 septic system in the entire planning area and we do
20 that pretty exhaustively to try to see if
21 something's changing drastically in that area.
22 Some areas will exhibit that there's a lot of new
23 systems and no one had a problem building those
24 systems and they look good and that will give us an
25 indication that gee, maybe this area shouldn't have

1 sewers because folks are clearly successfully
2 building septic systems. In other areas we'll see
3 that people have excessive pump-outs and that's
4 usually a symptom that their system has failed and
5 that's really all they can do when your system
6 starts backing up is pump out but it's an
7 indication of failure, but we do actually pull
8 those records. I just want to make sure I answered
9 that.

10 MS. STENSON: The DEM records, having to
11 do with those that are failed or those that they
12 know, is based on who's putting new ones in.
13 That's how they collect their data. So would it
14 not necessarily be a good idea to have someone
15 actually inspect them, have an idea of what's going
16 on in our town? Are there certain areas that --
17 you may be missing an entire area that they're all
18 failing and it's still going to end up backing up
19 somewhere, right?

20 MR. NICHOLS: Again, another very good
21 question. So there are communities that employ
22 management approaches that include physical
23 inspections. We actually have done a tri-town
24 program in a couple of towns as a trial basis going
25 back maybe 15 or 20 years ago, and we set up a

1 program that the town implemented to just go around
2 and inspect literally everybody's septic system.
3 The challenge is --

4 MS. STENSON: How often, like every five
5 years or --

6 MR. NICHOLS: You do it once every five
7 years generally. You try to do it once more
8 frequently, once every two or three if you can, and
9 if we're asking people about pumping, we always
10 recommend you pump every two to three years anyways
11 even if you don't have to. That sounds a lot but
12 it can actually protect your field. The challenge
13 with the inspection program is it's costly to
14 administer and it's fairly invasive and we actually
15 found through practice, I think almost all the
16 communities who have done this on a large scale,
17 they still do it on small scales, found that
18 homeowners generally don't like to get a call to
19 say, hey, I'm coming to your house to inspect your
20 septic system tomorrow. It comes across as a
21 little invasive. So it was --

22 MS. STENSON: There are better ways of
23 planning it out. Yes. They could have
24 notification beforehand about things that happen
25 which, unfortunately, appears to not happen very

1 often here; but, thank you. I appreciate all that
2 information.

3 So there is a way of having an inspector
4 inspect certain streets, certain areas, so you
5 would have information ahead of time and know what
6 it is that you're dealing with rather than making
7 assumptions. That's my point. Don't make
8 assumptions. So if you -- so, Mr. McGee, you had
9 mentioned before that you had no idea how many
10 people on Hazard Street, I believe it was in
11 particular to Hazard Street, or another woman that
12 was speaking earlier, on a particular street, you
13 had no idea how many people you sent out fliers,
14 you don't know who came, who left, who may have
15 moved, who whatever, correct; you didn't have any
16 of that information? You got returns.

17 MR. MC GEE: I got returns from people
18 with answers and questions --

19 MS. STENSON: From 2011?

20 MR. MC GEE: From 2011, correct.

21 MS. STENSON: And you said as a follow-up
22 to that that you have no idea since then how many
23 people still live there, how many left?

24 MR. MC GEE: That's correct.

25 MS. STENSON: So on the town tax assessor

1 data base, the information available online through
2 Northeast Revaluation Group, it's a public site.
3 Any one of us can look it up and get that
4 information for you probably in about ten minutes.
5 If we, as taxpayers, whenever we want something,
6 information from the town, we have to take time out
7 of work to go to the office and request it in
8 person. You're the town council. You have access
9 to information like that. There is no excuse for
10 you to say you don't have information that is right
11 there at town hall. Not at all.

12 So out of everything that I've seen in the
13 past few meetings, in all of these sessions, it
14 just -- it's amazing. Of all these sessions, these
15 town council meetings, these issues, from what I
16 can see, they all come down to a few simple issues.
17 The majority of this town council does not do the
18 due diligence that is required of your positions,
19 does not do the due diligence in asking questions
20 beforehand. You wouldn't have a lot of these
21 issues if you do. You don't ask questions
22 beforehand. You're not making sure that you have
23 all of the completed documentation before
24 suggesting that you vote on something's complete.
25 You're not necessarily, you're not, following

1 protocol. Honestly, these are all skills that our
2 teachers teach in elementary school.

3 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. You're next.

4 MS. CASTELLI: Lisa Castelli, 15 Chopin
5 Street. Why weren't the studies that you're all
6 saying you're willing to do now, why weren't they
7 done before the \$29.2 million debt that we're in
8 for now? No answers?

9 MR. SHIBLEY: Weren't sure of your
10 question.

11 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: What was your
12 question?

13 MS. CASTELLI: Why weren't the studies
14 that you all are saying will be done now, why
15 weren't they done before the \$29.2 million we are
16 now in debt for?

17 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Obviously, we make
18 decisions on what's brought before us for our
19 council. I can't -- we can't say what other
20 councils, why, as a group, they've made a decision
21 on stuff. But decisions in the past were made to
22 move ahead to borrow money for particular projects,
23 and so they've become cumulative over time, and I'm
24 sure with all the information that was presented by
25 the engineers, by the sewer subcommittee, et

1 cetera, that's how -- that's the criteria that
2 councils have used for -- to make decisions. And
3 obviously the one question that we erred on and
4 I'll admit to making an error is to not asking the
5 question, was it financially really feasible
6 socioeconomically for a particular area. We didn't
7 ask that. We followed the, you know, the reports,
8 et cetera. Obviously, we're seeing the outcry, the
9 community outcry, seeing what's been done. That's
10 why we now decided to make a decision to say how
11 are we going to move forward with this program.
12 We've heard what you've said, and that's the idea
13 for the resolutions to try to come up with a
14 solution for everybody that we can.

15 MS. CASTELLI: So we're still going to be
16 in the 20 --

17 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: That's correct, and
18 there's some of the solutions that we have to come
19 up with because if we're going on a negative
20 trajectory like it was presented, this council --
21 we're trying to catch a flood downstream and try to
22 make the best decisions that we can.

23 MS. CASTELLI: Okay. So if you said
24 there's 4,600 houses in the Anthony District --

25 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Is that the entire

1 facilities plan?

2 MS. CASTELLI: The facility plan? Yes.
3 Okay. So you're going to be making \$96 million
4 it's going to cost to do this? Well, if you -- I
5 want to thank youse all for your answers tonight.
6 Youse did a great job answering everybody's
7 questions. And these two ladies right here, God
8 bless you two because you were the only two that
9 are willing to help and speak up for everybody here
10 and they're not filling you in. So anybody in
11 District 3, be at Club Jacques Thursday night at
12 six o'clock. We're recalling McGee's spot.

13 MR. SHIBLEY: Thank you. All right. We
14 entertained a motion to put the public forum up
15 ahead of the two votes on the resolutions. Now
16 we're back to the resolutions. We have the first
17 one before us is the -- regarding the Hazard Street
18 sewer line. It's Resolution B1, which has already
19 been read. All right. Do I have a motion to -- we
20 get a motion. We get a second, and then there's
21 discussion. We get a motion. We get a second, and
22 then I'll ask for discussion of the council before
23 a vote. Do I have a motion to approve the B1, the
24 resolution that's already been read to stop the
25 construction on Hazard Street sewer line? Do I

1 have a motion?

2 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: So moved.

3 MR. SHIBLEY: Do I have a second?

4 MR. MC GEE: Second.

5 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Discussion?

6 Mrs. Bacon.

7 MS. BACON: Okay, great. I would like
8 to -- the progress schedule that's in the
9 contract -- by the way, the contract for Hazard
10 Street, if anyone wants to find it, it was not
11 provided to council by the way. I went on Google
12 search. I found it. You can go to
13 Accentblueprints.com. You can find the Hazard
14 Street contract. You can find those boring reports
15 that we're going to be talking about. You can also
16 find the two contracts for Arnold Road if you want
17 to review them. This one is about 300 and I think
18 32 pages long. So I just have snippets of it. I
19 do have a question regarding this project.

20 The progress schedule that was scheduled,
21 I don't see a copy of it. So are they on target?
22 Are they meeting their benchmarks. Have there been
23 any reports from the engineer? Have there been any
24 concerns because I'm kind of baffled also regarding
25 these boring reports. We have a drill report from

1 May 13, 2003, and it states large cobbles and
2 boulders are likely. There are six boring reports.
3 One, in particular, hang on, bear with me, Boring
4 Number B87, it says bedrock. It also says the
5 auger refusal at 8 feet. Attempted to auger
6 through obstruction without success. I'm just --
7 I'm questioning why this -- and by the way, these
8 are all dated 11-19-2009. So it looks like in 2003
9 and in 2009, there were issues with Hazard Street.
10 So I'm just confused why we even went forward, and
11 I want to know -- I really want to understand, did
12 the engineers have any difficulties, did the
13 contractor contact them, is that why we're stopping
14 this project all of a sudden?

15 MR. NICHOLS: So a couple of your
16 questions. First of all, yes, we did the borings
17 earlier than the project was done. A number of the
18 borings were done at various phases of the planning
19 for the -- for various projects going back to 2003.
20 The majority of the borings for Hazard Street were
21 done when we originally did the Quidnick design
22 which was, I want to say, 2008, 2009, just prior to
23 when the town decided to stop that project. We
24 actually had most of this previously designed and
25 had shelved it at that time. Generally, the

1 borings are fine to be reused. We did, as I think
2 I said before, we did fully anticipate hitting rock
3 on Hazard Street. The contract, if you'll see, has
4 a significant quantity of rock in it, but, you
5 know, we do borings every 300 feet. So I think as
6 I mentioned in answer to one of the questions, it's
7 kind of hard to know exactly what you're going to
8 hit between the borings.

9 In point of fact, in answer to your later
10 question, we did hit more rock and we've been
11 talking about that as we've gone. We did hit more
12 rock right away than we were hoping to hit. That
13 first nub, a lot of the folks in the room have
14 actually mentioned that we've been hammering at, is
15 much harder than we were kind of hoping to get
16 through because it came up faster but, again, that
17 was within the confines of what we expected to see
18 on this particular street. In point of fact, the
19 rock on the street is one of the reasons why we
20 anticipate needing to have a sewer system in there
21 because not really a conducive area to septic
22 systems long term.

23 The status report that we have right now I
24 think Tim had told me that we've reached -- we've
25 reached a point where we've expended, you know,

1 enough of the rock where we feel comfortable that
2 we likely will have more cost if we finish the
3 street and that is absolutely a concern and we have
4 begun to raise that with the town, but that kind of
5 has happened in parallel with this concern about
6 stopping the sewers. So I think the goal at this
7 point is to find out the will of the town council.
8 Our anticipation from the engineering side is to
9 help you make a solid, sound decision as to if you
10 want to stop the project, where to stop it. Our
11 goal would be to mitigate the town's costs in that
12 case because when you terminate a contract, there
13 are likely to be contract termination expenses.

14 MS. BACON: Is it possible to get a copy
15 of that progress schedule because I'm just -- I'm
16 curious because in the contract it states that this
17 project is to be fully completed by October 27,
18 2017.

19 MR. NICHOLS: So, yes, I apologize,
20 Councilwoman. I forgot to answer that part of your
21 question. They are, obviously, because there's so
22 much rock, they are behind schedule, yes.

23 MS. BACON: So the contractor is having
24 the issue. Is that why -- is this being -- we have
25 this in front of us tonight? Did they have

1 concerns that they would not be able to get this
2 done by October 27th?

3 MR. NICHOLS: The contractor is not making
4 great progress, and they're obviously, I can only
5 assume, not thrilled that they're not making great
6 progress. The contractor has not once suggested to
7 anybody that I know of that they do not want to
8 fulfill their contractual obligation to finish the
9 work on the road.

10 MS. BACON: But have they had concerns
11 that they would not be able to get this contract
12 done by the 27th?

13 MR. NICHOLS: It is pretty clear that
14 finishing it by the 27th, unless we complete -- the
15 rock completely disappears is pretty much off the
16 table.

17 MS. BACON: And if they didn't, then there
18 would be liquidated damages in the sum of one
19 thousand for each consecutive calendar day,
20 correct?

21 MR. NICHOLS: That's --

22 MS. BACON: I just have one other thing.
23 It would have been very helpful to -- prior to
24 voting on this Hazard Street project, it would have
25 been very helpful to have this document in front of

1 us because we would have seen these boring reports.
2 We would have questioned why we would ever go
3 forward with this project. So please don't -- so
4 please, going forward, we need to see these. We
5 need to see these boring reports. I mean -- and
6 people may say they're boring, but 383 pages long.
7 I mean, it's unbelievable. It tells you all about
8 your change orders, unauthorized changes at work.
9 I mean, we'll have to look at that for the Arnold
10 Road project. You know, it's very interesting to
11 read this, and I think the council should have seen
12 this before we even voted on this because I think
13 there would probably be -- I know I would not have
14 voted for it.

15 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Thank you. All
16 right. Motion made and seconded. All in favor --

17 MS. CARLSON: Whoa. Wait a minute. I
18 still have a couple of issues. I think Greg had
19 some questions. On both of these resolutions, and
20 I know we haven't made the motion for the second
21 one yet; but they both say, well, this one in
22 particular says an appropriate place to stop the
23 project prior to completion. There's no criteria
24 for stopping. Who's going to say that we shouldn't
25 just stop it now because they're not getting

1 anywhere. It's just -- they can't get through the
2 ledge or the granite whatever you want to call it.
3 And then, also, there is -- I thought we had
4 something in here about a 60-day -- the manager
5 will report back to the town council on the final
6 outcome of the Hazard Street sewer project. It's
7 kind of open-ended. The other one? Well, but this
8 one's also open-ended.

9 MR. SHIBLEY: This is to allow authorizing
10 the town manager to act as the agent of the town
11 locating an appropriate place to stop --

12 MS. CARLSON: I understand that.

13 MR. SHIBLEY: It will be his decision to
14 locate with the engineers on the appropriate place
15 to stop. It's very clear.

16 MS. CARLSON: I understand that, Glen, but
17 I'm saying that I want to know when he's going to
18 report back to the town council. We don't need to
19 have a special meeting. We have a meeting Monday
20 night but he can, as usual, either e-mail us or
21 call each of us to let us know when the project
22 stopped, and I think it needs to be immediate.

23 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Can I ask a question
24 before you do?

25 MS. CARLSON: Yes.

1 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Thank you. Actually,
2 I'd like to bounce off of Mrs. Carlson's question
3 there on a question to Kent. We're looking for a
4 stopping point. Are we close to one, to a spot?
5 As the engineering firm, are we close to a spot
6 that we can actually stop it, you know, and what
7 would an estimated time frame be?

8 MR. NICHOLS: So it's a difficult question
9 because we don't know what is in the near future.
10 I can tell you that they are -- they have hammered
11 their way up the road quite a bit from where they
12 laid their last pipe and so one of our concerns was
13 stopping immediately would be -- we don't want to
14 pay for rock that was not removed in order to put
15 any pipe in the ground. In addition, we also -- we
16 like to terminate sewer projects at a manhole so
17 that we can get future use out of the pipe that
18 we've put in to date. What we would like to do is
19 to get to the manhole. As the rock drops off,
20 we're approaching Knight Street. As a bare
21 minimum, we would like to get to the manhole at
22 Knight Street, which is a pretty short distance up
23 the road from where we are. What we would prefer
24 to do then, though, it looks like the rock drops
25 off between Knight and Sharp, and that we could

1 probably get that last run in and that will get a
2 little more than -- right around halfway up the
3 road. That looks like a really good place to stop
4 before we get further into the rock.

5 So the answer is a little hard to make
6 until we get a better assessment of where that is.
7 We could stop at any time. The challenge with
8 stopping immediately is we don't have a way to
9 utilize that sewer line that has been put in to
10 date. If somebody needed to connect to it, you've
11 got a pretty high sunk cost into what's in the
12 ground now, and our preference would be that we get
13 the ability to button it up, have services extended
14 to the property line from what we have put in, and
15 in the distant future if somebody wants to connect
16 to it, you will have the ability to utilize the
17 line that's in the ground rather than just
18 abandoning the work that's been done to date, and I
19 think that's in the best interest of the town.

20 MR. SHIBLEY: So, Mr. Nichols, you know,
21 again, some flexibility, an appropriate place to
22 stop and that's to be determined. All right.

23 MS. CARLSON: All right, but I think I'd
24 like some sort of idea of --

25 MR. SHIBLEY: Not necessarily known

1 because we don't know --

2 MS. CARLSON: -- timeline. Thank you,
3 Greg. Thank you.

4 MR. SHIBLEY: How many days? We don't
5 know.

6 MS. CARLSON: Well, but that's a question
7 for Kent.

8 MR. SHIBLEY: I think he just said he
9 didn't know. Go ahead.

10 MR. NICHOLS: I don't know for sure, but I
11 can say that my hope, if we jump out of that rock,
12 it's a very short distance. I think, Tim, you can
13 correct me if I'm wrong, I think the distance to
14 get from where we are now to Knight Street from a
15 pipe -- and most of the rock is already pulled in
16 that, there's a little more hammering to do there,
17 is only like 60 feet. In theory, once the rock's
18 out, that pipe could be laid in a day. The
19 distance then up to Sharp Street is only like
20 another 170, 180 feet.

21 MS. CARLSON: But if you're only
22 progressing 5 to 7 feet, it doesn't seem to me that
23 this will stop anytime soon.

24 MR. NICHOLS: So the deceptive thing is
25 the reason that they're progressing 5 to 7 feet is

1 just because they've been hammering rock more than
2 laying pipe. Once the rock is out of the way, we
3 actually think that can all be done -- our hope
4 would be be done by next week. And we would
5 actually go back and then finish off a few service
6 connections to the property line and then come in
7 and pave and you would have a project that's
8 buttoned up pretty quickly. About -- I think a
9 reasonable two-week time frame is always kind of a
10 good planning horizon for what needs to happen
11 there. There would be probably some follow on
12 things. We would still make the contractor test
13 the lines and other things. Again, subject to what
14 we hit in the ground. I think if we set back into
15 a situation and we've done some test pits out ahead
16 just to check it, if we got back into a situation
17 where we saw a lot of rock coming up again and it
18 looks like we were going to have to do excessive
19 hammering, I probably would suggest to you that we
20 should stop earlier rather than later.

21 MR. SHIBLEY: All right. We're moving the
22 questions. Motion made and seconded. All in
23 favor --

24 MS. CARLSON: So should we put a two-week
25 deadline on this to get another report back because

1 what I don't want to do is spend a lot of extra
2 money trying to chip away at a granite -- a piece
3 of granite we can't get through. So can we ask for
4 some type of timeline?

5 MR. SHIBLEY: We certainly can ask for a
6 two-week report back; but whether it gets done or
7 not, at least we'll have a report in two weeks.
8 How will that be added to the resolution? Please.
9 Please. We're trying to discuss up here. We're
10 not answering the audience. We're answering up
11 here.

12 MR. WATERS: So, Councilman Carlson, what
13 would you like the resolution to say?

14 MR. SHIBLEY: The question is two weeks
15 sufficient?

16 MR. WATERS: This is to report back to the
17 town council in two weeks?

18 MS. CARLSON: Or less.

19 MR. WATERS: What am I -- what am I and
20 what is the staff reporting back?

21 MS. CARLSON: For the stopping.

22 MR. WATERS: For, like, a location to
23 stop?

24 MS. CARLSON: Right, because it says in
25 here --

1 MR. WATERS: We can do that.

2 MR. SHIBLEY: So the addition, I guess,
3 Mr. Gorham, do you want to add it, but it's within,
4 what, a two-week period? Would you add that in the
5 front line, the first paragraph?

6 MR. GORHAM: Sure.

7 MR. SHIBLEY: All right.

8 MS. CARLSON: Okay. Wait a minute. One
9 more question.

10 MR. SHIBLEY: Within the first paragraph,
11 we'll just put made the motion, again with the
12 amendment to put within a two-week period to report
13 back through the council. All right? Thank you.
14 We had the motion and -- with the amendment. Are
15 there any other --

16 MS. CARLSON: Yes. In the one, two,
17 three, four, fifth whereas, depending on
18 outstanding expenditures, excess materials, and
19 other factors, once a stopping location has been
20 determined by the town manager, the town manager
21 again, I think that's a typo, and in consultation
22 with the town's consulting engineers and the town
23 finance director, my question is what does this
24 mean, outstanding expenditures, excess materials
25 and other factors, which other factors sounds kind

1 of general.

2 MR. GORHAM: I can explain what that's in
3 there. I think we went over this earlier --

4 MS. CARLSON: But they weren't there. I
5 was.

6 MR. GORHAM: The reason that that is in
7 there is because the contract that we have with
8 Rocchio requires that we give them seven days'
9 notice of termination of the contract. There is a
10 portion in the contract that actually gives the
11 town the authority to cancel the contract even
12 without cause. And in order to exercise that, we
13 have to have someone who can exercise it, and I
14 think the town manager is the person to do it.
15 Once he's made the determination, because otherwise
16 you're just going to be extending the period of
17 performance for Rocchio -- well, hold on -- until
18 there's another town council meeting, and the
19 town -- if you authorize the town manager to
20 terminate the contract at the appropriate time, at
21 the appropriate point, I really think it's going to
22 pay dividends for the town in trying to end the
23 contractual obligations that it has to Rocchio and
24 that's why that's in there.

25 MS. CARLSON: I agree. I don't want this

1 to keep dragging on and as Glen likes to say
2 we're -- okay. Well, all right, then let's have
3 this report on Monday --

4 MR. SHIBLEY: Two weeks --

5 MS. CARLSON: No, no, stop. I'm amending
6 it. We have a meeting on Monday. Let's stop
7 wasting money is my point. Two weeks is too many.
8 All right. Two weeks is too many. Greg and I have
9 gone back and decided two weeks is too many. So we
10 should have some sort of --

11 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: We'll have a report
12 -- we'll have a report Monday at the next meaning.

13 MR. SHIBLEY: October 23d.

14 MS. CARLSON: October 23d needs to go in
15 the resolution. Mr. Gorham, could you please do
16 that. October 23d. Thank you.

17 MR. GORHAM: The resolution will be
18 amended to provide that the town manager will
19 report back by the town council meeting on October
20 23d.

21 MR. SHIBLEY: All right. We all have that
22 down. All in favor, say aye.

23 (VOICE VOTE: PASSED)

24 MR. SHIBLEY: Unanimous. Okay. That one.
25 Now we're on the next one B2. Why don't we read

1 this.

2 MR. GORHAM: All right. I'm not going to
3 read the title. Do you want me to read the title?
4 I can read it. Okay. Sure. Okay, I'll read the
5 title. A Resolution of the town council, the Town
6 of Coventry, Rhode Island, directing the town
7 manager to temporarily suspend sewer -- temporarily
8 suspend the town's sewer facilities program, to
9 direct the town's sewer engineering consultant to
10 examine the 2016 sewer facilities plan as amended
11 and its sewer project priorities, to take into
12 consideration socioeconomic demographic data, to
13 survey the different neighborhoods affected by the
14 2016 sewer facilities plan on various factors to
15 include but not limited to desire to have their
16 neighborhood sewerred and to order the town sewer
17 subcommittee in cooperation with the sewer
18 engineering consultant to bring forward a revised
19 sewer facilities plan to the town council for
20 consideration. Here's the language of the -- that
21 was the title. This is the language of the
22 resolution. Whereas, in June of 2016 the town
23 council of the Town of Coventry passed resolutions
24 74-16-4788 and 59-16-4773 to reinitiate the Town of
25 Coventry's sewer facilities plan as amended; and,

1 whereas, after considering recent public input over
2 the cost of assessments, the town council wishes to
3 temporarily suspend the town's sewer facilities
4 program; and, whereas, the town council directs the
5 town manager to carry out the temporary suspension
6 of the town's sewer facilities program; and,
7 whereas, the town council directs the town manager
8 to have the town sewer consulting engineers, Weston
9 & Sampson, re-examine the 2016 sewer facilities
10 plan and project priorities and to revise the plan
11 to take into account socioeconomic demographic
12 data; and, whereas, the town council directs the
13 town manager to survey all of the different
14 neighborhoods in the town's 2016 facilities plan
15 on, among other things, their desire to have sewers
16 constructed in their neighborhood; and, whereas,
17 the town council orders the town's sewer
18 subcommittee in cooperation with the town's sewer
19 engineering consultant to bring forward a revised
20 sewer facilities plan to the town council for
21 consideration in not more than 60 days from
22 adoption of this resolution that takes into account
23 the pronounced residents' concerns, socioeconomic
24 data, and financial considerations and impacts on
25 the residents of Coventry.

1 Now, therefore, be it resolved that the
2 town council of the Town of Coventry directs the
3 town manager, one, to carry out the temporary
4 suspension of the town's sewer facilities program.
5 Two, to re-examine, through the town consulting
6 engineers, Weston & Sampson, and the sewer
7 subcommittee, the 2016 sewer facilities plan and
8 project priorities and revise the plan to take into
9 account socioeconomic demographic data. Three, to
10 survey all of the different neighborhoods in the
11 town's 2016 sewer facilities plan on, among other
12 things, the desire of citizens living in such
13 neighborhoods to have sewers constructed in their
14 neighborhood. Four, to bring forward in
15 cooperation with the town sewer engineering
16 consultant and the town's -- and the sewer
17 subcommittee, a revised sewer facilities plan to
18 the town council for consideration that takes into
19 account the pronounced residents' concerns,
20 socioeconomic data, and financial considerations
21 and impacts on the residents of Coventry in not
22 more than 60 days from adoption of this resolution.
23 Passed and adopted presumably today.

24 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. Thank you for the
25 reading. A lot of information. I think it's been

1 well composed, and I think it's what we want at
2 this stage of where we are right now. My only
3 suggestion is to -- on the period of time in not
4 more than 60 days, I think that might be wishful
5 thinking. I think we should amend that to maybe
6 120 days to make sure that it's done right. I
7 think that's reasonable and that is what I would
8 recommend as an amendment. Okay? 120.

9 MS. CARLSON: Can I ask a question? I've
10 never seen -- Kent, are you done there? Okay.
11 I've never seen the 20 -- well, I don't think I've
12 ever seen a facilities plan and certainly did not
13 see the 2016 one. Now, you're working off of the
14 2016 plan. Would there be that much to revise
15 our -- I mean I don't have any idea how this -- how
16 long the process takes, but if that's a year old,
17 can you do it in 60 to 90 days? I think 120 days
18 is a long time.

19 MR. NICHOLS: So I think the challenge
20 with the schedule at 60 days is my understanding of
21 the intent of the council is to do a questionnaire
22 that we would actually get out to residents. If we
23 did a questionnaire that was like a web based only,
24 that would actually be able to be done relatively
25 quickly. If you do a questionnaire that we

1 actually intend to mail out and I think that's
2 traditionally how we would do these if we really
3 want to try to maximize feedback, we do -- we allow
4 it to be filled out on the web, but also mail it to
5 folks, and let them mail it back if they prefer
6 that. The time to get the questions formatted,
7 agree on the question formats, get the printing
8 done, get the things out to people, give folks
9 preferably like two weeks to fill them out and get
10 them back in and then be able to compile that data
11 alone would take the full 60 days that you have in
12 front of you. I agree you're absolutely right that
13 we should be able -- and the 2016 facilities plan
14 is pretty thick, but a lot of it is basically
15 relevant things from prior things. There's
16 probably four or five steps that we would do to
17 update that plan that should be done just to be
18 careful. One of those is to recheck the costs
19 because the costs do tend to change pretty
20 drastically. Another one would be very clearly to
21 look at financial options for this kind of sunk
22 cost discussion which is what do you owe to West
23 Warwick, what are you already into for the
24 interceptor systems, and what some of the options
25 financially are, so an improved financial plan.

1 Those things can take a little bit more time but
2 probably could be done in a relatively short period
3 of time, a 30- to 60-day period. But probably the
4 hard one is, and the question was asked tonight,
5 the challenge of trying to collect the
6 socioeconomic data is going to take a little bit of
7 doing.

8 There's basically two resources available
9 to the town. One is, and somebody actually
10 mentioned it here, which was pretty good, but we do
11 have census track data. We can put in some
12 information in the questionnaires but it's
13 voluntary when people get socioeconomic data back.
14 So it's not usually reliable. So we actually have
15 three things. One is whatever people put in the
16 questionnaire. Two would be census track data, but
17 limited by census tracks. And then the third one
18 is whatever is in the town financial records on
19 home values, but home values can be a pretty
20 good -- quite a few of the folks who have spoken
21 have pointed out that these homes have fairly demur
22 home values, and they're not -- that's certainly
23 something we can take into account. Just
24 collecting and crunching that data and making sure
25 we understand it well and then trying to formulate

1 the plan, I feel like 60 days is a -- there's a
2 recipe for failure.

3 MS. CARLSON: Well, let me ask you another
4 thing because I know if I got something from the
5 town and they wanted a lot of the gender and
6 finance based personal questions, I wouldn't answer
7 them. So now what are you going to do if you don't
8 get those answers and you can't really base it on
9 socioeconomic data and also you may not get a good
10 response, I suggest, if you're going to do that, it
11 has to go out mail-mail, regular mail, because not
12 everybody's going to whip out that computer and do
13 it. The only thing is, and I did write down that
14 we have a lot -- it appears we pay West Warwick a
15 lot of money. In your facilities plan, that's
16 going to be a huge issue I would think from what
17 Mr. Thibeault gave us this evening. And my last,
18 well, actually a question is I understand that
19 Rhodes Technology has a sewer treatment facility
20 for sale. Has anybody ever looked at what it would
21 maybe offset the cost if we in the town had a sewer
22 treatment facility that probably isn't as big as
23 West Warwick, obviously, because it was theirs; but
24 perhaps it could help offset some of the finances.
25 And then we'd have to also -- I think we need to

1 lower the interest rate.

2 MR. SHIBLEY: That's my whole point is I
3 think to do it right, 120 days is not asking a lot.
4 What you get back is how much time they can do it
5 well.

6 MS. CARLSON: You're probably right, Glen,
7 that maybe that isn't -- 60 is not going to be
8 reasonable, but I said we didn't have to stay at
9 60.

10 MR. SHIBLEY: But 120 is, I think, within
11 four months and where you're supposed to revise our
12 sewer program.

13 MS. CARLSON: If we're going to stop this,
14 we need to have a plan. They have to have a sewer
15 facilities plan, and I don't want them to rush to
16 judgment and then we're still sitting here doing
17 something that nobody wants.

18 MR. SHIBLEY: I think 120 days is
19 reasonable. To do it right, 120 is reasonable.

20 MS. CARLSON: We know that happens. No, I
21 understand and that's what I'm saying, that's
22 not -- and to actually depend on Northeast Re-val
23 and their information for all of our homes, I take
24 that with a lot of salt because there are a lot of
25 homes I don't agree with.

1 MR. SHIBLEY: Again, on the one paragraph,
2 changing it to not more than 120 days and then on
3 the last paragraph also the same thing, not more
4 than 120 days. That is my amendment to the
5 resolution before us. Do I have a motion to
6 accept?

7 MR. GORHAM: This is on the amendment?

8 MR. SHIBLEY: Yes. A motion to accept. I
9 need a second on 120 days -- a second on that one.

10 MR. MC GEE: I'll second that.

11 MR. SHIBLEY: Second. All right.

12 Discussion?

13 MS. BACON: Okay. I have a question.
14 It's in the title. Survey the different
15 neighborhoods affected by the 2016 sewer facility
16 plan on various factors. Well, I did a records
17 request to get the sewer facility plan. I was
18 provided the 2010. I didn't even know there was a
19 2016. And on the town website, it says 2010. So
20 could we please get the 2016 sewer facilities plan
21 up there so I know what it is. Also, different
22 neighborhoods, what are you talking about? Are you
23 talking about two, three, four, and five, or, you
24 know, I want to know. Are we excluding District 1
25 out of this or are we doing --

1 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: There are different
2 neighborhoods that are included in the
3 facilities --

4 MS. BACON: But I don't know what the plan
5 is?

6 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Neighborhoods haven't
7 changed from that facilities plan. Am I correct --
8 does the number -- the number of the areas in the
9 facilities plan have not changed from 2010 to 2016;
10 am I correct? Kent?

11 MS. BACON: Don't you think it would be
12 prudent to basically -- I mean, we're looking at
13 the entire town here.

14 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Well, it's the
15 facilities plan that we're talking about.

16 MS. BACON: Well, you know what, I think
17 this is the entire town because now we're talking
18 about possibly putting the entire cost of this on
19 the entire town. So I think we should really hear
20 from everyone on that. I mean if we're going to do
21 this, let's ask the entire town. Let's survey
22 them. And I want to know what kind of questions,
23 are we going to have any input on any of these
24 questions that are going to be surveyed. I want to
25 make sure --

1 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: I would insist on
2 that as well, too. I think that's part of what
3 we've been trying to gather here from the folks. A
4 lot of their questions, et cetera, to bring
5 forward.

6 MS. BACON: Now we're looking at
7 socioeconomic demographics. So we're basically
8 looking for folks that can afford it. That's
9 basically --

10 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Or looking for folks
11 that can't afford it and wanted to tell us that.

12 MS. BACON: But the problem is suppose you
13 only get one person on that street that wants it
14 and that can afford it. Now what happens to all
15 those other folks.

16 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: Then it becomes a
17 choice. There's a choice obviously and difficult
18 choices, too.

19 MS. BACON: This should have been looked
20 at years ago to see if we could even afford it.

21 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: We can't change that.
22 We're trying to move forward. And my question,
23 again, was the neighborhoods in the facilities plan
24 of 2010, have they changed from the 2016 plan. You
25 had all the numbered areas and the lettered areas.

1 MR. NICHOLS: So, Tim, I'm going to ask
2 you to help me out here. The main change that we
3 did in the 2016 plan that was different from the
4 2010 plan was the addition of the Route 3 Nooseneck
5 Hill Road section running out to the West Greenwich
6 line, and that was probably the only significant
7 major change that we did, Tim, in that facility
8 plan? Yeah. So really other than that, not a lot
9 of change. They are principally the same, but just
10 to answer the prior question, though, we have
11 plenty of copies of that facility plan available.
12 If you prefer it hard copy or PDF, just let us know
13 and we can get that to you.

14 MS. BACON: I just want to make sure I'm
15 understanding this and I want to know. Do you have
16 the list of streets or the neighborhoods that
17 you're talking about that are listed on here, the
18 different neighborhoods affected?

19 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: They're all in the
20 facilities plan, all the areas with all the
21 streets.

22 MS. BACON: How many are we talking?

23 MR. NICHOLS: As I said, if we did just
24 the properties recommended for sewer in the most
25 recent facility plan, it's like 4,300 homes, 4,365

1 I think was the number, which is a lot; but
2 previously when we sent the surveys out and I think
3 you might have mentioned this already in your
4 comments just recently here, but we generally try
5 to send the questionnaires out to areas outlying
6 from that, too, to kind of get a sense of what the
7 outlying areas are doing. So it would be more --
8 probably, you know, at least 5,000 questionnaires
9 and then if you are talking about surveying the
10 entire town, what are we talking, 15,000
11 properties, something like that? Something on the
12 order of 15,000 properties.

13 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. We've heard the
14 questions. We got a motion to approve and a second
15 with the change, 120 days at the two locations on
16 the front page and the last paragraph on the second
17 page.

18 (VOICE VOTE: PASSED)

19 MR. SHIBLEY: I guess that's unanimous.

20 MR. GORHAM: That was the amendment as I
21 understand it.

22 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: With the amendment.

23 MR. SHIBLEY: Okay. I guess that's it.
24 Motion to adjourn.

25 MR. LABOISSONNIERE: So moved.

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MS. CARLSON: Second.

(VOICE VOTE: PASSED)

(ADJOURNED AT 9:17 P.M.)

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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-E

I, RONALD M. RONZIO, Notary Public, do hereby certify that I reported in shorthand the foregoing proceedings, and that the foregoing transcript contains a true, accurate, and complete record of the proceedings at the above-entitled hearing.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 13TH day of November, 2017.

Ronald M Ronzio, Notary Public

RONALD M. RONZIO, NOTARY PUBLIC/CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: July 24, 2021

IN RE: Town of Coventry Town Council & Sewer Subcommittee meeting and public forum.

DATE: October 16, 2017