

PASSAIC VALLEY WATER COMMISSION MEETING OF

MARCH 11, 2020

**(OPEN SESSION)**

C O M M I S S I O N E R S            P R E S E N T :

JOSEPH KOLODZIEJ, President

JEFFREY LEVINE, Vice President

RONALD VAN RENSALIER, Treasurer

GERALD G. FRIEND, Secretary

RIGO SANCHEZ

ROBERT L. VANNOY

EDWARD COTTON, JR.

A L S O            P R E S E N T :

JAMES G. DUPREY, Business Administrator

JOSEPH A. BELLA, Executive Director

GEORGE T. HANLEY, Counsel

YAACOV BRISMAN, Assistant Counsel

YITZ WEISS, Comptroller

LOUIS AMODIO, Administrative Secretary

1 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Let's begin the  
2 meeting.

3 MR. AMODIO: Roll call.

4  
5 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners  
6 respond in the affirmative)

7

8 MR. AMODIO: We have a quorum.

9 The time is 9:45 a.m.

10 All of the requirements of the Open Public  
11 Meetings Act have been met. Notices have been  
12 furnished to all Commissioners; City Clerks of  
13 Paterson, Passaic, and Clifton; North Jersey  
14 Herald News; The Record - Passaic County edition  
15 and the Commission's Executive Staff with a copy  
16 posted at the main bulletin board at the Clifton  
17 facility.

18 Please rise.

19 Commissioner Vannoy.

20

21 (Pledge of Allegiance)

22

23 MR. AMODIO: There are no members of the  
24 public from what I see.

25 We can move onto committee reports.

1 Finance committee, would you like to  
2 start?

3 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Finance is getting  
4 settled in so we'll start with personnel.

5 So the personnel committee met last week.  
6 We reviewed the recommendations that appear on  
7 this morning's agenda for full board adoption.

8 There are three new hires on this agenda  
9 to fill four vacancies. There were originally the  
10 four vacancies, but we haven't had the opportunity  
11 to interview the fourth person yet, so that's why  
12 only three are showing up.

13 We have two increment adjustments, as they  
14 were recommended by the department head and the  
15 Executive Director.

16 And then we have one promotion that  
17 reflects a realignment of that particular  
18 department per the working organizational charts  
19 from two years ago. This alignment will have the  
20 personnel committee reviewing all department  
21 heads, hopefully, at our next meeting. I don't  
22 know if that's too tight a timeline for us to  
23 achieve, but the goal is to start to use that  
24 working document, the organizational chart that  
25 was approved a couple of years ago and start to

1 align salaries to what the actual responsibilities  
2 are.

3 The committee also plans on beginning to  
4 meet with the department heads to get their input  
5 so that we can continue this realignment based on  
6 that working organizational chart.

7 And we are continuing to work on policy  
8 that we will submit to the full board to adopt as  
9 a resolution so that we could standardize our  
10 approach to personnel matters and ensure that all  
11 Commissioners have input on that important topic.

12 That covers personnel.

13 MR. AMODIO: Special projects.

14 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: We're going out of  
15 order. It looks like Ron was sort of ready.

16 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: I'm ready.  
17 Very quickly.

18 Finance. We talked about disbursements as  
19 being usual. Nothing out of the ordinary there.

20 Overtime is down across the board. We're  
21 somewhat lucky for that reason because of the mild  
22 winter that we've had. The department continues  
23 to do a good job managing overtime. The  
24 director's been meeting individually with  
25 department heads to better manage overtime across

1 the board.

2 The CMMS system we anticipate will spike  
3 overtime during different phases of  
4 implementation. We should purchase a system by  
5 the end of the year.

6 Billing upgrade will be done by the end of  
7 the year November, December.

8 I think that's it.

9 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Sounds good. Any  
10 questions for that report?

11 Moving onto special projects.

12 It was a long meeting with a lot of stuff  
13 that needed to be covered. I'm sorry, Mr.  
14 Sanchez, for stepping on your toes, but it's going  
15 to be quick minutes here.

16 We met with Gibbons to discuss the recent  
17 legislative changes that affect our industry as  
18 they pertain to lead and water and they are now  
19 preparing for us a sample ordinance that we would  
20 look to distribute to the various cities that we  
21 operate in so they can get those on the books and  
22 give us the tools we need to help remove the lead  
23 lines that come from the street into the house.

24 We discussed various issues with multiple  
25 ongoing projects and many of those are on the

1 agenda for this morning that have been approved by  
2 the committee.

3 That's pretty much special projects.

4 Yes, sir?

5 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Yes, sir.

6 MR. AMODIO: Moving onto Executive  
7 Director's report.

8 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I said at the last  
9 meeting that we were going to have a legal  
10 committee meeting before this meeting to review  
11 certain things but, you know, when I got a note  
12 from George's secretary last week about setting up  
13 the meeting, I said that I wasn't going to set it  
14 up until I had all the information because of the  
15 last meeting concerning several issues and I  
16 haven't seen it so I didn't set up any meetings.  
17 When I get all of the information that I requested  
18 so that we can have a proper meeting and discuss  
19 the matter, then I'll set up the meeting.

20 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: That sounds fair,  
21 Commissioner. I would assume that based on we  
22 were switching from our third Wednesday to second  
23 Wednesday and the truncated schedule may have made  
24 it difficult, but there's obviously no excuse for  
25 not having that information for you by the next

1 meeting.

2 MR. HANLEY: I have some of it, not all of  
3 it.

4 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Do we know at this  
5 point whether or not there's a log of title phone  
6 calls when they come through the Customer Service  
7 Department?

8 MR. HANLEY: Well, that I can't.

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Well, okay. I mean,  
10 that doesn't require any research. Either they  
11 are logging the phone calls or they're not logging  
12 the phone calls.

13 MR. HANLEY: I didn't understand that was  
14 something I was supposed to do. I thought  
15 Administration was.

16 We are, just so you know, with the help of  
17 Joe and Jim, I'll call it revamping the whole...  
18 We do, obviously, tons of investigations relating  
19 to personal injury, once in awhile, not too often,  
20 in other matters and it's been extremely difficult  
21 for me to get much information, but I've asked Joe  
22 and, I pointed this out, and we've had now a  
23 serious meeting with a lot of people upstairs who  
24 it turns out that they are able to get information  
25 that I did not.

1                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: To me it's a very,  
2                   very simple question. It requires either a yes or  
3                   no answer.

4                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I don't think George  
5                   is the person for that. George ain't the person  
6                   for that, Jerry.

7                   COMMISSIONER VANNOY: But you could answer  
8                   that question.

9                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I don't know why  
10                  George is answering that question.

11                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: If I go over to the  
12                  Customer Service Department --

13                  COMMISSIONER LEVINE: That's not George.

14                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: -- after this  
15                  meeting and I say I'd like to see a log of the  
16                  phones calls that came in since Monday, will they  
17                  be able to produce that?

18                  MR. BELLA: Yes.

19                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: They will?

20                  MR. BELLA: Yes. And a recording of every  
21                  phone call that comes in, could be from three to  
22                  six weeks back to depends on the call volume, that  
23                  kind of thing. So we actually might even actually  
24                  have the actual phone call.

25                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: And how far back



1 does that go?

2 MR. BELLA: Depends on the call volume and  
3 the call length, length of the calls. There's  
4 only so much storage you could have. We don't  
5 have like six months. We can't keep it for a  
6 year, but we have maybe up to six weeks worth of  
7 calls.

8 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: If I remember, there  
9 was an incident recently and he was like, well, we  
10 don't have a recording of it.

11 MR. BELLA: That might be because it might  
12 have been outside the span of time.

13 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: No, no, it was a  
14 recent.

15 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: May I say  
16 something?

17 MR. BELLA: It depends on --

18 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: It's definitely not  
19 a legal question.

20 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Do we have somebody  
21 internally that can give Commissioner Friend an  
22 answer about how the system works?

23 MR. BELLA: Yes, we can give you details.

24 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: That wasn't the only  
25 question, right?

1 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: No, but now that I'm  
2 hearing we only have maybe three to six weeks,  
3 with all the --

4 MR. BELLA: No, no, that's recorded of  
5 voices.

6 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Okay. I was just  
7 going to say, if we record somebody and we want to  
8 keep it for more than three to six weeks, do we  
9 need a larger computer system or whatever it might  
10 be so we could keep those calls for at least six  
11 months to a year?

12 MR. BELLA: That's a phone upgrade.

13 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Who knows about the  
14 system?

15 MR. BELLA: Andy.

16 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Is he here? Can  
17 you get him in so Mr. Friend can get an answer?

18 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: You said Andy?

19 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Doesn't Jim  
20 Gallagher know?

21 MR. BELLA: No.

22 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: He was involved when  
23 we purchased all that stuff.

24 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I mean, that was the  
25 whole issue in the court case that we were told

1 that there was no log of any phone calls coming  
2 from this gentleman and the complaint.

3 MR. BELLA: From my recollection, and  
4 don't me hold to this, my recollection is that we  
5 did have a notation that that phone call came in.  
6 Now, did I see it myself, no.

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: But the attorney who  
8 represented us on the case, which we did get a  
9 copy or I did get a copy of his bill. It was  
10 \$1,500 to represent us on that case.

11 MR. BELLA: Do we have it?

12 MR. AMODIO: My understanding is when a  
13 call comes in, the Customer Service agent will  
14 note the conversation so it will always stick to  
15 the account. The actual voice call, from what I  
16 heard, was 90 days, up to 90 days is what I was  
17 told by the people in the back.

18 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Right. And that's  
19 all well and good, but we should get somebody over  
20 here who could actually give us the answer. We  
21 need to have it. Let them tell us.

22 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: I think it's an IT  
23 question, basically, and we should get a definite  
24 answer.

25 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: We don't have an IT

1 Department, though, do we?

2 MR. BELLA: Yes, we do.

3 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: But, anyway, next,  
4 I guess.

5 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Yes. Is there any  
6 discussion on this particular issue?

7 Moving onto the Executive Director's  
8 report.

9 MR. BELLA: Okay. Mainly, what I want to  
10 do is just give you an overview of what we're  
11 going to be doing in terms of responding to the  
12 threat of the virus, the coronavirus. It doesn't  
13 seem like much at this moment, but this is the  
14 time where you have to start fighting the war so  
15 that it doesn't become a problem later on.

16 So what we're doing here is, we're  
17 isolating. Picture a pyramid. The most important  
18 group to keep water in the system and that kind of  
19 thing is the operators. So what we're going to do  
20 is we're going to have each operator group isolate  
21 completely. Each operator will have their own  
22 keyboards and mouse because we don't want to  
23 transmit from group to group. They will not come  
24 in together and meet before a shift or at shift  
25 switches. So when they flip over, when they meet,

1 they're going to be completely isolated so that  
2 they're not passing one to another.

3 You got to remember, they don't have to  
4 get sick, they just have to be in contact and then  
5 they'll have to be isolated and then if they're  
6 isolated, we can't get them to work. So that's  
7 the most important group.

8 Right now we have all doorknobs, all the  
9 door handles, push plates, you know, faucets,  
10 towel dispensers, anything you have to touch is  
11 getting cleaned at least twice a day.

12 We are prepared to do mass disinfections  
13 of different areas and that kind of thing and so  
14 that's just to keep our operators going both in  
15 the pump station and in the filter plant.

16 At the next level down is the laboratory,  
17 because no matter what, we're going to need to get  
18 out there and get samples. We already discussed  
19 this. We've been in contact and there's  
20 conversations with the State. They're preparing a  
21 whole bunch of other things is the laboratory,  
22 particularly, on sampling instrumentation  
23 calibration. So these are the groups that we're  
24 really working hard in training them. We're  
25 giving them training almost daily on how to deal

1 with this.

2 Then the next group would be the mechanics  
3 that do repairs and that sort. Getting critical  
4 people lists together, dealing with this trying to  
5 get in contact with contractors and people that  
6 could help us that are outside of the area so if  
7 we have to, we have to bring them in, keep them  
8 isolated.

9 We did things like suspend tours of the  
10 plant because we don't want people coming in.  
11 Remember, again, you don't have to get sick, you  
12 just have to get exposed and then they have to  
13 isolate you.

14 If it really does take off and really  
15 starts to get big like an Italy style situation,  
16 we're going to start thinking about bringing in  
17 the operators, keeping them here for a long  
18 periods of time, maybe a week at a time so they're  
19 not in and out getting exposed. That would  
20 generate a whole other set of circumstances.

21 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Where are they going  
22 to live?

23 MR. BELLA: They're going to live at the  
24 white house. They're going to live at their place  
25 -- we'll build a place. We'll do whatever we have

1 to do to do it. Seems like a lot of nonsense, but  
2 it isn't.

3 You have to understand the way this works.  
4 You're going along like this and all of a sudden  
5 it will take off because it's an exponential  
6 chart, so to speak. So it will go like this and  
7 it will turn up quickly and that's where you get  
8 yourself in trouble. If you do all the  
9 preparation now, it won't turn up.

10 I'm just talking about the Passaic Valley  
11 community because the people here are from Passaic  
12 Valley also belong to other communities. We have  
13 to be really careful about screening; who's coming  
14 in, who has contact.

15 The operators, again, try to keep them  
16 isolated from anybody else. The janitors, the  
17 repair people. You know, even the department  
18 heads are going to have to keep some distance  
19 between them and that kind of thing and this is to  
20 keep them completely isolated because without  
21 them, you know, the people that are panicking,  
22 going out to buy water, that might prove a little  
23 validity in that. So we have to be extremely  
24 cautious with these people under these  
25 circumstances.

1           This is nothing to be -- it's not like the  
2 flu. It's not like a common cold. This can put  
3 us in a situation to have real problems.

4           COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Are we not going  
5 after meter readings within the homes now?

6           MR. BELLA: We're doing meter readings.  
7 We'll continue to do that because most of them are  
8 done outside. If we have to go into the house,  
9 we'll go in.

10           The other thing, remember, is those people  
11 are generally isolated from our people because  
12 they're contracted. At some point we might get to  
13 the point where we have to suspend any work that  
14 goes into homes and that kind of thing, into the  
15 community, all those types of things. We're not  
16 at that point yet.

17           In the next, I'd say the next three to  
18 let's say five to ten days we'll know how it's  
19 going to turn out. We're still down at this part  
20 in the graph of sick people. We're still here.  
21 Once it starts to turn, we'll know how bad it will  
22 be for sure.

23           COMMISSIONER COTTON: Is it possible that  
24 we may be moving into an area where we're going to  
25 be having gloves and masks and --



1 MR. BELLA: Yes. We're prepared for that.

2 COMMISSIONER COTTON: -- isolated?

3 MR. BELLA: We're doing that already.

4 COMMISSIONER COTTON: Okay.

5 MR. BELLA: Like our cashiers, we make  
6 them wear gloves. They didn't want to wear them,  
7 we forced them to do it.

8 The janitors are in there cleaning the  
9 surfaces down all the time.

10 The other thing we're doing is we've got  
11 enough of that stuff, masks, gloves, to go forth.  
12 We already purchased. You know, our guys down  
13 that do this stuff, they saw this coming. We  
14 talked about this a couple of weeks ago. We  
15 started to buy what we needed to buy.

16 The other thing is disinfectants.  
17 Disinfectants, we're good with that. Right.  
18 That's what we do. We have a ton of hydrogen  
19 peroxide. We have a ton of chlorine. So we  
20 should be fine.

21 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Let me ask a  
22 question, Joe.

23 Shouldn't we have like an official written  
24 down plan like other towns?

25 MR. BELLA: We're doing it.

1                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Like I said, where  
2                   are these guys going to live? You said we're  
3                   going to build them something. Shouldn't there be  
4                   a straight plan that we know where these guys are  
5                   going to live; do this A, B, and C?

6                   MR. BELLA: Yes, we have.

7                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Can you provide the  
8                   board with the written?

9                   MR. BELLA: We don't have all the details  
10                  yet. We have a continuance of operation plan and  
11                  then now that we know what the threat is, we're  
12                  filling in the blanks to make it.

13                  COMMISSIONER LEVINE: So when do you think  
14                  you could get a copy to the board of that so we  
15                  can see what the plan is? Schools are doing it.  
16                  Towns are doing it.

17                  MR. BELLA: We're doing that. We're doing  
18                  that as we speak. I mean, these are all, you  
19                  know, these are things -- you know, what you do is  
20                  you have a bear bones kind of thing, continuous  
21                  operation. George Lewis does a fine job of taking  
22                  care of it. He's way out in front on this. And  
23                  what you do is, once you see what the threat is  
24                  then you start to --

25                  COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Now that we know

1                   what the threat is, I'm asking when do you think  
2                   we can have a copy to the board members?

3                   MR. BELLA: I can't say it's going to be  
4                   today or tomorrow.

5                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Within a week and a  
6                   half?

7                   MR. BELLA: Yeah, yeah.

8                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: That's what I'm  
9                   saying, so we can review it.

10                  MR. BELLA: Within a couple of weeks,  
11                  sure.

12                  What I forgot to tell you too, we're doing  
13                  a lot of training, a lot of training on hand  
14                  washing and surface cleaning. There's all special  
15                  ways isolating areas if you get contaminated, that  
16                  kind of thing.

17                  I know you guys all think it's funny, but  
18                  you won't think that in a month if this really  
19                  gets out of control.

20                  COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: It's out of  
21                  control. Not "if it gets". It's already out of  
22                  control.

23                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Do we have any  
24                  hookup with a hospital, a medical facility or  
25                  doctor in the event we suspect somebody who may

1 have been exposed that they can get tested?

2 MR. BELLA: Well, we already have our  
3 first test case. It came in yesterday. We have  
4 an operator who was traveling that came back sick.  
5 We told him he's got to go to his doctor. That's  
6 how you do that. We can't send him to our Medi  
7 Center because they're not equipped. If you send  
8 somebody there, now you've exposed dozens of  
9 others. So you go to the doctor, you call him up  
10 in advance. That's part of our instruction  
11 training. Call in advance. They'll direct you to  
12 get tested or they'll direct you to the hospital  
13 who's set up to do this. They're already setting  
14 up to do it.

15 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I'm not so sure the  
16 doctors are equipped to test.

17 MR. BELLA: The doctor will refer you.  
18 There are tests.

19 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: Tell me where  
20 you get a test.

21 MR. BELLA: They're out and soon --

22 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: No, no.

23 MR. BELLA: What's that?

24 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: No, they're  
25 not. Don't listen to your president. He's not

1           telling you --

2                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND:  It's a good hunt.

3                   MR. BELLA:  I'll tell you who I'm  
4           listening to, it's my wife who's a public health  
5           nurse.  This is her area of specialty and they're  
6           there, they're just not -- because they're the  
7           ones who have to authorize the test because  
8           there's still short supply.  In the next week or  
9           so that supply will jump up dramatically because  
10          they're going to authorize automated testing which  
11          will increase the number of tests they can do from  
12          hundreds a day to thousands a day.

13                   COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ:  Joe, I don't know  
14          if New Jersey is doing it, but they're doing  
15          online assessment, like, you go on the computer,  
16          you speak to a doctor.  If he feels that you are  
17          sick, then he will refer you and they'll be  
18          prepared for you.

19                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE:  You know what  
20          they're doing in China, they're checking  
21          everybody's temperature before they go in stores,  
22          banks, anything because the temperature is --

23                   COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ:  Here me out.  Find  
24          out if that's available here because we can set up  
25          like a computer, let people speak to a doctor

1           online and the doctor says, okay, you need to go  
2           and then they'll be waiting for them. Some other  
3           states are doing that.

4           MR. BELLA: Part of our instructions to  
5           ask them to go ahead and do that, it's covered by  
6           our health plan. So part of our instructions to  
7           do that, we don't have a particular one. They'll  
8           have to pick whatever doctor they go to.

9           In America, the problem with the tests of  
10          the thing is as an employer, we're going to have  
11          to talk about this, is we have a bunch of  
12          questions yesterday that came up and one of them  
13          was that does that become covered by HIPAA. So  
14          who tests, that kind of thing. So we're getting  
15          into a little more HIPAA. But that's a reasonable  
16          concern.

17          COMMISSIONER FRIEND: My daughter lives in  
18          Manhattan. A friend of theirs wasn't feeling  
19          well, went to the hospital, sat there from 5:00 in  
20          the afternoon until 10:00 at night. Never got  
21          seen by anybody. Okay. And finally said, I'm  
22          sitting in this room. I don't know who everybody  
23          else in the emergency room, went home and, you  
24          know.

25          MR. BELLA: Never?

1                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Never got seen by a  
2                   medical professional. And the issue with even  
3                   testing somebody for a temperature and things of  
4                   that nature, you may not have a temperature today,  
5                   but three days from now you can develop that  
6                   temperature and in the meantime you come in  
7                   contact with people.

8                   MR. BELLA: That's why all these --

9                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: So I take this very  
10                  seriously.

11                  MR. BELLA: That's why all these  
12                  precautions are taken. We're isolating. We're  
13                  teaching people how to stay apart.

14                  COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Who's teaching them,  
15                  Joe?

16                  MR. BELLA: George Lewis is our primary  
17                  trainer on this and he's training department  
18                  heads, that kind of thing, to help out with this.  
19                  He already did the training in three departments.  
20                  We're going to train them. This week we'll have  
21                  everybody trained by the end of the week. Within  
22                  the next two weeks we're going to repeat the  
23                  training because training doesn't always stick,  
24                  right, so we're going to go back and redo it  
25                  again.

1                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I also suggest, you  
2 know, that if need be, if possible, you know, pay  
3 for a medical professional to come in and speak to  
4 the people as well and answer any questions that  
5 they may have in terms of what they can do to  
6 lessen, because on TV there is a lot of talk going  
7 on, but you get mixed messages.

8                   MR. BELLA: The message is it's time to be  
9 cautious now, even though it doesn't seem like it,  
10 it's time to be cautious. Once it blossoms, it  
11 will blossom really quick. "Blossom" is probably  
12 the wrong word to use, but that's kind of a  
13 technical thing. Exposure is more the right term.  
14 It's like fighting war. So let's fight the war  
15 before it actually becomes...

16                   COMMISSIONER VANNOY: What were you saying  
17 about you'll know in the next five to ten days?

18                   MR. BELLA: Well, if you look at the way  
19 the change in technical, if you look, it's  
20 exponential. So exponential, it's sort of, if you  
21 look at a graph, right, it's going like this.  
22 It's flat over here. Viruses, they'll go like  
23 this and then all of a sudden it starts to turn.  
24 That's called the inflection point. That will  
25 turn up and go like that. And where it turns and



1 flattens out again and it starts to go down  
2 depends on how well you've had these preparations.

3 So if you look just at us, PVWC as a  
4 community, if this thing starts, you start with  
5 one. Then you'll have, you know, in this case 1.1  
6 virus or something like that and then you'll have  
7 3, then you'll have 6 and then you'll have a whole  
8 bunch of people that will just start to grow and  
9 that goes like that. By doing this, you keep that  
10 number of people from going up and up and up until  
11 everybody's sick or half the people are sick. You  
12 keep it and flatten it off. That's the whole  
13 point.

14 The exponent, all these different viruses  
15 have different exponents, how they grow. This is  
16 like 1.15. It's fairly high. Flu is very close  
17 to 1. So this is higher than the flu. That means  
18 it will grow faster and spread faster.

19 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: So we have measures  
20 in place for the back end in making sure that  
21 we're able to continue to provide water.

22 On the front end, what are we doing to  
23 protect our employees who work the counter and are  
24 dealing with the public and multiple people on a  
25 daily basis?

1 MR. BELLA: The first, the most important  
2 thing is gloves. Keeping them in gloves and  
3 teaching them, you know, they touch money, they  
4 touch a check, they do that, teaching them how to  
5 protect yourself from that kind of thing. That's  
6 the most important thing, using masks, that sort  
7 of thing. Keeping them isolated. The way the  
8 walls are where they're not directly face to face  
9 talking to people. There's a glass there. That's  
10 a good thing. That training is going to be  
11 important there. They're going to be one of the  
12 first ones to get trained.

13 The other important people are, we thought  
14 this through, was our billing operation. Right.  
15 We want to keep the bills going, right, or else  
16 we're not going to have the money to deal with  
17 this kind of thing. We're not going to have a  
18 cash flow.

19 Customer Service, keeping people on the  
20 phone. We've already put in place, we've already  
21 set up where we can set people setting up and  
22 mostly set up now, we can have people work from  
23 home if they have to to answer phones, answer  
24 customer service, that kind of thing.

25 Now, the other thing is in, you know, in

1           our operations out in the street and that kind of  
2           thing. The only thing that we see that we can do  
3           there is to train them how to keep from getting it  
4           in their day-to-day life and keep them out of  
5           homes. But, again, at this point it's not right  
6           now to keep them out of homes and that kind of  
7           thing. But at some point we would just suspend  
8           all these operations and, you know, going in and  
9           reading meters, going in the houses for final  
10          reads until we have better methods. When you're  
11          going in the homes, that's a different level.  
12          That's just not a touch the hand and mouth, it's  
13          aerosol problems that you have to worry about.

14                   PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: And just getting  
15          back to our people at the window. Money, cash is  
16          one of the most efficient transmitters because  
17          it's not paper, it's actually cloth. It soaks  
18          that stuff in. It touches more people in one day  
19          than you can imagine and so I want to make sure  
20          we're doing everything we can to make sure our  
21          employees are going to be safe.

22                   MR. BELLA: We got them special gloves  
23          because the regular gloves were difficult to  
24          count. These are gloves that are made to be more  
25          dexterous and count. We did try the regular

1 gloves, they didn't work. So we got them  
2 something else. So this is, you know, is  
3 starting, but the concern is right now. It may  
4 not seem like it. We might be overreacting and if  
5 we overreact, we'll never know we're actually  
6 overreacting.

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Better to overreact.

8 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Absolutely. You're  
9 better looking like the nerd wearing the hearing  
10 protection than being the cool guy --

11 MR. BELLA: That's right.

12 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: One of the  
13 things I think you should stress what you keep  
14 hearing over and over on the News on the spread of  
15 the virus is simple basic handwashing. Just keep  
16 washing your hands and very important is that when  
17 people are sick, stay home. That's why you have  
18 sick days. So I get very angry when people come  
19 to City Hall and sneezing and coughing all over  
20 their coworkers. You should really be home,  
21 particularly, you know, right now. You may have  
22 just a simple cold, but we don't know that. It  
23 could be something more serious; it could be the  
24 virus and one person can impact 20. Like you  
25 said, exponentially to go up. It will balloon,

1 mushroom, exposed throughout the building and you  
2 got 20, 30 people hospitalized.

3 MR. BELLA: You have to look at your  
4 community and our community that we have to worry  
5 about is Passaic Valley's community and that's  
6 exactly right. We don't want it to explode here  
7 and handwashing is -- the point is, like the most  
8 important thing that we're teaching them is  
9 training.

10 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: I don't want to  
11 undermine, but I think a written decision what we  
12 want them to do and what we expect them to do  
13 would be helpful.

14 MR. BELLA: It's all there. It's all  
15 being developed and put together a plan. We're  
16 already putting the posters up everywhere. We  
17 already installed, you know, hand antibacterials  
18 and stuff around, like at the window, on both  
19 sides of the window. And the posters, handwashing  
20 posters, they're all going up. And then we'll get  
21 them into the training.

22 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Building on Ron's  
23 comments, and this may actually be more apropos  
24 for closed session, but an employee shows up sick,  
25 do we have the ability to send them home?

1                   COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Yeah, right. People  
2 get sent home all the time.

3                   PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: So when they get  
4 sent home, are they using their sick day or are  
5 they looking to call it administrative leave and  
6 expect us to pay for it?

7                   MR. BELLA: Well, this is the kind of  
8 questions we're working on. We haven't gotten  
9 into it in detail. This last two, three days  
10 we've been on this full time. But, you know what,  
11 if during this interim time, if there's a problem  
12 and somebody's sick... We told one person don't  
13 come in. You're sick, you got a fever, stay home.  
14 We already told them. If that's a problem, we'll  
15 sort it out later.

16                  COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Why would they even  
17 want to come in if they're sick?

18                  COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: People are  
19 weird like that.

20                  MR. BELLA: Or just because some people  
21 can't stay home.

22                  MR. BRISMAN: What I would suggest, if  
23 there is somebody that is sick, people think that  
24 because they're sick, the person is sneezing or  
25 coughing or whatnot. We should have that

1           documented. They should take a sick day. People  
2           don't like to take the sick days. You get paid  
3           for them. That's the reason some people don't  
4           take their sick days. That's most of the time the  
5           reason.

6                        But if somebody is displaying symptoms and  
7           we decide to send them home, I would just have at  
8           least a couple of colleagues, department heads  
9           sign up and say, they were displaying these  
10          symptoms. We sent them home. This way if they  
11          should ever file a grievance and say I should be  
12          paid for that day because I didn't take a sick  
13          day, I can go to the arbitrator and say, look,  
14          three or four colleagues, department heads said  
15          this person was sick. I think I'd win,  
16          especially, in this environment. That would be my  
17          recommendation to Administration.

18                       PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: So document,  
19          document, document.

20                       COMMISSIONER VANNOY: How are you telling  
21          the difference between, I mean, like right now, my  
22          allergies. I know March my allergies are kicking  
23          in. They just started last night. I already  
24          called my doctor to get my shot. But I'm going to  
25          be sneezing; I'm going to be coughing.

1 MR. BRISMAN: If your doctor says it's an  
2 allergy, then we can deal with that. You call  
3 your doctor, he says, hey, he doesn't have the  
4 virus; he has an allergy. Guess what, maybe we'll  
5 give you back your day.

6 But as Commissioner Friend and I think  
7 everyone echoed, it's better to overreact. And  
8 we're not just going to let people not use their  
9 days because they're sick. So we'll take  
10 precautions.

11 Every case is a case by case. If  
12 something comes in, this person has, whatever, an  
13 allergy, all right, we'll deal with that. That  
14 would be my recommendation. Document it, from  
15 colleagues, department heads, that they were  
16 displaying symptoms and I don't think anyone will  
17 blame us for saying, hey, we sent them home. I'll  
18 defend the Commission on that one.

19 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Thanks, Yaacov.

20 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: I'm saying they're  
21 saying like you're sneezing, you should go home  
22 and it's allergies.

23 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: That's the  
24 way of determining the difference. If you have a  
25 fever, maybe you're in trouble. But if you have a



1 simple allergy, you shouldn't have a fever with  
2 that.

3 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: All right. Does  
4 anyone else have anything to add to this topic or  
5 any questions for the Executive Director?

6 Do you have anything else under your  
7 report, Joe?

8 MR. BELLA: No.

9 MR. AMODIO: Moving onto the Controller's  
10 Report.

11 MR. WEISS: Cash on hand is 19.5 million.

12 Our accounts receivable is 17.7 million.

13 Accounts payable is at 2.5 million.

14 Again, cash on hand might sound like it's  
15 high. The reason why it sounds that way is  
16 because we budget for a lot of our capital out of  
17 cash, so --

18 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Hold on one second,  
19 Yitz.

20 I think, Jeff, you had something to add to  
21 this conversation?

22 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I was just to trying  
23 to figure out a date, I want to know, me and  
24 Bobby, when we're going to get that plan. He said  
25 a couple of weeks. If it's pertinent, I mean...

1 MR. BELLA: I can't tell you it's going to  
2 be...

3 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: We sort of closed  
4 that topic and moved onto a new topic. So he  
5 wants to go back to that topic?

6 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Yeah. I'd just like  
7 to know a date. I don't want it to turn into what  
8 happened with Jerry. If this virus is that  
9 important and it's all over the news and stuff,  
10 yeah, I'd like a strict date and this should be  
11 the number one conversation on our plan because if  
12 something does happen and we don't have a plan and  
13 we can't make water or we're scrambling.

14 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: We'll give them five  
15 days.

16 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: The only thing I  
17 heard is wash your hands and wear gloves. I mean,  
18 this whole thing and everything the News is  
19 saying, we need a strict plan: How our workers  
20 are going to come in. How we're going to get our  
21 deliveries in and out of the plant. That's the  
22 stuff that wasn't even touched upon and that's  
23 what I'm looking for.

24 MR. BELLA: If you'd like me to go on  
25 about that, I'll do that gladly.

1                   So we've already topped off all our tanks.  
2                   We have 30 days worth of storage of  
3 chemicals --

4                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I know. I want it  
5 in writing, a whole plan.

6                   MR. BELLA: What else do you want? Tell  
7 me what you want.

8                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I'm not a chemist,  
9 Joe. I need a plan like the superintendent of  
10 schools. I want to see it, Joe, that's what I  
11 want. A plan, a date.

12                  PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: If we can use our  
13 indoor voices that would be helpful.

14                  COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I want a date,  
15 that's all I'm looking for.

16                  PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: At the beginning of  
17 the conversation, to refresh your memory,  
18 Administration told us that they would probably  
19 have something for us by the end of next week.

20                  COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Okay. As long as --  
21 I don't want it to turn into what Jerry Friend --

22                  PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: I understand that  
23 fear. However, Administration told us at the  
24 beginning of that conversation that by the end of  
25 next week, because they're still formulating the

1 details of the plan, that they will provide  
2 something for us in writing so that we can ensure  
3 our constituents and the people that we answer to  
4 that something is --

5 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: And also, if the  
6 governor quarantines all public use, right, how  
7 does that affect the Commissioners, the employees  
8 getting quarantined, you know? That's may be not  
9 for Joe to answer, but that's something we have to  
10 think about. The governor --

11 MR. BELLA: We're thinking about that.

12 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: That is the plan  
13 that they are putting together. And as our  
14 Executive Director had indicated at the beginning  
15 of the conversation, he would be able to provide  
16 us with something in writing in about a week and a  
17 half, which is the end of next week.

18 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: All right. As long  
19 as -- a strict date, that's what I'm looking for.  
20 Just, you know, a deadline, when I can get this.

21 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: The deadline that  
22 they've established for us was the end of next  
23 week.

24 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: That's what I'm  
25 looking for.

1                   COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: How does the  
2 State of Emergency declaration impact public  
3 utilities?

4                   MR. BELLA: Not much in the sense that the  
5 governor gave the State and public health  
6 departments additional policing powers, the State  
7 Troopers, that kind of thing.

8                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: What if they  
9 quarantine, Joe? Does that mean all the employees  
10 have to sleep here? I'm saying if the governor --  
11 you might not have --

12                   MR. BELLA: No, it wouldn't mean that.  
13 What it would mean is we would have to not figure  
14 out a way, we're already working on that, a way to  
15 feed them and let them sleep here.

16                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: All the employees?

17                   MR. BELLA: We may have to do things like  
18 go to 24-hour shifts or seven-day shifts. We're  
19 not sure yet.

20                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: That might include  
21 you is what I'm saying, sleeping here.

22                   MR. BELLA: It might --

23                   COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I'm not saying --  
24 because the governor might mandate it where the  
25 employees of these public can't leave without

1 certain restrictions.

2 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Can I?

3 Joe, let me ask you this. Which agency of  
4 the State and the Federal Government does national  
5 emergency with the state emergency? Who handles  
6 that, the State or Federal government? Let's say  
7 the State mandate a quarantine, who does --

8 MR. BELLA: The State.

9 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: The governor.

10 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: No, but which  
11 office?

12 MR. BELLA: The governor's office it would  
13 come from.

14 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: I guess we have a  
15 sense of personal, we're going to need ID or  
16 something to...

17 MR. BELLA: We're doing that. That's what  
18 I'm saying during my thing, we're coming up with  
19 essential employee lists, that kind of thing.

20 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Aren't we in  
21 communication with them, the Department of Health?

22 MR. BELLA: The DEP is our contact.  
23 They're working together.

24 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: So we have --

25 MR. BELLA: We already had conference

1 calls with them and that kind of thing.

2 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: And then we'll get  
3 official documentation once the governor and the  
4 Department of Health and the State actually makes  
5 a ruling and determination if the public --

6 MR. BELLA: We will self-quarantine our  
7 people before they do it. If it gets to that  
8 point, we will have our people...

9 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: I think it's getting  
10 to that point ahead of what public -- the governor  
11 is way ahead. We're looking to quarantine this  
12 weekend.

13 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: Jeff, I think it's  
14 a plan in progress and we'll go from there. You  
15 can stay on top of it. You can call every day.  
16 You know, make sure, but I think it's a work in  
17 progress. It's not something that can be done...

18 MR. BELLA: You have to understand that  
19 you have a continuous of operation plan. It's a  
20 skeleton. And then now when you project a threat,  
21 you have to add onto them. That's what we're  
22 doing now. We're putting the clothes on the plan,  
23 because it's the virus. If it maybe was a  
24 hurricane or maybe it was, you know, I don't know,  
25 a terrorist threat, you address that to the

1 specific circumstances and this is a very specific  
2 circumstance. That's what we're doing. That's  
3 why I'm saying, well, I'll give it to you now. We  
4 don't have it now. It takes time.

5 Plus, at the same time we're trying to  
6 react to this. So we're not only just making a  
7 plan, we're doing a plan. Right. So we have  
8 multiple things going on in terms of this and  
9 they're doing a really fine job. They got ahead  
10 of it. I mean, you know, everybody's, you know,  
11 in on this.

12 We have people already volunteering saying  
13 if I have to stay for two weeks, I'll stay for two  
14 weeks. We've already started purchasing, like,  
15 canned foods and that kind of thing. I told Mike  
16 to get a freezer so we can put frozen food in  
17 there. We can take it out and we can feed people  
18 and that kind of thing. So that's the kind of  
19 things we're already doing.

20 You have to think of these things. I  
21 mean, and the reason why we know a lot of this  
22 stuff is because we've been through all the  
23 hurricanes and the storms and the snowstorms.

24 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: So it sounds to me  
25 it's a work in progress and we're clear that we



1 are an agency and we're working on it.

2 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Jerry, you had  
3 something.

4 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I was just going to  
5 say to conclude the matter, I guess you all know  
6 I'm the first to complain if something's not  
7 right.

8 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: You, Jerry? Not  
9 you.

10 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: But I want to  
11 compliment Joe and whoever else is working on this  
12 because I never thought when I walked in here  
13 today that we'd even be having this discussion, to  
14 be very honest with you. So the fact that they've  
15 got this plan in motion and what have you, you  
16 know, I want to thank the administration for being  
17 on top of it and, you know, you'll have my  
18 backing, I'm sure all the Commissioners, for  
19 whatever you think has to be done to take care of  
20 this.

21 MR. BELLA: Thank you.

22 The other thing we have to think about,  
23 which reminds me, one more thing, this is  
24 important, maybe we can do this under Good and  
25 Welfare or something like that. If it really does

1 start to get bad, we may not be able to have our  
2 meeting. We may have to come up with some  
3 possible way...

4 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: That will be a good  
5 idea. This will be long enough.

6 MR. BELLA: We might have to come up with  
7 a --

8 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: The problem I was  
9 really thinking is say they do quarantine the  
10 people, the Commissioners will get quarantined  
11 too?

12 MR. BELLA: Not quarantined here.

13 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Who knows, because  
14 we're in contact with the workers and stuff.

15 MR. BELLA: In that case you would  
16 quarantine yourself at home.

17 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: How can you be sure?

18 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: I just think  
19 it's...

20 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Gentlemen,  
21 gentlemen. Ron has requested the floor and he has  
22 it.

23 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: I just think  
24 it's prudent that we continue to listen to the  
25 medical professionals and the scientists and not

1 listen to the President because he'll get us  
2 killed.

3 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: And let's clarify  
4 that it's not this President that Mr. Van  
5 Rensalier is referring to.

6 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: For the record.

7 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Is there anything  
8 else that anyone wishes to say on this topic? If  
9 not, we will move on once again to the  
10 Comptroller's report.

11 MR. WEISS: Cash a hand is still 19.5  
12 percent.

13 Accounts receivable is at 17.7.

14 Accounts payable is 2.5.

15 Again, I'll reiterate, 19.5 may sound like  
16 a lot of money to have on hand. We actually  
17 budget to pay for a lot of our capital out of cash  
18 that's why we have that cash, we have a lot of  
19 capital projects for the rest of this year.

20 Our auditors started the preliminary work  
21 for audits. Our billing Version 4 upgrade is just  
22 getting kicked off. It's underway. We're doing  
23 some evaluation in terms of making sure we have  
24 the personnel structured the way we need to have  
25 them so that we have people handling the positions

1 for the upgrade that we need.

2 As Commissioner Van Rensalier mentioned,  
3 our CMMS is in process. We do expect that we're  
4 going to be able to purchase a system by the end  
5 of the year. The implementation from them will be  
6 about 18 months. So probably be a year and a half  
7 from the end of this year before we actually go  
8 live with that.

9 Just in terms to give you a quick update  
10 in terms of our investments. We have been doing  
11 very well with our investments. As many of you  
12 might be aware, the Fed dropped by 50 basis points  
13 this past week which means that it is unlikely  
14 that we will be able to do as well as we did over  
15 the last year for the next year, but just because  
16 we have the systems in place that we do and we  
17 have the relationships in place that we do, that  
18 will put us in a position where we will be able to  
19 consistently do better than we would be doing  
20 otherwise.

21 That's all I have.

22 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Any questions for  
23 Yitz? Any comments?

24 All right.

25 MR. AMODIO: Motion for closed session.

1 COMMISSIONER SANCHEZ: So move.

2 COMMISSIONER VAN RENSALIER: Second.

3 MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Sanchez offers  
4 the following Resolution for adoption:

5 Whereas, Section 8 of the Open Public  
6 Meetings Act permits the exclusion of the public  
7 from a meeting in certain circumstances; and.

8 Whereas, the public body is of the opinion  
9 that such circumstances presently exist;

10 Now, therefore, be it resolved by the  
11 Commissioners of Passaic Valley Water Commission:

12 1. The public shall be excluded from  
13 discussion of the hereinafter specified subject  
14 matters; the general nature of the subject matters  
15 being: Financial, Insurance, Personnel,  
16 Contracts, Negotiations, Security, Law, and other  
17 matters as may be discussed in camera.

18 2. It is anticipated at this time that  
19 the above-stated subject matters will be ratified  
20 during public meeting following or as soon  
21 thereafter as the reason for discussion no longer  
22 exists.

23 3. This resolution shall take effect  
24 immediately.

25 Second by Commissioner Van Rensalier.

1 On the roll.

2

3 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners  
4 respond in the affirmative)

5

6 MR. AMODIO: Gentlemen, close the doors.

7

8 \*\*\*

9

10 MR. AMODIO: Okay. On the roll.

11

12 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners  
13 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner  
14 Sanchez and Commissioner Van Rensalier are absent)

15

16 MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Sanchez and  
17 Commissioner Van Rensalier left for the day.

18 You have a quorum.

19 The time is 11:28 a.m.

20 Consent Agenda. You have the minutes of  
21 Passaic Valley in camera and regular public  
22 meetings held January 15, 2020, and February 19,  
23 2020.

24 Do I have a motion?

25 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: So move.

1 MR. AMODIO: Motion by Commissioner  
2 Vannoy.

3 Do I have a second?

4 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Second.

5 MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Levine.

6 On the roll.

7

8 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners  
9 present respond in the affirmative. President  
10 Kolodziej responds in the negative. Commissioner  
11 Sanchez and Commissioner Van Rensalier are  
12 absent.)

13

14

15 MR. AMODIO: Moving on.

16 Does the Chair accept, receive, and file  
17 miscellaneous purchase orders placed by Purchasing  
18 Agent by Gregg Lucianin for the period  
19 February 12th?

20 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Yes.

21 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

22 Moving onto the Resolutions. We will do  
23 one roll if that is okay with the board?

24 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Yes, it is.

25 MR. AMODIO: So we have items 6(a), (b),

1 (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), (j).

2 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: And (k).

3 MR. AMODIO: Do I have a motion?

4 COMMISSIONER COTTON: So move.

5 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Second.

6 MR. AMODIO: Commissioner Cotton and

7 Commissioner Vannoy seconded.

8

9 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners  
10 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner  
11 Sanchez and Commissioner Van Rensalier are absent)

12

13 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Yes to the group.

14

15 (Whereupon, the following Resolutions were  
16 approved: (a) Contract No. 20-B-2 "Information  
17 Technology (IT) Support Services" Recommendation  
18 to reject and re-bid.

19

20 (b) Resolutions Authorizing a Shared  
21 Services Agreement with Passaic County for 60-Inch  
22 Water Main Relocation at Two Bridges Road, over  
23 Pompton River and West Belt, Fairfield Road,  
Wayne, New Jersey" in the amount of \$835,000.00.

24

25

(c) Resolution - Changes in Scope of  
Professional Services for Project 12-P-43



1 "Professional Engineering Services - Emergency  
2 Back-Up Power and Water Storage Facilities -  
3 Design, Permitting and Construction Administration  
4 Services" (Amendment 8) with Jacobs Engineering  
5 Group, Inc. in the amount of \$324,047.00.

6 (d) Contract No. 20-B-20 "High Crest Pump  
7 Station Discharge Piping Upgrades" Recommendation  
8 to award a Contract to Reivax Contracting Corp. Of  
9 Bridgewater, NJ in the amount of \$746,971.00.

10 (e) Resolution Authorizing Application for  
11 Loan from the New Jersey Water Bank Subsurface  
12 Exploratory Investigation for Determination for  
13 Lead Service Lines in the Main System Contract No.  
14 20-B-15.

15 (f) Resolution Authorizing Application for  
16 Loan from the New Jersey Water Bank Lead Service  
17 Line Replacement in the Main System Contract No.  
18 20-B-16.

19 (g) Resolution Authorizing Application for  
20 Loan from the New Jersey Water Bank Subsurface  
21 Exploratory Investigation for Determination for  
22 Lead Service Lines in the Lodi System Contract No.  
23 20-B-13.

24 (h) Resolution Authorizing Application for  
25 Loan from the New Jersey Water Bank Lead Service

1 Line Replacement in the Lodi System Contract No.  
2 20-B-27.

3 (j) Resolution Authorizing Application for  
4 Loan from the New Jersey Water Bank Subsurface  
5 Exploratory Investigation for Determination for  
6 Lead Service Lines in the North Arlington System  
7 Contract No. 20-B-14.

8 (k) Resolution Authorizing Application for  
9 Loan from the New Jersey Water Bank Lead Service  
10 Line Replacement in the North Arlington System  
11 Contract No. 20-B-28)

12  
13 MR. AMODIO: Thank you, sir.

14 Move onto New Business.

15 We have summary and disbursements and  
16 payrolls through March 11, 2020, in the amount of  
17 \$4,184,714.12.

18 Do I have a motion?

19 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: So move.

20 COMMISSIONER COTTON: Second.

21 MR. AMODIO: By Commissioner Vannoy;  
22 second by Commissioner Cotton.

23 On the roll.

24  
25 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners

1 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner  
2 Sanchez and Commissioner Van Rensalier are absent)

3  
4 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Abstain on Kyocera.

5 MR. AMODIO: Thank you.

6 Recommendations from closed --

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Under New Business.

8 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Closed session  
9 first. Let's finish out the closed session  
10 personnel first.

11 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Oh, okay. Because  
12 we were moving onto recommendations.

13 MR. AMODIO: Recommendations from  
14 Executive Session.

15 The recommendation is to table item 1a  
16 until next month with retro back to this month.  
17 Is that correct?

18 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Yes.

19 MR. AMODIO: Do I have a motion to move  
20 the rest of the agenda?

21 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: So move.

22 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Second.

23 MR. AMODIO: On the roll.

24  
25 (Roll call was taken, all Commissioners

1 present respond in the affirmative. Commissioner  
2 Sanchez and Commissioner Van Rensalier are absent.  
3 Commissioner Levine is out of the room)

4  
5 (Whereupon, the following Personnel items  
6 were approved: I. Promotions

7 A. Yitzchak Weiss as Chief Financial  
8 Officer. (TABLED)

9 Current Title: Comptroller.

10 Current Salary: \$170,500.93.

11 Current Range: \$78,000.00 - \$170,500.93

12 Proposed Salary: \$195,000.00.

13 Proposed Range: \$150,000.00 - \$205,000.00.

14 II. Increments.

15 a. Robert Healy, Jr. as Water Repairer  
16 Supervisor.

17 Current Title: Water Repairer Supervisor.

18 Current Salary: \$87,492.78.

19 Current Range: \$53,000.00 - \$92,229.50.

20 Proposed Salary: \$92,229.50 (TOR).

21 Proposed Range: No change.

22 b. Tae Pak, as Water Repairer Supervisor.

23 Current Title: Water Repairer Supervisor.

24 Current Salary: \$85,913.87.

25 Current Range: \$53,000.00 - \$92,229.50.

1 Proposed Salary: \$92,229.50 (TOR).

2 Proposed Range: No change.

3 III. New Hires.

4 a. John Fiore.

5 Proposed Title: Laborer 1 (Distribution).

6 Proposed Salary: \$38,000.00.

7 Proposed Range: \$38,000.00 - \$63,978.71.

8 B. Patrick DelleCava

9 Proposed Title: Laborer 1 (Maintenance).

10 Proposed Salary: \$38,000.00.

11 Proposed Range: \$38,000.00 - \$63,978.71.

12 c. Nicole Lurato

13 Proposed Title: Keyboard Clerk 1 (Customer  
14 Service).

15 Proposed Salary: \$38,000.00.

16 Proposed Range: \$38,000.00 - \$60,270.00)

17

18 MR. AMODIO: Good and Welfare.

19 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Yes, Mr. Friend.

20 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: It's come to my

21 attention that if we don't get into somebody's

22 home to read the meter that we put a \$300 charge

23 on their bill for a missing meter without any

24 explanation on the bill that upon getting into the

25 home and reading the meter if there's a meter

1                   there that the charge will come off the bill.

2                   I think that's a very poor policy. I  
3                   don't know when it went into effect; why it went  
4                   effect.

5                   I can see saying from the homeowner if we  
6                   don't get into your home, you know, you're going  
7                   to get charged interest, your water is subject to  
8                   be turned off, which is already on the bill. But  
9                   I don't think we should on a hunt that may not be  
10                  a missing meter charge somebody \$300.

11                  COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Didn't we talk about  
12                  this in special projects?

13                  That never came up that we could charge  
14                  them \$300 because we can't get into their home.

15                  MR. BELLA: No, it's on a final read when  
16                  we can't get in there.

17                  COMMISSIONER VANNOY: This is on a final  
18                  read?

19                  MR. BELLA: This is on a final read. This  
20                  is my understanding: On a final read, if we can't  
21                  get in there to verify there's a meter, we put a  
22                  \$300 charge as if the meter is missing. We  
23                  reimburse them once we get to do what we have to  
24                  do.

25                  So what we're going to do is, look. You

1 would like us to look into it. We'll look into  
2 it. We'll come up with something, off the top of  
3 my head, we can put something on the bill. Put a  
4 hold, rather than put a charge, put an explanation  
5 on the bill that says, you know, some standard  
6 explanation if we can't get in there to read,  
7 we're going to have to charge you \$300 for the  
8 missing meter.

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Okay. Except that  
10 usually the final reading is done because of the  
11 fact that the property's being sold. The title  
12 company, the attorney who's doing the closing  
13 looks at the water bill and says, okay, the water  
14 charges for the last quarter were \$200, so we're  
15 going to escrow \$400 or something of that nature  
16 more than what was anticipated. But then to get a  
17 bill, a final bill --

18 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: It's 500.

19 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: -- that says \$300  
20 and you didn't escrow that money where you can get  
21 it back from the seller at that point and then the  
22 buyer gets stuck with it, I think that's bad  
23 policy. Number one.

24 Number two, you're saying it's only on a  
25 final reading, not if they just misread the meter

1 for a couple of months.

2 MR. BELLA: If there's no read coming out,  
3 we make the assumption that the meter is gone.

4 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Even if it's not a  
5 final reading?

6 MR. BELLA: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I think that's a  
8 very poor policy.

9 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Bring it to  
10 committee.

11 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Some little old lady  
12 sitting in her house gets a bill one day and says  
13 \$300 for a missing meter, she's going to get  
14 upset, number one. Number two, she may pay not  
15 realizing that she can, when the final bill or  
16 when the meter's reread she'll get that \$300 back.  
17 And, you know, I just think it's poor policy to  
18 bill for something that we don't know --

19 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Can you bring that  
20 back before the policy committee and let them  
21 figure it out?

22 MR. BELLA: Yeah, we'll discuss it.

23 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Because, look --

24 MR. BELLA: We'll come up with a policy  
25 that makes you happy and makes us whole and makes



1 the Commission whole. We have to have some  
2 control.

3 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: It sounds to me that  
4 the intention of that particular, it is meant to  
5 scare you because we've tried multiple times to  
6 try to get in and read the meter and  
7 unsuccessfully, now we're going to make an effort  
8 to scare you into compliance. So I understand  
9 what you're saying. The truth is every time we  
10 send out an estimated bill, we may very well be  
11 charging for something that we didn't provide  
12 because then when we finally get in and read the  
13 meter it turns out that our estimates were wrong  
14 and now you got a credit on your bill. So I mean,  
15 that happens functionally anyway with estimated  
16 billing. So it seems to me that, and I share your  
17 concerns particularly when -- it's not an issue if  
18 it's an ongoing customer, right. It's an issue  
19 when it's changing hands and it's a final bill, so  
20 I agree that something needs to be done to address  
21 that particular crack in the floor so that we  
22 don't have these things falling through. By the  
23 same token, I don't know if I'm necessarily in  
24 favor of taking a tool out of our toolbox to be  
25 able to achieve compliance.

1 MR. BELLA: We can define it better. Keep  
2 the tool there but define it where it works, where  
3 it should work. We'll be happy to do that and  
4 come up with some recommendations.

5 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: But the thing is, in  
6 the meantime, like I say, if a closing takes  
7 place, the buyer, the seller, the title company,  
8 the attorney have no way of knowing that you're  
9 going to attach \$300 on for a missing meter,  
10 number one.

11 And number two --

12 MR. BELLA: The final reading should be  
13 there by that time, if we can't get access.

14 The other circumstance, the final reading  
15 that, if we can't get in there to do the final  
16 reading or in fact there's no meter because that  
17 happens a lot of times, abandoned homes, abandoned  
18 properties, boom, you know, next thing you know  
19 somebody is there ripping that out for scrap, we  
20 want to get reimbursed for it. So those are  
21 circumstances where we normally do it. Something  
22 like that I have to look into the specifics of it,  
23 how that got on the bill without -- before the --  
24 after the closing.

25 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Okay.

1 MR. BELLA: After the title search.

2 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Okay. But, in other  
3 words, that was the one issue.

4 The second issue is that, which I sent you  
5 yesterday, that on January 8th there were final  
6 readings, bills issued, and then 60 days later  
7 comes out that, oh, that really wasn't the final  
8 reading, it was \$1,300.

9 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Well, I think  
10 therein lies the issue. How are we sending out a  
11 final reading notice if we never got in to  
12 actually do a reading?

13 MR. BELLA: That's what the \$300 charge  
14 is. When we finally do get access, we send them  
15 the final.

16 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I'm now talking  
17 about what I sent over yesterday.

18 MR. BELLA: Usually that gets their  
19 attention.

20 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I'm talking about --

21 MR. BELLA: This is something different.  
22 I can't even read the roads here yet. We'll get  
23 that.

24 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: No, no, that's the  
25 cemetery issue. I'm talking about, I sent over

1           yesterday it was an eight unit new construction.  
2           Okay. Got final bills on the eight units, which  
3           were all paid back in January, dated January 8th  
4           the final bill and now March 5th or whatever, 4th,  
5           Passaic Valley Water Commission sends over a bill  
6           and says, oh, it really wasn't the final reading  
7           and you owe \$1,300.

8                    COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Is that almost like,  
9           Joe, I called you last week I had the young lady  
10          on the phone. They had, what was it, they sold  
11          the property -- they said there was no final bill  
12          because there was no meter but they owed \$4,000  
13          based on that. She's like, I want to pay the  
14          4,000 but there's no meter. I had the  
15          conversation with you but when she called over to  
16          here, they told her that you will have a final  
17          bill. Now, how could you have a final bill if  
18          there's no meter if she paid that.

19                   MR. BELLA: You pay what was due.

20                   COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Which was the \$4,000,  
21          which they paid, because they wanted to sell the  
22          property.

23                   MR. BELLA: Then we put the meter in that  
24          was not there.

25                   COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Okay.

1 MR. BELLA: That was one of those missing  
2 things.

3 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Okay.

4 MR. BELLA: That's \$300.

5 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Right.

6 I actually asked Mr. Bisesi to come over  
7 because he would probably have the right answer to  
8 the question that nobody else did. We didn't want  
9 guesses and this and that.

10 So the question was, Jerry, because you  
11 addressed it, you can ask Mr. Bisesi.

12 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Okay. A final bill  
13 is issued on January 8th. Okay. Stamped Final  
14 Bill right on it. Okay. So there's a balance due  
15 of \$40.

16 Last week the property owner gets a new  
17 final bill and there's eight of these, because  
18 it's an eight unit apartment complex, and each one  
19 had a separate meter, gets a new final bill saying  
20 there's \$1,300 bills. The closing already took  
21 place based upon the final bill issued in January.  
22 How does that happen?

23 MR. BISESI: Well, we're looking at it  
24 right now, as you're speaking, with Customer  
25 Service. We're looking why that happened. We're

1 not sure exactly. Once a final bill is issued  
2 that will be out unless there was some outstanding  
3 money that was owed. In this case, that doesn't  
4 seem to be or a missing meter that would create a  
5 charge. The amount of money that was owed is just  
6 based on service charges. Our Customer Service is  
7 looking at that account right now as we speak and  
8 we'll have an accurate answer as soon as possible.

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: When you say as soon  
10 as possible?

11 MR. BISESI: By the end of the day you'll  
12 have an answer.

13 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: That was not why I  
14 asked you to come over.

15 The question was about the phone calls  
16 being monitored or recorded. If you can ask that  
17 question.

18 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: So the question is,  
19 when a phone call comes in from a customer, it  
20 gets logged into their account, the computer or  
21 whatever.

22 MR. BISESI: Yes, sir, their account.

23 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Okay. And there's  
24 an audiotape made of that call.

25 MR. BISESI: If it's requested, sure.

1                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: What do you mean if  
2                   it's requested?

3                   MR. BISESI: It's automatically recorded.  
4                   If you're looking for something, we'll pull it up.

5                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Okay. How far back  
6                   do those records go?

7                   MR. BISESI: 90 days.

8                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: How do we make that  
9                   for a longer period of time, at least six months?

10                  MR. BISESI: I can look into it.

11                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: That's number one.

12                  Number two, we had an instance with a  
13                  lawsuit back in December or let's see, I think the  
14                  incident occurred in December, the lawsuit was  
15                  probably in January or February. The attorney  
16                  representing Passaic Valley Water Commission was  
17                  told there are no phone logs.

18                  Now, if there are phone logs, even if  
19                  they're not audible, do you have a written phone  
20                  log that we can check to see if this person  
21                  brought in actually a complaint going back how  
22                  far?

23                  MR. BISESI: Well, we can't go back based  
24                  on the phone call to 90 days.

25                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: No, I'm talking

1 about the written.

2 MR. BRISMAN: How long does the log last?

3 MR. BELLA: Incoming call logs.

4 MR. BRISMAN: If you go to my account, how  
5 far back does it go?

6 MR. BISESI: It stays with the account.

7 MR. BRISMAN: It's forever.

8 MR. BISESI: Pretty much.

9 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: It what?

10 MR. BRISMAN: It would stay forever. So  
11 if they called three years ago...

12 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: If there was a  
13 lawsuit involving a particular customer and you  
14 were asked whether or not there were any phone  
15 logs, you could have produced that?

16 MR. BISESI: I believe, I'm not sure on the  
17 account, I believe we looked on the account and  
18 there were no registered calls on that account, if  
19 that's the account we're talking about.

20 MR. BELLA: Yeah, that's the one we're  
21 talking about.

22 MR. BISESI: There were no registered  
23 calls on the account. We can go back as long as  
24 the account exists. We'll go back. A recording  
25 is different.



1                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: And if somebody  
2                   calls in about the \$300 missing meter charge, are  
3                   they told, well, Mr. So and So, Mrs. So and So,  
4                   once we read your meter that \$300 charge is going  
5                   to come off of your bill?

6                   MR. BISESI: If the meter is still there.

7                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Pardon?

8                   MR. BISESI: If the meter is still there.

9                   COMMISSIONER FRIEND: My client made the  
10                  call from his cell phone. It was on speaker so  
11                  that I could listen. They weren't told that.

12                  MR. BISESI: Okay. I'm not sure. I can't  
13                  answer for that. I'll find out.

14                  If we don't have access to the premises,  
15                  we go based on a missing meter. Once we have  
16                  access to the basement, we find the meter, that  
17                  charge gets removed.

18                  MR. BELLA: When was that?

19                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Is that on any  
20                  property or only if it's a final reading?

21                  MR. BISESI: That's on everything. Any  
22                  time a meter is missing or we have no access.

23                  COMMISSIONER FRIEND: You don't know it's  
24                  missing because you didn't get in to read it.

25                  MR. BISESI: That is correct.

1 MR. BELLA: We assume it's missing.

2 MR. BISESI: Right. We have to have access  
3 to the premises. If we don't have access, we have  
4 to assume.

5 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: I think that's poor  
6 policy to put a charge on a bill.

7 MR. BELLA: When was the phone call made?

8 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Pardon?

9 MR. BELLA: When was the phone call made?  
10 You said you were on the phone call, on the  
11 speakerphone.

12 COMMISSIONER FRIEND: Either last Thursday  
13 or Friday. You can check it.

14 MR. BELLA: We'll get the actual phone  
15 log.

16 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Because you would  
17 have the recording for that, right?

18 MR. BELLA: That's correct. And we'll  
19 find out who did and who told what. That would be  
20 a Customer Service person who dropped the ball.

21 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: It happens.

22 MR. BELLA: We get 10, 12,000 phone calls  
23 a month.

24 COMMISSIONER LEVINE: Is that the number  
25 you get 10, 12,000 calls a month?

1 MR. BISESI: Oh, yeah.

2 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Thank you, Mr.

3 Bisesi.

4 MR. BISESI: No problem.

5 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Anything else?

6 Good and Welfare?

7 New Business?

8 MR. BELLA: Good and Welfare.

9 PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Yes, sir.

10 MR. BELLA: I wanted to tell you our new  
11 lab director is starting tomorrow. She was  
12 featured in the AWWA journal I think last month.

13 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: This was the one we  
14 hired a couple of months ago, right?

15 MR. BELLA: Yes. I think there were four  
16 featured as women in water and so it was a nice...  
17 It was a good thing for us. So she's pretty well  
18 known. She's also a Ph.D. in microbiology.  
19 She'll be able to help us with our virus.

20 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Did we take Linda's  
21 salary back?

22 MR. BELLA: When she starts.

23 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Right, right.

24 MR. BELLA: It will be like --

25 COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Yeah, yeah, I'm not

1           trying to hurt her. She did the job while she was  
2           there.

3                     I'm assuming the new person will get  
4           adjusted with the salary department heads when  
5           you're looking at that too, right?

6                     MR. BELLA: We'll look at it.

7                     COMMISSIONER VANNOY: What did we hire her  
8           at? Do you remember?

9                     MR. BELLA: 150.

10                    COMMISSIONER VANNOY: Right. Get a raise  
11           before you even walk in the door. Not bad.

12                    PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Anything else?

13                    A motion to adjourn would be in order  
14           then.

15                    COMMISSIONER VANNOY: So move.

16                    COMMISSIONER COTTON: Second.

17                    PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Thank you. All  
18           right. Everyone, see you next month.

19                    COMMISSIONER VANNOY: When's the next  
20           meeting?

21                    PRESIDENT KOLODZIEJ: Second Wednesday.

22                    MR. AMODIO: April 8th.

23

24                    (Whereupon, the proceedings concluded at  
25           11:50 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, LYNANN DRAGONE, License No. XI01388, a  
Certified Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State  
of New Jersey, certify that the foregoing is a true and  
accurate transcript of the hearing at the time and the  
date hereinbefore set forth.

I further certify that I am neither attorney  
nor Counsel for, nor employed by any of the parties to  
the action in which this hearing was taken.

I further certify that I am not an employee of  
anyone employed in this case, nor am I financially  
interested in this action.

\_\_\_\_\_  
LYNANN DRAGONE, CCR  
Certified Court Reporter