

Work Session  
Mayor and Council  
November 10, 2011

A Work Session of the Mayor and Council was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Mayor Barra who announced that the requirements of the Open Public Meetings Act were met by the required posting and notice to publications.

The following individuals answered roll call: Council members Bernstein, Schoepflin, Strauch, White and Mayor Barra. Mrs. McCarthy and Mr. Bole were also present.

*Public Comments*

Mr. Barra opened the meeting to the public for comments but there were none.

*Administration*

**Mayor's Report**

Mayor Barra said there have been issues with the Sewer Authority for years but in the past year they have become very responsive to the municipalities. They have a new Chairman of their Board who has responded favorably to the concerns of the municipalities. The Mayors in the Northwest area even held their April meeting at the Sewer Authority at which time the mayors had a chance to express their concerns and complaints.

Mayor Barra said that on November 12<sup>th</sup>, he and Mayor Gabbert of Upper Saddle River will present information to the Northwest Bergen mayors about the 2012 Sewer Authority Budget. Most of the update is good news.

Mr. Barra explained that the Sewer Authority can't do bond anticipation notes by law. When they do a bond they must put in a reserve for the bond in an escrow account. One particular bond has an escrow of \$901,000 that doesn't come due until the beginning of 2013. The Sewer Authority believed they could not use the bond reserve money until that time. However the money can actually be applied to their 2012 budget.

When they recalculated their budget using the \$901,000 reserve as revenue, it amounted to a 2% reduction in the overall budget. The sewer authority is working on what the financial obligation will be for all the municipalities that they serve. If Allendale stays at the same percentage of allocation in the coming year, our contribution will be 2% less than it was this year.

The Sewer Authority also presented their projections through 2016 including normal increases for capital purchases and healthcare and wages. They will have an enormous debt service reduction beginning in 2013. Due to this decrease in debt service amounts, for the years 2013-2016 they are projecting roughly a 2% decrease annually in the budget. Mayor Barra stated that the projection for the next few years looks good.

The Sewer Authority is also trying to include Franklin Lakes and the areas of Wyckoff that don't have sewers. Oakland is another possibility to join the authority. The utility operates at 60% capacity and they will never get to 80% even if all thirteen towns in Northwest Bergen County are serviced by them.

In response to a question from Mr. Strauch, Mr. Barra said the reason a portion of Upper Saddle River wasn't included in the Sewer Authority few years ago was because the cost was high and the number of users was low.

Mr. Strauch said in the past Allendale and Waldwick seem to have higher rates than other municipalities.

Mr. Barra said he has suggested to the Sewer Authority that they allow every member to have an I and I inspection of their lines and a sump pump survey of their lines. They put their detectors in the lines to see where water usage is created during off peak hours in the middle of the night. The Authority was receptive to Mayor Barra's suggestion of adding these programs.

Mr. Strauch said he is glad to hear the Sewer Authority's debt service is going down and that they are open to the other suggestions Mr. Barra has made.

Mr. Schoepflin said when a water survey was done in Allendale, they were told that sump pumps were a factor for our high costs. After a heavy storm a spike was clearly seen.

Mr. Strauch commented that many people in Allendale have more than one sump pump.

Respectfully submitted,

Gwen McCarthy  
Municipal Clerk