

STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF ALBANY

TOWN OF COLONIE

TOWN BOARD MEETING

THE STENOGRAPHIC MINUTES of the above
entitled matter by NANCY L. STRANG, a
Shorthand Reporter commencing at 7:10 PM on
July 23, 2020 at Memorial Town Hall, 534 New
Loudon Road, Latham, New York

BOARD MEMBERS:

- PAULA A. MAHAN, SUPERVISOR
- LINDA MURPHY, DEPUTY SUPERVISOR
- MELISSA JEFFERS VONDOLLEN
- DANIELLE FUTIA
- DAVID GREEN
- RICHARD FIELD
- JILL PENN

ALSO PRESENT:

- MICHAEL C. MAGGUILLI, ESQ., TOWN ATTORNEY
- JULIE GANSLE, TOWN CLERK
- JOHN FRAZER, SUPERINTENDENT, LATHAM WATER
- AMY MCCAIN

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1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: We are going to begin
2 this evening the presentation on our drinking
3 water system update. We have a new system and
4 a back-up system. We have gone over this at
5 different times over the last few years -
6 whether it was the State of the Town or the
7 Chronicle and our Superintendent, John
8 Frazer, is going to be doing the
9 presentation. He has provided that
10 information for both the State of the Town
11 and the Chronicle. Some of you may have
12 missed it.

13 Tonight I think will give you a really
14 clear picture of what the system is all about
15 - what the facts are relating to what's
16 actually part of this whole process including
17 what our back-up water system - the current
18 one that we have had for many. many years -
19 what it is, can it be used and those types of
20 things.

21 There were some things that maybe we can
22 help clear up because there is some
23 information out there about the quality of
24 water, whether we have enough water, we're
25 going to run out of water, we're going to need

1 to use the Stony Creek -- this is like the
2 sale of the landfill which the landfill was
3 never sold. Things like that where you may
4 hear some information. Sometimes it's just
5 rumors and sometimes it's just
6 misunderstandings.

7 John did a great job on this. It's really
8 easy to follow and understand. He's going to
9 do this brief presentation and then we will
10 have some time for questions.

11 With that, I will introduce our
12 Superintendent of the Water Department, John
13 Frazer.

14 MR. FRAZER: Thank you, Madam
15 Supervisor.

16 Good evening everyone. I know that we
17 have two projects specifically that the
18 Supervisor wanted me to talk about that are
19 linked, but as I usually like to do when I
20 have a group of people that I'm speaking to, I
21 love to talk about what we do at Latham Water
22 first. I want to give you a feel for what
23 Latham Water does and how the water gets to
24 where it gets when you open the faucet and the
25 water comes out.

1 There's a lot of people that are a part
2 of that process and there's a lot of
3 technology and there's a lot of physical plans
4 that are required to make sure that the water
5 gets to where it needs to get and that is to
6 your faucet at home.

7 The three sources that we use: The Latham
8 Water district - we use the Stony Creek
9 Reservoir that is still owned by the Town. We
10 haven't used it since 2004. We kept it solely
11 as a back-up source in the event of a problem
12 at the river. We also use the Mohawk River and
13 we have wells along the river for a total
14 capacity of 44 million gallons of water per
15 day. Thirty-eight and one-half of that comes
16 from the Mohawk River and the wells which are
17 our primary source of water to treat and
18 deliver to the residents of the Town. Those
19 three sources are combined at the Mohawk View
20 Water Treatment Plant and then the water is
21 distributed through 437 miles of pipeline.
22 That is pipeline that varies from six inches
23 in diameter to 36 inches in diameter. So, it's
24 a rather substantial facility for the delivery
25 of the water and we do that. You probably have

1 seen our most prominent piece of our water
2 system - the fire hydrants throughout the
3 Town. We have almost 4,100 fire hydrants
4 throughout the Town of Colonie.

5 A little bit about the water we treat the
6 water once we take it out of the river.

7 Relatively speaking, this is a pretty good
8 generalization of what we do. We have a low
9 lift pump station that draws water from the
10 river. We also have the five wells at the
11 Mohawk View Water Treatment Plant, as well
12 that deliver the water and it is combined
13 before we start adding chemicals to it.

14 So, we have chemicals like sulfuric acid,
15 we use alum, aluminum sulfate for coagulation,
16 we have something called poly aluminum
17 chlorate for treatment for coagulation, as
18 well.

19 Then, we have post chemicals that we use
20 including chlorine for making the water safe
21 to drink and disinfecting the water before it
22 leaves the water treatment plant and delivered
23 to your faucet.

24 We have a process called coagulation and
25 flocculation where we bring those waters

1 together along with their coagulants and make
2 what's called a flock. So, we mix that water
3 nice and slowly to get the water in contact
4 with the coagulant and then we have a process
5 called settling in the sedimentation basin
6 that allows that flock - now it's a little bit
7 bigger, so all those particles that you see in
8 the river -- and the river may be a little bit
9 darker today - a little bit more chocolaty
10 today, but we like that kind of stuff because
11 we add chemicals to it and then we get a
12 bigger piece of something that falls out of
13 the water in the sedimentation process. Then,
14 we apply the water to 10 filters. So, our
15 settling process includes three large basins
16 about 25 feet long and 70 feet wide and about
17 14 feet deep. So, it's a rather substantial
18 structure. There are three of those that
19 provide us with that 31.5 million gallons of
20 water a day. Then we apply the water to 10
21 filters at the water treatment plan.

22 On top of that is a granular activated
23 carbon which is our best treatment tool for
24 removing some of the stuff - organic carbon
25 that's in the water that comes out of the

1 river. We have 31 inches of that on 12 inches
2 of sand on top of a media support structure.
3 The water comes out over the filters and then
4 we add chlorine to the water and we add a pH
5 adjustment to bring the water up to a pH of
6 around eight before it leaves the water
7 treatment plant.

8 Then, we deliver it through two major
9 high lift pump stations. One is located at the
10 Mohawk View Water Treatment Plant. The second
11 is located out of River Road where you have
12 probably seen that building just before you go
13 into Niskayuna heading West and the three
14 clear wells that we have on that site as well
15 that hold the water before it's delivered to
16 pretty much the west end of Town. I'll get to
17 that in a little bit.

18 Then we have several water storage tanks
19 which you probably have seen throughout the
20 Town. We deliver it through those high lift
21 pumps to the storage tanks that are located in
22 the system. Then, you take it out through your
23 faucets during the day.

24 So, a little bit about the treatment
25 plant itself. We looked at it back in 2001. We

1 looked at the capacity that would be necessary
2 to deliver water to the Town of Colonie for a
3 rather substantial planning period. We looked
4 through the year 2025. We decided that we
5 would provide a real treatment capacity of 30
6 million gallons of water a day. To meet the
7 demands, we worked with the Capital District
8 Regional Planning Commission to get their
9 numbers for what we expected was going to be
10 the development of the Town of Colonie based
11 on those numbers in our own Planning
12 Department for what they saw as a potential
13 for development.

14 We came up with 30 million gallons of
15 water a day at the treatment plant. We have a
16 capacity to pump to the distribution system at
17 that site of 20 million gallons a day. That
18 pump station generally delivers water to this
19 side of Town through major pipelines along
20 this ridge back here (Indicating) all the way
21 down to Loudonville. Basically, up at the
22 Mohawk View Water Treatment Plant just east of
23 the Northway, or just west of the Northway and
24 the sewer treatment plant and along this ridge
25 back here - there is a storage tank back here

1 that generally delivers water to this side of
2 Town - the east side of Town.

3 Then, we have the River Road pump station
4 out on River Road that delivers water
5 generally to the west side of Town along the
6 ridge that runs along Denison Road down to
7 Watervliet Shaker Road near Vly. That pump
8 station has a capacity of 10 million gallons
9 of water a day.

10 So, I talked about the capacity that we
11 looked at and how close we are to those
12 projections. So, I put this slide together.

13 This top line reflects what we had
14 anticipated was going to be our maximum daily
15 demand. So, that one day every year that we
16 pump the most water we pump all year - that's
17 what this line represents (Indicating).
18 Beginning in 2001 - this was our planning
19 grid. This was historical at the time of our
20 max days leading up to 2001. Then, this line
21 is what we have actually seen as our maximum
22 day. I'm not finished yet, but there is a
23 number here of 22.2 MGD right here that we saw
24 back in June of this year. I didn't include it
25 because we're not done with 2020 yet.

1 Hopefully we are soon, right?

2 This is what we anticipate. You can see
3 that there is a significant difference between
4 the two lines. It means that we have plenty of
5 capacity to move forward in the future, as
6 well. I think this being the average day --
7 now we take all the water that we pump for the
8 year and divided by 365 days and this is what
9 we saw for that average day beginning in 2001
10 which was our planning period. Before that was
11 historical, the green line is the anticipated
12 average day demand. So, we expected it to
13 continue to increase through the planning
14 period of 2025. This is the actual average day
15 we have seen (Indicating).

16 Again, we have additional capacity left
17 in the water treatment plant to meet future
18 demands well past 2025, probably. Anecdotally,
19 we've lost some manufacturing. Pepsi doesn't
20 use as much water as they use to in
21 manufacturing their products. So, some of that
22 together with more efficient residential
23 facilities, toilets, urinals and commercial
24 buildings, toilets at home - everything being
25 a little more efficient than we even

1 anticipated back in 2001 has led to some
2 additional capacity being left at the
3 treatment plan well past 2025.

4 So, where does all that water go? Here's
5 the boundary of the Town of Colonie; the
6 Mohawk River to the north; there is Cohoes,
7 Watervliet, Menands and the Village of
8 Colonie. All the blue areas are the area
9 served by the Latham Water District and you
10 will notice not the entire Town. The water
11 district is really an administrative boundary.
12 It does not include the entire Town, but it
13 does include all the areas in blue. There is
14 no specific boundary for the district as far
15 as physical. You won't find a stake in the
16 ground and you won't find an iron rod in the
17 ground that delineates this blue line. It is a
18 real boundary established by the Board. Every
19 year the water district is extended. The
20 original district was established in 1929 and
21 has been extended 168 times since that time.

22 So, this is what it looks like today -
23 areas in the west end, Pine Bush -- there is a
24 lot of Pine Bush out there, the Delphus Kill
25 area and then the villages are white. We do

1 provide water to the Village of Colonie. They
2 maintain their own water system within the
3 boundaries of the Village of Colonie. So,
4 that's a little bit about the Latham Water
5 District.

6 A little bit about those two projects
7 that are inextricably linked and that is the
8 Stony Creek Reservoir being one and our
9 emergency interconnect project with the City
10 of Albany.

11 I thought this is pretty cool. This is an
12 article from April 27, 1952 about the
13 construction of the reservoir and how Colonie
14 was mushrooming even back then. So, the
15 reservoir was built in about 1953. So, it was
16 complete in '52 and filled generally in about
17 1953.

18 With the reservoir come some significant
19 responsibilities. Back in 2002, for example,
20 we did have a failure of the spillway. Both
21 walls are about 8 feet high. So, that gives
22 you an idea. That's about eight or 10 foot
23 deep hole in the spillway. That's supposed to
24 be a smooth concrete surface from the dam
25 which is located here (Indicating) down the

1 spillway. Unfortunately, over decades of
2 failure of joints between the concrete panels,
3 the soil underneath the panels was undermined
4 and we had a failure of the spillway. So,
5 there are obligations with the reservoir that
6 we have to manage.

7 So, some of the things that we are
8 responsible for as owners of the reservoir:
9 The first and foremost - our largest expense
10 are property and school taxes to the Town of
11 Clifton Park; the Shenandoah School District,
12 the Town of Niskayuna, the Niskayuna School
13 District. We also have repairs that we have
14 done over time and there's a debt service that
15 goes along with borrowing money for those
16 repairs.

17 We talked about the spillway and that was
18 the only million-dollar project back in 2002
19 to repair. We also had to repair an outlet
20 bridge, an outlet structure and the outlet
21 structure bridge. We also have annual
22 inspections of the dam that we do. We have an
23 engineering consultant that comes in and
24 inspects the dam, the structure, the
25 groundwater conditions around the dam and the

1 spillway.

2 We have general maintenance work. You
3 wouldn't believe what it takes to mow that
4 facility. It's a 40 foot high dam on one side
5 and actually the downstream side is probably
6 about 50 feet high. It's about that steep. We
7 have to mow that. So, we have staff that mows
8 that at least twice a year and it's 1,100 feet
9 long so it's a rather substantial mowing job.
10 It's not something I would want to do by
11 myself. It's a rather substantial job.

12 We also have little things like filling
13 in animal borough holes because borough holes
14 in the dam is not a good thing because that
15 could be a place where water from the wet side
16 of the dam can pass through to the the dry
17 side of the dam and we don't want that because
18 usually it takes the dam with it. So, we need
19 to avoid that kind of stuff. It results in an
20 annual expense of about \$218,000 a year to the
21 water district.

22 So, the project that we started a few
23 years ago that ultimately makes the Stony
24 Creek Reservoir obsolete is the
25 interconnection project with the City of

1 Albany.

2 So, back in 2017 the Town Board approved
3 the Supervisor to execute a contract with the
4 city. The contract addresses the splitting of
5 all the costs. It addresses the building,
6 invoicing and payment of any use of the water
7 through either one of the connections. So,
8 it's very well defined, should either
9 municipality have an emergency. The Town Board
10 granted a final approval for the project back
11 in 2018. There were several connections
12 analyzed by our engineering consultant. Two
13 were the most cost-efficient providing the
14 most bang for the buck, if you will, but the
15 most gallons of water per day for the cost
16 associated with the installation of each
17 option.

18 Here again is a map of the Town - the
19 lower half of the Town. Here is the airport,
20 kind of like a divider. Then, the two
21 connections are located here at the Albany
22 City Reservoir on Albany Shaker Road
23 (Indicating). We have a major facility and
24 pipeline just north of that so it made sense
25 from a planning standpoint that it would be a

1 good opportunity for a connection to the City
2 of Albany. So, we have 24-inch water main that
3 runs all the way down to here and they have
4 taken it a little bit further down to fill
5 their reservoirs in an emergency.

6 The other connection is out here on New
7 Karner Road out by DFW Drive along New Karner
8 past the Discovery Center to a 20-inch water
9 main that the City of Albany owned just north
10 of the Thruway. So, we connect to that. The
11 total project cost - the total financing for
12 the project is \$3.2 million. However, we were
13 able to get a 60% grant from the state and
14 then we are splitting the balance with the
15 City of Albany. The project is not quite
16 complete, although the mains are in service.
17 The project still has some restoration issues
18 and some final change orders and the like,
19 that we are in the process of negotiating
20 right now with the contractor. The mains are
21 are actually in the ground and ready to
22 operate. They are not operating today, but
23 they are ready to operate.

24 So, the Loudonville connection - the
25 larger of the two - 1,000 feet of 24-inch pipe

1 with the capacity to deliver water to the Town
2 of Colonie of 10 million gallons of water a
3 day.

4 Remember that I talked about our average
5 daily flow being below -- I may not have said
6 it but our average daily flow has historically
7 been around 10 million gallons of water a day.
8 This connection by itself is capable of
9 delivering 10 million gallons to the Town.
10 However, that water has to be pumped from the
11 Albany City Reservoir into our system because
12 we are at a higher ground level than the City
13 of Albany is. So, we have to pump the water up
14 to all the storage tanks like the one behind
15 us, here.

16 The total cost of this project was \$1.96
17 million by itself as I said, it is in service
18 and it's already been used a couple of times
19 by the City of Albany. So, we billed the City
20 of Albany for the water used in accordance
21 with the agreement that I talked about earlier
22 in my presentation. It has been successful.

23 The second and less significant, but
24 probably none the less important is our New
25 Karner Road connection which is 3,500 feet of

1 16 inch diameter pipe with a capacity of about
2 2.4 million gallons of water a day. Between
3 the two, we can meet any average day at 12.4
4 million gallons of water per day from those
5 two connections from the City of Albany, in
6 the event that we do have a problem with the
7 treatment plant - one of our major pump
8 stations or in the river. This cost was about
9 \$1.2 million. Again, the status of this
10 pipeline is that it is in service.

11 For that connection, the City of Albany
12 has already purchased the pump that I talked
13 about for the Loudon Road connection down here
14 that we had to pump up to us (Indicating). The
15 City of Albany can take that by gravity
16 because they are lower than us. They have
17 already purchased a pump for that connection
18 out on New Karner Road. So, we are capable of
19 moving that water right now, if we had to.

20 I talked about the project not quite
21 being done. We have a want to purchase our own
22 5 million gallon per day pump to get us up and
23 running very quickly and we are working with
24 the state to make that part of the project
25 right now so we have that in inventory. Should

1 an emergency arise, we could get that pump out
2 there in a moment's notice. We don't have that
3 yet, but we are working to try to get that.
4 Other than that, we would have to rent a pump
5 or two pumps to deliver the water to us. That
6 does take time. So, we are trying to minimize
7 that timeframe of being down the purchase of a
8 new 5 million gallon per day pump.

9 For additional information if you have
10 any questions, you can look at our Annual
11 Water Quality Report. Here is the address.
12 That's on our website. We issue it by March
13 31st of every year. It gives you an idea of
14 water quality. There's a whole table on water
15 quality and our detected contaminants, but it
16 also gives you an idea what projects we're
17 going to be doing this year or in future years
18 and what we just completed. So, you could
19 certainly visit that for some additional
20 information. You can also telephone me at the
21 number here (Indicating). You can also email
22 me at this address, if you like.

23 That brings me to the end of my
24 presentation. Thank you. If there's any
25 questions, please go ahead and ask.

1 MR. FIELD: Your explanation there is
2 amazing and thorough and it's beyond
3 comprehension, but when you actually go to
4 the facility and see for yourself and walk
5 that thing, you can't believe what you
6 looking at. As a result and since I did that,
7 I do not run the water when I brush my teeth
8 anymore. The water quality - the water
9 itself -- you don't want to be wasting any
10 water based on looking at this facility.

11 MR. FRAZER: That's okay. If you want to
12 let the water run, we have plenty of capacity
13 at the treatment plant.

14 MS. PENN: Mr. Frazer, I do appreciate
15 you clarifying what we would do in an
16 emergency situation. I know as you and I had
17 spoken. I had a question from a person in the
18 community of what would we do if we needed a
19 back-up. I think certainly now as we have
20 this emergency situation, we are a little
21 more in tune to what we would do if
22 necessary. I appreciate that not only do we
23 have a plan, but one that's going to be able
24 to support our community in their needs
25 without us probably even knowing that

1 something had taken place. So, thank you.

2 MS. STERNSTEIN: Thank you for
3 explaining all of that. I just had a
4 question. Where does Albany get their water?
5 I know we get ours from the Mohawk, but where
6 does Albany get theirs from?

7 MR. FRAZER: The City of Albany gets
8 their water from the Alcove Reservoir. So,
9 that is an upland supply. So, it is away from
10 the river. It is not river water. So, they
11 have the Alcove and they have the basic creek
12 reservoir.

13 MS. STERNSTEIN: I have one more
14 question. Just in terms of future planning I
15 think that even though today was not a very
16 fine example of it -- well, in a way it was.
17 We are getting some very intense rain.

18 Are you doing any type of climate related
19 planning for what's going to happen if the
20 Mohawk started dropping quickly? How do you
21 plan for the future like in 10 or 15 years?
22 You don't have to answer this right now and I
23 get it, but I was just wondering because if
24 the climate is going the way that it is --
25 what type of planning is taking place moving

1 forward?

2 MR. FRAZER: I would tell you that the
3 climate change and the intensity of storms
4 has certainly changed. I talked about how we
5 would like to have stuff in the water so that
6 we can treat it more easily and we are kind
7 of mixed on that. Do we want it to rain like
8 this, or do we want it to be dry like it was?
9 From a planning standpoint, I think what
10 we're doing is we are taking the information
11 that we are learning from our current
12 situation and we are considering what we have
13 learned from a treatment perspective and
14 we're going to carry that forward.

15 With regard to capacity, even back in the
16 60's - 63 or 64 - I wasn't old enough to
17 remember, but we did have a drought. So, even
18 at that point in time, the river did not drop
19 substantially enough where there was a
20 problem. That's why Latham Water developed the
21 source along the Mohawk River. Even during
22 that drought, there was still sufficient water
23 in the river.

24 The other thing is we are on the
25 backwater of the dam. So, we are essentially

1 in the pool leading up to the dam at Cohoes.
2 So, the water level, although it does change
3 through the years as the canal opens and
4 closes, we always have that pool. Even back in
5 the 60's we had that pool. So, we believe
6 there is enough capacity in the river to carry
7 us even through the most dry times such as
8 what we experienced in the early 1960's.

9 MS. STERNSTEIN: Thank you. And a very
10 minor point: can you replace the grass where
11 you fill in the holes?

12 MR. FRAZER: We want to be able to
13 inspect the ground so we need something that
14 we can keep short so that we can see it. We
15 need to see what's underneath to make sure
16 the animals aren't digging in. It sounds
17 simple, but it's a very important -

18 MS. STERNSTEIN: I'm just concerned
19 about the mowers -

20 MR. FRAZER: I visited the reservoir
21 yesterday with three Town Board Members and I
22 think they each had that concern, as well.

23 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I think just as far
24 as capacity, too, we have talked about the
25 pre-planning that was done in the early

1 2000's that went to 2025. Obviously, we know
2 we are below the levels and that we haven't
3 been using as much as what was anticipated.
4 John has a timeline as to - there would be an
5 appropriate time and there has been planning
6 as to if there needs to be an expansion or
7 anything like that. That's the timeline that
8 his department monitors, as well. It's not
9 like it goes to that time and then what do we
10 do? That's in the planning, as well.

11 I know that a lot of the questions and
12 comments and things that were out there had to
13 do with our original back-up system which is
14 the Stony Creek. The comment is that we are
15 going to need it, we need it, what's going to
16 happen and things like that. The reality is
17 this system which will bring us far into the
18 future and far more efficiently than what we
19 now have and we don't need the Stony Creek
20 reservoir. We would have never broached the
21 Stony Creek Reservoir if we didn't have a
22 system that was sufficient. That is something
23 that I'm sure some people have some questions
24 on.

25 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: This was a long time

1 in the planning and I just want to commend
2 you, John, because you put a lot of time and
3 work into this and the planning of this and
4 it took a lot of coordination and a
5 partnership with the City of Albany and also
6 the ability to get the grant which was really
7 pretty good for us because we don't always
8 have that opportunity.

9 I think something else that is out there
10 just to clarify - we don't give water away to
11 the City of Albany and they don't give water
12 away to us. As John said, if they use our
13 water, they are billed. If we use theirs, we
14 are billed. It's a partnership. I just wanted
15 to bring those things up.

16 MR. GREEN: John, I have a question.
17 What leads to some of the water restrictions
18 that we have had? It sounds like we have
19 plenty of capacity and plenty of resources to
20 draw from. Why then are we seeing the
21 restrictions?

22 MR. FRAZIER: Councilman, I would love
23 to talk about that. This year is different.
24 We haven't issued restrictions since 2004.
25 That was because in 2005 we completed the

1 upgrade of the water treatment plant, giving
2 us that 30 million gallons a day of capacity.
3 However, this year because of Covid, we are
4 unable to do some specific and maintenance at
5 the plant that we typically do twice a year.

6 I talked about our sedimentation process.
7 Twice a year we get in those 14 feet deep, 25
8 feet long, 75 feet wide structures and
9 somebody actually physically washes them out
10 with a fire hose until we have all the
11 material left over and then we have to wash
12 all of our filters because we change the
13 coagulant.

14 I talked about alum and poly aluminum
15 chloride. So, we use poly aluminum chloride in
16 the winter because that's a better cold water
17 coagulant and we use alum in the summer. But,
18 you can't just go from one to the other in a
19 moment. You have to clean all the facilities
20 within the treatment plant because those two
21 chemicals don't react well with each other -
22 not unsafely, but the treatment process is
23 fouled up if you don't clean out one before
24 you move to the next. So, those sedimentation
25 basins - there are three of those, as I said.

1 We were shut down through June 1st. We
2 normally make that changeover in April and by
3 the time we got back in June from the shutdown
4 conditions that we were in, it was already too
5 hot for us to take down one third of our
6 treatment process by having to clean one of
7 those basins. So, we have had to live on that
8 cold weather coagulant through the warm
9 weather months so far and we've had to be very
10 vigilant in the higher the flows get - so the
11 greater the demand out there and the more we
12 have to pump in, that creates a treatment
13 problem for us. It starts washing all that
14 stuff that we didn't get off the bottom of
15 those basins in April - starts washing it
16 through the treatment process. So, we struggle
17 to treat it -- one of those things that we
18 like to make that fall out of the water and
19 sedimentation process don't fall out as
20 easily. Poly aluminum chloride doesn't help us
21 any better to do it in the summer - certainly
22 not that alum does. That was one of the
23 reasons.

24 We also saw for the first time in our
25 history, three consecutive days where we

1 pumped over 20 million gallons of water a day.
2 Two of those days we pumped over 22 million
3 gallons of water a day. We have never done
4 that before. We didn't know - there are always
5 thunderstorms in the forecast. June only had a
6 little over 1/2 inch of rain through the 23rd
7 of June. So, we were dry. The previous 11 days
8 prior to the 23rd, it didn't rain at all. So,
9 we were very dry. We didn't know how long that
10 process was going to go.

11 So, we decided to issue the restrictions
12 so we could get through the use of the poly
13 aluminum chloride and I talked about the 31
14 inches of granular activated carbon on top of
15 our 10 filters. We changed out three of those
16 every year. To do that, we take down 10% or
17 20% of our capacity - treatment capacity. We
18 couldn't do that again this year because the
19 flows were so high already by the time we got
20 back from Covid. So, Covid played some havoc
21 with us substantially. We are being diligent
22 on our water quality with our cold water
23 coagulant, but all those things came together
24 to create the need to issue water restrictions
25 this year.

1 MR. GREESON: Someone on the Board said
2 that we would never have a water deficiency
3 issue -- how much would it cost say \$50
4 million dollars - to purchase the water from
5 Albany? Water is life.

6 We are underwater restrictions still,
7 right?

8 MR. FRAZIER: We are.

9 MR. GREESON: So, if the river is not
10 working for us and if we have an emergency
11 supply system at our disposal - in 1962 there
12 was a lot less population but how much is it
13 going to cost us to buy say, less than a
14 month's worth of water from Albany?

15 MR. FRAZIER: Couple things. First, the
16 river isn't what's causing us a problem,
17 it's our treatment process delayed by Covid
18 that's causing is the problem. That's the
19 reason for the restrictions. The river is
20 fine, right now.

21 MR. GREESON: Where were the essential
22 workers? Water is life.

23 MR. FRAZER: They were essential
24 workers.

25 MR. GREESON: So, why was it delayed?

1 MR. FRAZER: The way the Town chose to
2 fall back through Covid, was we split the
3 treatment plant staff up into one week and
4 half the staff next week.

5 MR. GREESON: So, the Board is to blame
6 for that.

7 MR. FRAZER: Well, there is no blame.
8 Back in March when Covid came up, everyone
9 was nervous. Perhaps we have learned a little
10 bit more now than we knew four months ago.
11 The decision was made to cut the plant staff
12 at half; half working one week and half
13 working the next week.

14 As far as the cost of water to the city,
15 it would probably be in the mid 50,000 -
16 60,000.

17 MR. GREESON: Per day?

18 MR. FRAZER: No. It depends on the time
19 of year. If it's 50 million gallons, at this
20 time of year it's 2 1/2 days. in winter,
21 that's four or five days. So, it depends.

22 MR. GREESON: Over a month?

23 MR. FRAZER: It could be substantial.

24 MR. GREESON: So, it probably would be
25 wise to hang onto our emergency supply.

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Ned, as far as the
2 Board making the decision that we made, we
3 made the decision based on a lot of the
4 different Executive Orders that were given
5 and the precautions that we were given and
6 the fact is at that point in time, nobody
7 really knew what they were dealing with. The
8 goal was to reduce the density of people and
9 locations and to try to not have contact with
10 100% of the people because if we did that and
11 just went on with daily work like we normally
12 do and everybody is there, if somebody gets
13 it and then spreads it to the entire staff or
14 the majority of the staff, we could be well
15 below having 50% of the people that could
16 work and we may have to have quarantines for
17 certain amount of time or whatever. So, it's
18 really for the safety of the workers and for
19 the safety we're trying to keep the staff
20 that we can provide the services that we need
21 to provide. So, no one was trying to do
22 anything to hurt anybody. We're trying to do
23 what we did to keep people safe and to follow
24 some of the guidance from CDC that we
25 received and there was a tremendous amount of

1 work that went into that. It's easy to say
2 keep everybody working, but the reality is if
3 it spreads through everybody, then there is
4 nobody out there to do anything. We made the
5 best decision that we could with the
6 information that we were given and the
7 circumstances that we were given at the time.
8 That may not be the rationale that you want
9 to hear, but that's why we did it.

10 MR. GREESON: We also need water to wash
11 our hands.

12 MR. FRAZER: That's correct and we made
13 sure you did. We make sure that you had it.

14 The other thing is the emergency may not
15 be in the river. The emergency could be at one
16 of our pump stations, it could be at the water
17 treatment plant.

18 MR. GREESON: A main could break.

19 MR. FRAZER: We have those all the time.
20 But yes, it could be a large main - sure. So,
21 in that event if we could move the water away
22 from the treatment plant at a significant
23 enough rate, we could go to the two far ends
24 of the system - one at New Karner and one at
25 Loudonville and open those connections and

1 get water to part of the Town, at least. So,
2 we meet some of the demand with our treatment
3 plant and then we open the connections and
4 bring water in from the City of Albany to
5 meet the balance of the demand.

6 MR. GREESON: They had a break in one of
7 their mains and it swallowed up a car down
8 there -

9 MR. FRAZER: They came to us. We were
10 supplying them water.

11 MR. GREESON: But if we need it, they
12 are going to take it first.

13 MR. FRAZER: They will. That was one of
14 the points and a good question to ask where
15 Albany gets theirs - the Alcove. So, it's not
16 related to the river - whether hydraulically,
17 physically or any other way. If there is a
18 problem in the river, the Alcove should still
19 be okay and vice a versa.

20 When we had Irene, we had trouble
21 treating all that water. There was so much
22 silt from the Schoharie Creek watershed that
23 we couldn't treat it. We were struggling to
24 treat what we had.

25 In an event of something like that, we

1 could bring water into Albany and they
2 wouldn't have that problem at the Alcove.

3 MR. GREESON: The multiple ambulances
4 and fire houses need to have a water supply
5 available and it costs something to maintain
6 it -

7 MR. FRAZER: The good thing about the
8 connections with Albany is they are
9 relatively low maintenance until they're
10 necessary. Until then, we have to pump water.
11 Other than that, it's a pipeline in the
12 ground. It's pretty low maintenance,
13 relatively speaking, to the reservoir for
14 example.

15 MR. GREESON: I know the Town doesn't
16 have a lot of lead in the water mains, but a
17 lot of people have copper plumbing. What is
18 our rate of acidity like in Michigan where
19 they're releasing lead into the water and
20 poisoning -

21 MR. FRAZER: I would love to stand here
22 and answer these questions. That is a great
23 question.

24 We are on reduced monitoring so every
25 three years we do a sampling event through the

1 Town to make sure that we at the treatment
2 plan are doing the proper treatment so that
3 our water is not aggressive in leeching out
4 the lead and whether it's your faucet -- we
5 have a few lead service lines. So, we make
6 sure that the water is not leeching -- it's
7 not aggressive enough so that it leaches the
8 lead out of the pipeline. We have very few
9 services. We do it every three years and we
10 are well below the action level for lead -
11 every three years. You will see that in every
12 third year - the Annual Water Quality Report
13 because we detect the lead and the copper. We
14 are the ones that have to do the job to make
15 sure that the lead is not leached out of your
16 bronze faucet at home. So far, we've been
17 pretty good at that.

18 MR. GREESON: You guys work very hard.

19 MR. FRAZER: Thank you. It takes a lot
20 of people to deliver the water to your homes.

21 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Thank you, John.

22 When we do the public hearings where you
23 have comments to make, if you could please
24 come up to the mic and state your name.

25 MS. GANSLE: Personnel?

1 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Yes, personnel.

2 MS. GANSLE: We have a Resolution
3 permanently appointing Helen Welch to the
4 position of Public Safety Dispatcher in the
5 Police Department.

6 MR. GREEN: So moved.

7 MS. JEFFERS VONDOLLEN: Second.

8 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Supervisor votes aye.
9 Clerk, call the roll.

10 (The roll was called.)

11 MS. GANSLE: The ayes have it, Madam
12 Supervisor.

13 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The Resolution is
14 adopted.

15 Helen, are you here? Congratulations.

16 MS. GANSLE: We have a Resolution
17 appointing Gregory P. Holt to the position of
18 Public Safety Dispatcher in the Police
19 Department.

20 MR. GREEN: So moved.

21 MS. JEFFERS VONDOLLEN: Second.

22 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Supervisor votes aye.
23 Clerk, call the roll.

24 (The roll was called.)

25 MS. GANSLE: The ayes have it, Madam

1 Supervisor.

2 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The Resolution is
3 adopted.

4 Congratulations, Greg.

5 MS. GANSLE: We have a Resolution
6 permanently promoting Matthew J. Merolle to
7 the position of Building Maintenance
8 Technician in the DPW/Facilities Maintenance
9 Department.

10 MS. MURPHY: So moved.

11 MR. GREEN: Second.

12 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Supervisor votes aye.
13 Clerk, call the roll.

14 (The roll was called.)

15 MS. GANSLE: The ayes have it, Madam
16 Supervisor.

17 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Congratulations,
18 Matt.

19 (Whereas the above entitled proceeding
20 was adjourned to address the public hearings
21 of the evening and recommenced immediately
22 after.)

23 Does anybody have any public comment?

24 (There was no response.)

25 MR. MAGGUILLI: I move that we do

1 Resolutions 281 through 303 with one vote,
2 which we are allowed to do.

3 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: I'm okay as long as
4 everybody understands them.

5 MR. GREEN: I will make a motion to vote
6 on Resolutions 281 through 302 as one group -
7 actually 303. So, 281 through 303.

8 MS. MURPHY: Second.

9 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: Supervisor votes aye.
10 Clerk, call the roll.

11 (The roll was called.)

12 MS. GANSLE: The ayes have it, Madam
13 Supervisor.

14 SUPERVISOR MAHAN: The Resolutions are
15 adopted.

16 MR. MAGGUILLI: That was for the group.

17 MS. JEFFERS VONDOLLEN: Do we make a
18 motion to approve?

19 MR. MAGGUILLI: Do we have a motion to
20 vote Resolutions 281 through 303, inclusive.
21 All those in favor of passing those
22 Resolutions?

23 (Ayes were recited.)

24 MS. GANSLE: Any opposed?

25 (There were none opposed.)

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The motion carries.
(Whereas the above entitled proceeding
was concluded at 9:17 PM)

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CERTIFICATION

I, NANCY L. STRANG, Shorthand Reporter
and Notary Public in and for the State of New
York, hereby CERTIFIES that the record taken
by me at the time and place noted in the
heading hereof is a true and accurate
transcript of same, to the best of my ability
and belief.

Date: _____

Nancy L. Strang
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