**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**JANUARY 21, 2020**

**TOWN COUNCIL:** Joanne Bacon President

 Greg Welch Vice President

 Pam Davis Councilman

 Edward (Skip) Ash Councilman

 James Sample Councilman

 John Wright Councilman (no voting privilege)

**TOWN EMPLOYEES**: Cheryl Lynch Town Clerk

**OTHERS:** Albert Oliver Sandra Hall

 Janet Hall Elma Gray

 George Beckett Martin Hall

 Kenneth Edna Solomon

 Michael Dugdale Valerie Dugdale

 Robert Murray Kathy Murray

 Sheryl Lewis Bill Townsend

 Maria Townsend Bill Manzke

 Michael John Thaeder

 Ken Branner Dave Specht

 Priscilla Schoolfield Jean Holloway

 Robbie Murray Kyle Quillen

 Henry Bennett James Bennett

 Frank Dawedeit Luz del Carmen Bautista

 Charles Hudson Pastor Griffin

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:**

Joanne called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

**MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA WITH ANY ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS:**

Greg made the motion to approve the agenda and was seconded by Skip

Motion was unanimous

Joanne noted the purpose of the meeting is to discuss the Request for Proposal

And possible sale of the water plant

Joanne noted this would be a question and answer session.

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Joanne introduced the three representatives from Artesian.

Greg noted the town has tried to improve the water plant for awhile but the water plant

has been having issue after issue.

Greg noted Artesian was the one company that submitted a proposal to buy the towns

water system.

Greg noted Artesian has offered to the town a proposal in the amount of 3.6 million.

Greg noted he showed the towns water invoiced based on 5,000 gallons of water

and showed an invoice with someone who is an out of town user.

Greg noted if the town sold the water plant to Artesian the current towns water rate

would stay the same for one year.

Greg noted the current towns water rates just keep the towns water department

in the black with no profit.

Greg noted to the attendees the towns, Artesian and Jean Holloway’s water rates.

Greg noted the town would need to increase the water rates in order to make the

Improvements in the water plant, maintenance on the water tower and to add

digital water meters.

Greg noted the water invoices with Artesian will be monthly.

Michael Dugdale asked if the town kept the water plant would they be replacing

the water mains in town.

Greg noted the town would need the funding and rate increases to pay for the upgrades.

John noted Artesian has earmarked in the proposals to replace some of the mains.

Dave noted from Artesian noted they had been in business for 115 years and have

83,000 plus customers across the State of Delaware.

John noted Artesian is installing a well in the Town of Dagsboro on Armory Road.

Dave noted if the town sold to Artesian the water rates would decrease in about a

year or two once their system comes online in Dagsboro.

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Dave noted you can view and pay your invoice online, 24/7 service

and talk to a representative.

Charles Hudson noted what is the household rate.

Dave noted the household rate is $7.41.

Jimmy Bennett noted will Artesian keep the water tower?

John noted as of now we will keep the water tower unless we find

we don’t need the tower in the future.

Jimmy Bennett noted what is the impact fee for a new hookup to Artesian.

Dave noted the fee would be $1,500.00 for a ¾ inch service plus the meter.

Kathy Murray noted to the council she is hoping the debt the town has would be forgiven

and what is your vision for the potential funds received if you decide to sell the water plant

to Artesian.

Joanne noted council would like to improve the towns appearance

Greg noted if the town didn’t invest the funds, they could take a draw for thirty

Years in the amount of $105,000.00. If the town invested the funds for three percent

the town could take a draw in the amount of $94,000.00 per year.

Ronald Hall wanted to know if each of the council members had an idea on how they

 feel about the sale of the water plant.

Ken Branner noted Artesian would need an answer from the Council by February 3, 2020

at the Council meeting.

Robert Murray noted Dagsboro will be purchasing their water from Artesian in bulk

would that be something the Town of Frankford would consider?

Greg noted wouldn’t resolve the maintenance issue at the water plant.

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**Adjourn:**

Greg made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Jimmy at 7:23pm

Motion was unanimous

**RESPECTFULLY**

**Cheryl A Lynch**

**Town Clerk**

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