

(The following is not a verbatim transcript of comments or discussion that occurred during the meeting, but rather a summarization intended for general informational purposes. All motions and votes are the official records).

FLOOD COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Flood Committee was held on Monday, November 14, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Cranston, Rhode Island.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 6:50 P.M. by the Council President.

Present: Councilman Richard D. Santamaria, Jr., Chair (appeared at 6:55 p.m.)
Brian Dupont
Richard Martin

Absent: Councilwoman Leslie A. Luciano
Councilman Emilio L. Navarro
Senator Beatrice Lanzi
Representative Robert Jacquard
Michael Behm
Amy Sinyei

Also Present: Council President Anthony J. Lupino
Gerald Cordy, Director of Administration
Peter LaPolla, City Planner
Rosalba Zanni, Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees

The meeting was not an official meeting, due to lack of quorum, but it was held for informational purposes in order for Mr. Vallee of the National Weather Service to give a presentation.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

On motion by Mr. Dupont, seconded by Mr. Martin, it was voted to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and they stand approved as recorded. Motion passed unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

PUBLIC HEARING/NEW BUSINESS:

- **Presentation by Dave Vallee of National Weather Service**

Dave Vallee appeared to speak and gave a presentation and presented handouts.

Public Speakers:

Maureen Casey, 87 Perkins Ave., appeared to speak and stated that the dams in the State are not being looked at by the State. The residents are doing what they can, but the City of Cranston and the State is not being proactive enough to look at these dams.

Matt Papino, 117 Fordson Ave., appeared to speak and questioned if there is a way to get the flood gage at the Pocasset River.

Mr. Martin stated that flood insurance is not an option and retreating is not an option. He questioned if there is a viable solution for the people along the Pocasset and Pawtuxet. A buyout would be a better solution and make the property a recreational site or Open Space.

Council Vice-President Pelletier stated that it is critical to understand that groundwater saturation from developments is a potential hazard for flooding. The City needs to look at other uses besides development in potentially flood zones.

Chair asked if Mr. Vallee could email his presentation in a PDF file to Mr. Dupont and he will forward it to the members of this Committee and the residents.

Chair stated that there were questions asked at the last meeting and asked the Administration or Mr. LaPolla to address them:

- Residents of Perkins Ave. asked why they were given 24-hour notice to file paperwork for the buyout.

Mr. LaPolla stated that the City was working against a timeframe in order to get the grant moving.

- Homes approved for the buyout, how would the owners find out if they were approved or how would they be contacted.

Mr. Cordy stated that there are no homes approved. This is what the City is working to try to accomplish. 36 homes met the deadline to apply.

Bob Nero, President of Pawtuxet River Authority, appeared to speak and stated that on August 16, 2011, the Pawtuxet River Authority successfully began to demolish the dam at Pawtuxet Falls. This project took approximately ten years and cost approximately \$1 million. They will be clearing debris from trees from the last rainstorm along the river and will be in Cranston in approximately three weeks. Mr. Dupont asked where the funds came from for this project. Mr. Nero stated, federal government.

Chair announced that the next meeting will be held on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 6:30 P.M.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalba Zanni
Assistant City Clerk/Clerk of Committees