

**COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
CITY OF WATERTOWN  
August 10, 2009  
6:15 P.M.**

**MAYOR JEFFREY E. GRAHAM PRESIDING**

**PRESENT: COUNCIL MEMBER ROXANNE M. BURNS  
COUNCIL MEMBER JOSEPH M. BUTLER, JR.  
COUNCIL MEMBER JEFFREY M. SMITH  
MAYOR GRAHAM**

**ALSO PRESENT: CITY MANAGER MARY M. CORRIVEAU**

**Jefferson County Historical Society Tour**

Mr. William Wood, Executive Director of the Society, welcomed the Council and conducted a tour of the Society's buildings and grounds which included the Victorian Gardens and the Pink School House as well as the barn which houses the Babcock automobile and other historical artifacts.

**DANC**

Council met with Executive Director James W. Wright, DANC Board Chair Thomas H. Hefferon and City Representative to the Board, John B. Johnson Jr.

Mr. Hefferon assured Council that DANC would support the Council any way that they could and they were here this evening to answer questions posed by Council members.

Mayor Graham commented that he has the impression that the previous housing deficiency has been pretty well met.

Mr. Hefferon responded that he believed that also.

Mr. Wright commented that there has been a substantial lull in terms of demand due to the accompaniment rate. Less family members are accompanying the soldiers due to the deployment times. This has an effect on the housing market. Mr. Wright explained that DANC is working with the military to identify the rate. He also explained that the Creek Wood project is driven by tax credits and there is a soft market to sell tax credits right now.

Mr. Johnson advised that at no time has the entire division been here since the first estimates were done. That would affect the accompaniment rate.

Council Member Butler asked about the DANC housing studies.

Mr. Wright explained that it was done on a regular basis.

Council Member Butler asked if the private sector activity was taken into account.

Mr. Wright stated that it was.

Council Member Smith asked where they saw DANC's role moving forward.

Mr. Wright responded that DANC's principle priority is to meet the needs of the region as currently defined. He remarked that there is an ongoing obligation to meet the solid waste needs of the region and included in that is the call for a greater reduction in waste and more recycling. To that end, meetings have been held with administrative staff and private haulers. He also advised that there are several projects being pursued in terms of stimulus funds. Also, DANC is serving and expanding the service of water and wastewater in various communities. He explained that by grouping 3 or 4 towns together, DANC can incur the costs of the licenses. He commented that DANC has a greater focus on sustainability. He also advised that DANC waits to be contacted by a municipality. DANC does not solicit the municipality.

Council Member Smith asked about the methane production that was discussed at last year's meeting.

Mr. Wright advised that the plant is using three 1.6 megawatt generators. The electricity is currently going into the grid. He explained that the greenhouse operation hasn't moved forward due to how the economy has effected the developer's financing. Mr. Wright explained that they had looked at wind energy application at the landfill, but there is not enough to be successful. Solar panels are being looked at for the pump station.

Mayor Graham commented that alternative energy is highly subsidized.

Mr. Wright commented that most alternative energy is more expensive. The government has subsidized it under the theory that it would become more competitive if more were built.

Mr. Johnson remarked that DANC represents everyone in Northern New York. DANC is trying to keep the cost of trash disposal low. The tipping fee has gone from \$67 down to \$39.

Council Member Burns remarked that Council does appreciate the fact that the fee has been kept at an acceptable level. She also commented that she thinks DANC will do whatever is in the best interest of the people of the north country.

Mr. Wright responded that they have successfully concluded the sewer contact with the City and even though the leachate agreement wasn't due to expire; they also negotiated in good faith and reached an agreement concerning that.

Mayor Graham referred to the state's desire to reduce the number of subdivisions and referred to the number of water districts and questioned if we should be doing something about that.

Mr. Wright explained that DANC is active in encouraging coordinative activities and is part of a grant in Lewis County which is not unlike the Route 3 Sewer Board in Jefferson County.

Mayor Graham commented that Summit Woods is an example of an entirely new water and sewer district being created when one was already there. He remarked that the problem is that is no universal planning. It is always managed by agreements, patches and holding tanks.

Mr. Wright referred to the water board set up with Carthage and West Carthage. He explained that this becomes the will of the municipality.

Council Member Butler referred to the Arsenal/Coffeen sewer problems and asked if DANC could partner with the City on this. He stated that it is an economic development issue and DANC has expertise.

Mr. Wright responded that DANC would make their engineering staff available. However, there is no pot of cash.

Mr. Hefferon referred to what he believed was a problem with the storm water on Coffeen Street.

Mrs. Corriveau explained that there is too much storm water throughout the City. The City is actively looking at it. She explained that before they were not sure what the problems were in the western outfall. Now, they know that it is more infiltration as opposed to storm sewer.

Mrs. Corriveau asked about in-fill housing.

Mayor Graham remarked that in-fill housing seems to have fallen on hard times. He asked if the project was done as far as DANC is concerned.

Mr. Wright responded that it is not done. It is an effective tool within neighborhoods. He explained that the problem is that most contractors have no interest in doing a small in-fill project.

Mayor Graham referred to the parcel at 122 Ten Eyck which could be used for in-fill.

Mr. Wright remarked that DANC would look at all of the parcels the City would like to include in the in-fill project and suggested that they might be able to be packaged collectively.

### **Candidates for Council Vacancy**

Council Members interviewed the following individuals for the City Council vacancy: Donald Osborn, Patrick Hickey, Gordon Silverthorne, Jason Burton, Douglas Osborne, Jr., Michelle Appleby, Peter Souch IV and Jeffrey Fallon.

**EZB and CAPC**

Mayor Graham referred to the fact that Mr. Clough had also served on EZB and CAPC. He commented that he had spoken with Council Member Butler about serving on the EZB as he had done so in the past.

Council Member Butler remarked that he would suggest a one or two year stint on the board and then appoint another member of Council for one or two years.

A resolution will be prepared for the next meeting.

Mayor Graham remarked that while he has no problem with Mr. Clough staying on CAPC, he doesn't know if he can continue to serve on that board. It will be checked into.

**Executive Session**

**MOTION WAS MADE BY COUNCIL MEMBER BURNS TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE APPOINTMENT OF A PARTICULAR INDIVIDUAL TO FILL AN UNEXPIRED TERM ON CITY COUNCIL.**

**MOTION WAS SECONDED BY COUNCIL MEMBER SMITH AND CARRIED WITH ALL VOTING IN FAVOR THEREOF.**

Council moved into Executive Session at 9:38 p.m.

The City Clerk and City Manager were excused.

Work session ended at 9:38 p.m.

**Donna M. Dutton**  
City Clerk