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for the multi-town legal action, ultimately was chosen by Fall River officials. The firm required a \$5,000 down payment and a commitment to pay up to \$20,000 more as to be billed.

Lynch recommended that firm to other towns. In his original presentations earlier this year, Lynch characterized the lawsuit as being produced by his office, and that the cost to the town would be independent and voluntary. Lynch's staff said he did not want to speak at this time to the issue of reports that the attorney general originally told the Town Council that decisions about the lawsuit and about the cost were independent, and that one could be chosen without committing to the other.

Parks "stands pat"

In his letter to the council, Parks noted he was asked to confirm in writing that Town Solicitor J. William W. Harsch accurately relayed the Parks ruling on the matter at the Sept. 12 council meeting. Parks maintained that joining the lawsuit "would violate . . . town policy on procurement. The town is precluded from entering into a proposal which would amount to a sole-source, non-competitive procurement."

In the interview Monday, Parks said he did not know how his position was misunderstood to be a "backing away." He noted that he wrote his letter in response to the council's request for confirmation that Harsch had relayed his findings accurately.

Lynch to Long

In his letter to Council President Long, Lynch said he believes Jamestown councilors acted on misinformation. He said Jamestown's joining the multi-town lawsuit "is critical."

Lynch said he and his staff were working closely with the D.C.-based law firm, and that they would have welcomed Jamestown's voluntary help with any aspect of the preparation. He believes the way the lawsuit is being done "is consistent with both state and local laws," Lynch wrote.

The attorney general said Jamestown could have pursued its own legal actions that "would avoid the reasons publicly given for failure to join its coastal neighbors."

Lynch listed some of the reasons that Jamestown needs to do something, whatever the financial cost, to act against the Fall River plan. Jamestown is "well within

the zone of incineration danger . . . in the event of accidental or intentional release of LNG. All residents risk death or serious bodily injury," he wrote.

He said the required bridge closures would impact emergency vehicles and "cause severe traffic congestion" every time a LNG tanker passed under a bridge, which would be about 140 times a year. Security costs would also be high, economic development would be hampered, and the town's tax base could erode, Lynch pointed out.

He challenged the council to develop and file its own law brief against the Fall River LNG proposal. He sent two affidavits filed by town emergency personnel for the multi-town lawsuit to be used if the town also files a legal action.

Long responds

Council President Long responded to Lynch's press release and letter in an interview Tuesday, noting that he was speaking only for himself. He expected other councilors would speak about Lynch's comments at the next council meeting Monday, Sept. 26, he said. Long said he would ask his colleagues about the town's taking further action to reinforce its previous strong opposition to LNG proposals in Providence and in Fall River, Mass.

"I don't know why the attorney general is making those false allegations about Jamestown," Long said. "We purposely did not scold Mr. Lynch for his misleading the council, but now that he has made such allegations, I will respond and expect the others will too," the council president said. "No good deed goes unpunished," he repeated a few times during the interview. "He's attacking the island that has been on record against the (LNG) plans. We should all be in this war together, not fighting each other," Long added.

"The attorney general's letter to me is disturbing, inaccurate, and confrontational. Jamestown is on record as opposing (LNG proposals). We have constantly reiterated our opposition. And we are not the first to decline" the measures proposed by Lynch, Long said.

"He misled us about the law brief and the \$25,000 being distinct and separate options. It changed. Now we are told that to sign onto the brief, we have to pay a D.C. law firm. That is not as presented originally by Mr. Lynch," Long said.

"If he really cared about the

LNG problems, he would want all of us without a price tag. I still do not know why he does not get the money for this brief through the Statehouse or through the governor. This involves and impacts the state as a whole, not just some communities," Long said.

"Jamestown has the energy and money and wants to make sure they are used in the right direction. I think our people know this," the council president continued. He suggested that other towns may have been able to approve participation in Lynch's plan through Fall River, without violating any state laws, or laws in effect in those towns. Long said the process would have violated Jamestown's procurement rules, as adopted this past year to prevent spending without adequate bidding or review of a bidders qualifications.

"I do not understand why he is making such allegations because we are not joining him in his plan. He did not make allegations about others, such as North Kingstown, that declined his plan. He misled us but we did not say so in public (last week), and now he is dragging Jamestown through the mud," Long said.



Brennan accepts winnings

School Committee member William "Bucky" Brennan accepts a check for \$1,000 from Cox Communications for winning the Mayor's Challenge bicycling race, held last June in Providence. Brennan will donate \$500 to the Conanicut Island Land Trust and \$500 to the Dutch Island Lighthouse Society. With Brennan is Paul Cronin, vice president and regional manager of Cox Communications.

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