

# Highway barn

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Council executive session talks that are allowed for matters that may be subject to potential litigation.

He said the North End Concerned Citizens have threatened a lawsuit if a decision is made to try to build the barn at the landfill. NECC leaders said earlier this year that they were not planning a lawsuit. They said they were working to make sure that all appropriate regulations were followed to protect their private well-water supplies as well as the town's reservoir system.

They more recently said they would work to make the rules governing the landfill closure more stringent. Town officials have interpreted such public remarks, combined with private comments, as being about litigation.

Some town officials have consistently said the north end residents were planning legal action to block a barn at the landfill, and the officials have cited this belief for various closed sessions in the past. The NECC has charged that town officials "are stonewalling" them and the public in general through various rulings, including speaking the open forum portion of Town Council meetings.

Keiser released the estimates from the GZA report after he

consulted with Town Solicitor J. William W. Harsch for a ruling on whether the documents were subject to state laws about public access to them. Keiser said Harsch told him the documents are public. He said Harsch also suggested that it would not be advisable to withhold information about the existence of the documents even if they were not subject to the rules about full public access.

Keiser said councilors have not made any decision about the barn option for the landfill. He said he did not know when they planned to make the documents or their discussions public.

### State role

In July, the DEM approved the town's continued planning for closing the former landfill and the DEM ruled that it has no authority to block the proposed barn at the former landfill if all measures affecting ground water are met. The approval lists 16 categories of requirements the town must meet in making the closure.

The July ruling, awaited since December 2005, came as a five-page letter to the town and a volume of several hundred pages with the responses by the DEM to each of more than 400 letters residents sent to that regulatory agency both

for and against the closure plan.

Those July DEM documents are posted on the town's Web site.

The primary DEM requirements for the landfill closure are: paving an access road, storm-water drainage changes, testing excavated soil for contamination, and gaining all permits for channeling storm drainage offsite and installing a septic system for the town garage.

The DEM required GZA to prepare operating, soil management, and contingency plans for all aspects of the required work. The state said that the town could not seek exemption from any wetlands rules; and the barn would need a methane monitoring system.

The October estimates are based on the 50-percent closure plans GZA submitted a year ago, which were revised to meet DEM requirements. The next step is for the Town Council to authorize a 90-percent plan and council decision on whether that plan will be for the closure alone, or with provision for the highway barn.

Kesier said Monday that such a decision is not yet on the agenda for the council's Dec. 11 meeting. He said he expected a decision "by early January."

### Landfill history

The Jamestown landfill operated from 1954 to 1984, with sludge from the wastewater treatment plant dumped there from 1980 to 1985. The property has since been used for a trash transfer station.

A new highway barn is needed to replace the old war munitions building at Fort Wetherill that has served for about 35 years as the base for the town's hodgepodge of places to store road-maintenance materials and equipment, including 24 items classified as vehicles, for use by the department's 16 members. The town first identified the need for a new town garage in 1980.

Jamestown is the first community in Rhode Island to have its landfill closure done under the 1991 delegation of the federal "superfund" program to the DEM for supervision. In 1998, the town volunteered for the program. According to the DEM, 24 other closures, from among 200 landfills and contaminated sites in the state to be cleaned up, are in various stages of

# Bruce Long

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support, Long said that accusation is "patently untrue."

Long said that for many years he did not have an accountant and did all of his own bookkeeping and tax filing. Not properly paying business taxes was the result of what Long called being "sloppy and disorganized." He said he lived out of piles "on my desk, on my kitchen table," and noted that if one went to look at his desk on the House floor at the Statehouse, "it's not very orderly."

Long said he has hired an accountant who is looking into his tax situation — admitting that his sloppy record keeping may make the process a lengthy one. "If it's determined that I owe taxes, I will pay them and all penalties," Long said.

Long also admits to being an addict since he was in his teens, another allegation that was brought up on Channel 10.

"I want to be upfront," Long said about his addiction to alcohol and other substances. He said he has been in recovery for seven years, and that he still attends "five or six meetings a week" to deal with what he refers to as "my disease."

Since Long is entering his fifth year of representing Jamestown in the General Assembly, he has not been a drug or alcohol abuser during any time that he represented the island, he said.

Long said that even though he has lived his 55 years in Newport County, most people never knew about his substance abuse. "Part of the disease is the ability to hide things well," Long said. He said that his recovery is the "number one thing in my life," and that if he misses meetings, "I can feel myself slipping away again." It is something he will have to struggle with for the rest of his life. Substance abuse is an inherited condition, and there is a family history of the disease, Long said.

Through recovery, "I have become a better person," Long said, adding that by continuing the process, "I am getting to know myself better, and want to become the best person I can be."

His addiction issues have caused him to "engage in regrettable behaviors" for which he said he takes full responsibility, Long said. He admitted to having affairs while he was married to Valerie, but added that the affairs

were during three different times in the couple's 17-year marriage when they were not living together. Long said that they were married in April 1986 and first separated in August of the same year. He did not go into details about a Valerie Long allegation of domestic abuse. "The police were called" during a particularly heated argument in July 1986, he said.

On the marriage, Long said it was "always turbulent." "The divorce was even worse," he added.

In his more than a quarter century in the Statehouse, Long said, "I have loved being a public servant." But he admits that there were many years when he threw himself into his career at the expense of his own needs. Being in recovery has taught him that he has to take care of himself in order to better serve the public, he said.

On Rep. Watson's suggestion that Long might want to step down from his seat in the House, Long said, "I work for the people of Middletown and Jamestown," and "it will be they who decide what I do." He added that since the television airing of Taricani's investigation, "I have received several calls from constituents offering support," Long said. "No one has asked me to step down," he added.

About his future, Long said that he "wants to put some normalcy back in his life," and that he will not resign his House seat.

# Quonset

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The two sections of Quonset Point are known as Davisville and West Davisville.

The area was a historic naval installation from 1939 to 1973, and the state bought the property in two sections, in 1979 for \$25 million and in 1998 for \$22 million. It includes Quonset State Airport, a golf course, the Davisville Piers, a marina, approximately 500 acres of wetlands and other environmentally sensitive areas, about 400 acres with industrial uses for more than 100 companies that together have more than 5,000 employees, and about 800 acres under development according to a summary from a few years ago.

The Quonset corporation is working on an \$80 million plan to bring in commercial development such as a hotel and shops, many of which were committed at the start of the plan.

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