

Council

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anyone," she said.

Michael White agreed and suggested that the council approve a proclamation honoring the entire staff.

Still, Kelly was exacerbated.

"I'm absolutely flabbergasted that this is even up for discussion," he said.

DiGiando acknowledged Kelly's frustration, however, he thought that the practice of recognizing individuals in this case was "slightly problematic."

Following the exchange, Kelly's motion was rejected 4-1.

"You heard it here," Kelly said to town staff seated to his left, "We're not going to thank you."

However, in the end, town staff were thanked. In a motion offered by Sutton, he asked that the council approve a proclamation that the town thank the staff of the town

of Jamestown for the design and completion of the new town hall.

That motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Executive session debated

Spurred by concerns raised by Sutton, town councilors continued to reconsider their use of executive sessions.

Sutton, who has advocated for reducing the frequency of executive sessions in the spirit of transparent governance, suggested that in future cases, the town solicitor provide council members with privileged communication outlining his or her opinion and answer questions in memo form that would otherwise be discussed behind closed doors.

White, the newly elected council vice-president, agreed.

Szepatowski also agreed with Sutton's recommendation, however, she expressed her concern that those matters which had already begun in executive session should

remain there until their conclusion.

Highway Barn Update

In his regular report to town councilors, Keiser gave an update on the siting of the new highway barn at Taylor Point. According to Keiser, Crossman Engineering, who had been hired to conduct the site engineering has completed its preliminary report on the site's storm water runoff.

Keiser said that the town was interested in the option with the least environmental impact, indicating that would likely mean diverting storm water to the town treatment plant. Further information would be forthcoming as Crossman continues its site evaluation.

Lighthouse responsibility

Jamestown should move quickly to resume responsibility for the Beavertail Lighthouse according to Sutton.

"Jamestown should solve this

problem," he said.

The lighthouse, which is in the process of being transferred from the Coast Guard to the General Services Administration (GSA) for a final disposition, had been used, in part, to add to the town's affordable housing base.

However, last spring, Coast Guard officials objected to that designation and in September, the town administrator recommended that the town forfeit its claim over licensed use of Beavertail Lighthouse and support plans by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) and the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association (BLMA) over the management of the 151-year-old light.

However Sutton, who worked for the DEM for 15 years, cautioned that he didn't believe the agency had the resources to maintain the light and that it was in the town's interest to maintain a stake

in the operation of the facility.

For Sutton, the dilemma is a case of history repeating itself.

Sutton reminded councilors that it was the town that originally stepped forward in the 1970s to take responsibility for the light after the Coast Guard "walked away."

"Having someone out there, having the visibility, makes all the difference in the world" Sutton said.

The matter was placed on the Dec. 10 agenda for further discussion. In other business town councilors:

- Accepted the resignation of Sav Rebecchi from the Quonset Development Corporation Board of Directors for a term ending Dec. 30, 2007.

- Approved the town's negotiated contract with municipal employee union NAGE #68 (clerks and dispatchers).

Enjoy Beavertail Lighthouse this Weekend!

Saturday, December 1st • 9am - 4pm

Visit the Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association at the **Holiday Crafts Fair** at the Melrose School and browse an array of lighthouse-oriented gifts, including our sparkling new **Beavertail Lighthouse ornament**



Sunday, December 2 • 1pm - 3pm

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Beavertail Lighthouse Museum Association (BLMA)
PO Box 83, Jamestown, RI 02835 • 423-3270

Wind

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velocity spots, and sites that could be considered for single- or multiple-turbine installation. He added statistics that reported electricity costs at public buildings and treatment plants.

The electric bill for the sewer treatment plant neared the top of the list of high cost, averaging anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000

per month. The plant was also marked as the biggest user per month of electricity island-wide in the spring. Brennan noted that, with a significant rise in electricity costs in the last five years, the town was paying 15.7 cents for KW hours at the treatment plant. "When you have pumps going on and off, the price is jacked up," Brennan explained.

The town's average electric bill was \$60,000 per month, according

to the spreadsheet.

Committee Chairman Don Wineberg reminded the panel that sites proposed in the discussion were only preliminary ideas. "The goal of this exercise is to look at what sites we would ask a consultant to look at," Wineberg said.

The maps also showed limitations of sites, such as locations that would require moving produced energy across a road. Committee members agreed that the law prohibiting energy to be moved across public roadways was a serious consideration. "One of the biggest problems is not being able to cross roads," Anthony said.

Over a dozen areas on the island were thrown into the discussion about potential spots for one wind turbine or multiple turbines. Brennan suggested that one turbine might solve most of the energy challenges on the island, if net metering was considered. Net metering, a state policy for consumers, allows a limited amount of produced energy to be distributed. Committee member Bob Bowen explained that, under the state guidelines of net metering, a private owner can sell up to one megawatt of power. Net-metered renewable energy systems that are municipally owned may distribute up to 1.65 MW.

A few of the areas that scored high on the committee's brainstorming list were Taylor Point, Fort Wetherill and Fort Getty.

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- Reality TV celebrity, "Survivor: Thailand"
- Host "The Helen Glover Show" 920 WHJJ

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