

TOWN OF STONINGTON

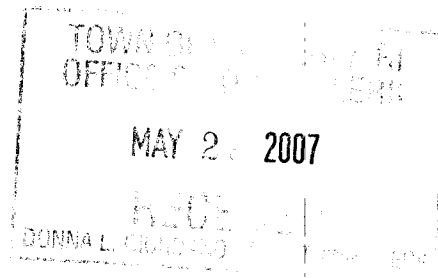
SELECTMAN'S OFFICE

WILLIAM S. BROWN, FIRST SELECTMAN

152 Elm Street • Stonington, Connecticut 06378

(860) 535-5050 • Fax (860) 535-1046

May 22, 2007



Mary Jane DiMaio, Westerly Town Council President
Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891

Dear Council President DiMaio:

The Town of Stonington unfortunately had a water line leak at the High School complex. This leak never appeared above ground and we were not aware of it until we received a water bill from the Town of Westerly in the amount of \$26,485.04. This bill covers a 6 month period of time from November 7, 2006 until March 8, 2007. The previous 6 month water bill was \$136.23.

I sent a letter to Town Manager Joseph Turo on April 23, 2007 (enclosed) requesting a reduction in the bill. Mr. Turo responded to me on May 7, 2007 (enclosed) that there is no provision in the Water Department ordinance that would allow a reduction of the bill.

I can understand Mr. Turo's inability to recommend a reduction of the bill. But I cannot agree that homeowners, who have similar leakage problems, fall into the same category as one municipality serving another municipality's school and recreation facilities.

I am writing to you, Council President DiMaio, to ask for some relief from this \$26,485.04 water bill that will substantially affect our year-end budget. We have transferred money from various accounts to pay the water bill as we were continuing to accrue interest penalties.

I would be more than happy to attend a Westerly Town Council meeting to address this issue with the Council.

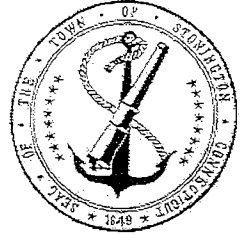
Sincerely,

William S. Brown
First Selectman

Cc: Westerly Town Manager Joseph Turo
Westerly Chief of Staff Sharon Ahern

TOWN OF STONINGTON

Office of the First Selectman
152 Elm Street
Stonington, Connecticut 06378
(860) 535-5050 • Fax (860) 535-1046



April 23, 2007

Mr. Joseph T. Turo, Esq
Town Manager
Westerly Town Hall
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891

RE: Westerly Water Bill

Dear Mr. Turo:

It has recently come to my attention that the Town of Stonington Board of Education received a Westerly water bill in the amount of \$26,485.04 for the latest billing period from September 7, 2006 through March 8, 2007. Our prior bill for this same location was for \$136.03. The account in which this bill represents provides water to a few water fountains and yard drains in the picnic areas and ball fields south of the Stonington High School (see attached map). I am writing this letter to give a little background on what has happened, to discuss our plans for going forward so that this never happens to this magnitude again, and to request that you relieve the Town of paying the full amount of this bill due to the extenuating circumstances of this situation.

I have been told that the Stonington Building Department received a call around March 8th from Westerly Water indicating that there must be a major leak in the line. The Stonington Highway Department immediately went to the site and shut off the water. While the water is still shut off today, we are working to find the leak and will repair the line before the water is turned back on. The thing that we can't understand is that over the period indicated in the billing cycle there was never any clues on the surface that this tremendous amount of water was leaking out of the system.

As for the future, we have already spoken to Paul Corina from the Water Department about ways to prevent this from happening again. We will be having the Westerly Water Department pull the meter every fall and reinstall it each spring so there would be no possibilities of this happening again during the winter season. During the rest of the year that the meter is in, we will be having personnel from our Highway Department check the meter on a regular basis to make sure that it is not excessively spinning for no apparent reason.

Although the Town of Stonington understands that there are some costs associated with pumping, chlorinating and distributing the water, we respectfully request that you relieve us of a major portion of this bill as it is so far out of the normal amount of the bill. If you would like me to come to a Council meeting to discuss this matter in more detail, I would be more than willing to do this. Furthermore, if you have any questions or would like to talk more about this, feel free to call me at 860-535-5050.

Sincerely,

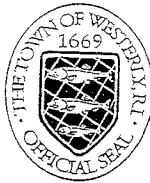
William S. Brown
Stonington First Selectman

Enclosures: Previous Two Westerly Water Bills
Map of Area

cc: J. Bragaw, Stonington Director of Public Works
F. Connelly, Stonington BOE Business Director
M. Stevens, Stonington Director of Finance
P. Corina, Westerly Water Department Superintendent

Town of Westerly
Rhode Island

JOSEPH T. TURO, ESQ.
Town Manager



Town Hall
45 Broad Street
Westerly, RI 02891
tel (401) 348-2530
fax (401) 348-0340
jturo@westerly.org

May 2, 2007

Mr. William S. Brown, First Selectman
Town of Stonington
152 Elm Street
Stonington, CT 06378

RE: Recent Water Bill –
Stonington Recreation Facility

Dear Mr. Brown:

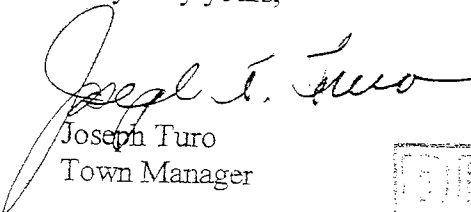
I am in receipt of your letter dated April 23, 2007 regarding the above referenced water bill.

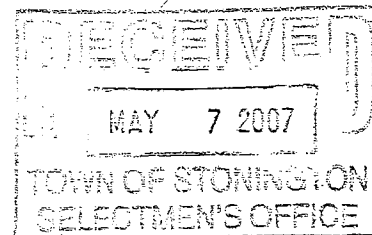
The Westerly Water Department, which operates as an enterprise fund, has no authority or policy in place that enables us to forgive undetected water leaks. Every billing cycle several of our customers experience some type of underground or undetected water leak that causes higher than normal water bills. The amounts are not to the magnitude of this case, however, the Water Department has seen several cases where a homeowner would have to pay two to three thousand dollars where under normal use these bills may be one to two hundred dollars.

The Water Department, as a utility, has no control over what happens on private property (toilet leaks, underground leaks after the meter, etc.). It is unfortunate, but also impossible, to give relief to everyone who calls with higher than normal water bills and still remain in compliance with the Westerly Code of Ordinances, Chapter 251, Article II, Section 251.12, Paragraph E. Therefore, due to this ordinance, I regret that I cannot recommend any type of adjustment at this time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at (401) 348-2530.

Very truly yours,


Joseph Turo
Town Manager





TOWN OF WESTERLY - OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
 ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE TO THE TOWN OF WESTERLY
 BILLS PAYABLE AT TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE WEEKDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
 45 BROAD STREET, WESTERLY, RI 02891

DPW
 WATER, SEWER
 UTILITY BILL

ACCOUNT NO.	BILL NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	DUE DATE	AMOUNT
0600579400	214102	03/29/2007	05/03/2007	26,485.04

LOCATION: 176 SOUTH BROAD STREET FIELD

TOWN OF STONINGTON
 BOARD OF EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
 P O BOX 479
 OLD MYSTIC, CT 06372

INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 12% PER ANNUM
 WILL ACCRUE ON OVERDUE PAYMENTS FROM
 BILLING DATE.

OPEN CREDIT .00

CODE	PREVIOUSLY READ DATE	CURRENT READ DATE	PREVIOUS READING	CURRENT READING	USAGE 100'S CU FT	UNITS	AMOUNT
SURSAC					6335	1	1,387.37
WSAC	09/07/2006	03/08/2007	4233	10568	6335	1	25,097.67
RPL USE RI TAX					0		.00
DUE DATE		PAST DUE	INTEREST DUE	CURRENT CHARGES	TOTAL DUE		
05/03/2007		.00	.00	26,485.04	26,485.04		

INQUIRIES: Your Account Number and Bill Number will be required for inquiries. Questions regarding Water/Sewer billing information should be directed to the Town of Westerly Utilities Division at (401)-348-2559 or Fax at (401)-348-0550. See reverse side for description of charges.



TOWN OF WESTERLY
 TOWN OF WESTERLY - OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
 ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE TO THE TOWN OF WESTERLY
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 45 BROAD STREET, WESTERLY, RI 02891

DPW
 WATER, SEWER
 UTILITY BILL

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 TOWN OF WESTERLY

ACCOUNT NO.	BILL NUMBER	ISSUE DATE	DUE DATE
0600579400	214102	03/29/2007	05/03/2007

LOCATION: 176 SOUTH BROAD STREET

Mail address change?
 Please check box and
 see reverse side.

TOWN OF STONINGTON
 BOARD OF EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
 P O BOX 479
 OLD MYSTIC, CT 06372

OPEN CREDIT	.00
PAST DUE	.00
INTEREST DUE	.00
CURRENT CHARGE	26,485.04
AMOUNT DUE NOW	26,485.04

Please write your Account No. on your check

AMOUNT ENCLOSED	
------------------------	--

01096042007300214102600026485045

with your payment.

CUSTOMER PORTION

PAYMENT COUPON



TOWN OF WESTERLY
 TOWN OF WESTERLY - OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR OF TAXES
 ALL PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE TO THE TOWN OF WESTERLY
 BILLS PAYABLE AT TAX COLLECTOR'S OFFICE WEEKDAYS 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
 45 BROAD STREET, WESTERLY, RI 02891

7260
 300680

DPW
 WATER, SEWER
 UTILITY BILL

ACCOUNT NO.	READING	DATE	DUE DATE	AMOUNT
0600579400	186886	03/29/2006	05/03/2006	136.23

LOCATION: 176 SOUTH BROAD STREET FIELD

TOWN OF STONINGTON
 BOARD OF EDUCATION, ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
 P O BOX 479
 OLD MYSTIC, CT 06372

INTEREST AT THE RATE OF 12% PER ANNUM
 WILL ACCRUE ON OVERDUE PAYMENTS FROM
 BILLING DATE.

OPEN CREDIT .00

CODE	PREVIOUS READ DATE	CURRENT READ DATE	PREVIOUS READING	CURRENT READING	USAGE 100% CURT	UNITS	CHARGE
SURSAC					A 45	1	9.86
WSAC	09/09/2005	03/08/2006	4068	4113	A 45	1	126.37
RPL USE RI TAX					0		.00
DUE DATE		PAST DUE	INTEREST DUE	CURRENT CHARGES		TOTAL DUE	
05/03/2006		.00	.00	136.23		136.23	

33,000

INQUIRIES: Your Account Number and Bill Number will be required for inquiries. Questions regarding Water/Sewer billing information should be directed to the Town of Westerly Utilities Division at (401)-348-2559 or Fax at (401)-348-0550. See reverse side for description of charges.