

The Onondaga County Water Authority met in regular session on November 18, 2008. Members of the Authority present were R. Tomeny, F. Picardi, C. Incaudo, and W. Simmons.

Others present: M. Hooker, A. Geiss, T. Pickard, L. Khanzadian, and G. Miller.

- I. R. Tomeny called the meeting to order at 12:40pm.
- II. Minutes of the meeting of October 28, 2008 were approved by all Members by Motion of W. Simmons duly seconded by F. Picardi.
- III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - M. Hooker reviewed his Executive Director's report.
 - Discussed the outlined water sales figures and remarked that the sales for October 2008 were very similar to the October 2006 sales of 34.24 mgd. Figures relate to the reduced water use during the rainy summer.
 - Reported that the Town of Dewitt recently responded to our May 2008 letter regarding the leasing of the water system. OCWA will evaluate and determine what would be required for us to lease the system.
 - Updated the Board on the State Comptroller's procurement audit currently in process that is scheduled to be completed before December 1, 2008.
 - Reported that Curt Marvin has successfully negotiated a reduced processing fee for American Express credit card charges.
 - Reviewed the project underway for the development of customer surveys. Two interns from Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Public Administration are completing the work. In addition to the survey development they are also working on developing and establishing a process of collecting and analyzing the data going forward.
 - Reviewed OCWA accounts and reported that the number is just below 89,000-metered accounts due to the loss of seasonal users.
 - Discussed the upcoming projects in Constantia, West Monroe and Limeledge.
 - Meeting with Mike Ryan, Water Commissioner from the City of Syracuse was held on November 17, 2008 to discuss and review the agreement for the Southern Branch system. OCWA has communicated a January transition date but Mayor Driscoll must first sign the agreement.
 - Reported on a meeting held with Gary Cannerelli of O'Brien & Gere and Curt Marvin in order to review 2009 budgets in accordance with OCWA's bond indenture.
 - Reviewed standardization of purchases on designated items to maintain efficiency and quality. In addition T. Pickard reviewed Section 11.6.6 of the Water Authority Act and indicated the necessity of defining the reasons for the need to standardize purchases. Requested a resolution reaffirming standardization for each of the following outlined items:
 - Bristol SCADA control equipment
 - Microwave Data Systems (MDS) radios
 - Dell Computers
 - Neptune and Sensus Meters
 - SternPAC
 - Ross Control Valves
 - Requested standardization of Dell Equipment for the purpose of availability and consistency of parts.

On Motion by F. Picardi, duly seconded by W. Simmons, with all Members approving, the Board approved standardization as described.

- Requested standardization of Bristol SCADA equipment for operational efficiency and replacement of equipment.

On Motion by F. Picardi, duly seconded by C. Incaudo, with all Members approving, the Board approved standardization as described.

- Requested standardization of Microwave Data Systems (MDS) radios for the purpose of maintaining interchangeable parts and not having to maintain a large inventory.

On Motion by W. Simmons, duly seconded by C. Incaudo, with all Members approving, the Board approved standardization as described.

- Requested standardization of Neptune and Sensus Meters for interchangeability and shared protocols.

On Motion by F. Picardi, duly seconded by W. Simmons, with all Members approving, the Board approved standardization as described.

- Requested standardization of SternPAC for consistency and maintenance of water quality.

On Motion by F. Picardi, duly seconded by W. Simmons, with all Members approving, the Board approved standardization as described.

- Requested standardization of Ross Valves for consistency, repairs and maintenance.

On Motion by W. Simmons, duly seconded by C. Incaudo, with all Members approving, the Board approved standardization as described.

- Reviewed a plan for the interim management of the Operations and Facilities department with the upcoming retirement of Nick Kochan, effective December 2, 2008.
- Discussion on the Public Authorities Accountability Act - Ethics Policy and how it affects OCWA retirees and their employment following retirement. Discussed professional services. The Board requested that T. Pickard review the policy and advise as how it relates to OCWA retirees.

IV. CHIEF ENGINEERS REPORT:

- T. Geiss reviewed the Engineering report.
- Otisco Lake level is at 14.25”
- Discussed that the Otisco Lake Community Group has held two additional meetings regarding the weeds in the Lake. C. Incaudo mentioned that Otisco residents were forming a committee to specifically review measures to abate weed growth in the lake. R. Tomeny recommended that we gather data on what we have done in the past and what is allowable by DEC regulation for Board review.
- Reported on a meeting with the Town of Onondaga regarding development east of Seneca Turnpike. OCWA proposed to the Town of Onondaga, improvements of the transmission main along Seneca Turnpike in order for us to meet the increased demand. The development is proposed for 2010 and the cost estimate for improvements to the water system is \$230,000. If improvements are made, OCWA would gain new customers, better pressure and would reduce our dependence on back-up water from the City of Syracuse. The Board requested that we develop the incremental value for the development work.
- Provided an update on the Onondaga County Covered Tank project. The Western Reservoir project has been advertised for bids. Pre-bid meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2008. Will present bids to the board for review at the January meeting. The Eastern Reservoir 30MG tank bidding will follow right behind the Western project with bids opened in early January.
- Reviewed the Main Extension Costs (MEC) for 2009. Reported a 7.7% increase and reviewed the memo and costs breakdown report that was distributed.

- G. Miller provided an update on Capital Projects currently under way.
- Southern Onondaga tank is being tested this week. The health department is holding approval of the entire system until the tank testing has been accepted, once approved, OCWA can begin operating the system.
- The water main and tank contracts for the Limeledge project are currently out for bid. OCWA has serious concerns about the proposed pump station location which was selected by the Town. OCWA is trying to schedule a meeting with the Town and Village.
- The Water Treatment Plant Project is going well.

V. LEGAL REPORT

- T. Pickard reviewed the Legal report.
- Requested a Motion to move to Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the condemnation proceeding against Finger Lakes Railway Corporation pending in Onondaga County Supreme Court.

On Motion by C. Incaudo duly seconded by W. Simmons with all Members approving, the Board agreed to move to Executive Session at 2:00pm.

On Motion by F. Picardi duly seconded by W. Simmons with all Members approving, the Board adjourned the Executive Session and returned to regular session Board meeting at 2:10pm

- Distributed the Agreement between Onondaga County and OCWA authorizing the lease of the Southern Branch System for ten years, with three automatic renewal periods of ten years each. T. Pickard requested a resolution re-authorizing the agreement with the supply system as amended.

On Motion by F. Picardi duly seconded by C. Incaudo with all Members approving, the Board agreed to adopt the amended agreement as outlined.

- Distributed the Agreement between the City of Syracuse and Onondaga County Water Authority which provides that the City will sell water at in-city rates and share in the cost of electricity for the operation of pumps for the Southern Branch system. Requested a resolution authorizing this agreement as outlined.

On Motion by W. Simmons duly seconded by C. Incaudo with all Members approving, the Board agreed to adopt the agreement as outlined.

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- L. Khanzadian reviewed the HR/Insurance report.
- Recommended distributing a proposed Board calendar for 2009 and reviewing conflicts at the December meeting.
- Requested a Motion to move to Executive Session to discuss pending contract negotiations with CSEA.

On Motion by C. Incaudo duly seconded by W. Simmons with all Members approving, the Board agreed to move to Executive Session at 2:40pm.

On Motion by F. Picardi duly seconded by W. Simmons with all Members approving, the Board adjourned the Executive Session and returned to regular session Board meeting at 3:05pm

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- Three Rights of Way were presented for consideration.

On Motion by F. Picardi duly seconded by C. Incaudo with all Members approving, the Board approved the following:

9003164

Blue Ribbon Grower

Hydrant Installation N. Peterboro St., VCAN

- Reviewed the Main Extension Contract previously discussed for Board approval. Recommended approval of the MEC as outlined.

On Motion C. Incaudo duly seconded by F. Picardi with all Members approving, the Board approved the main extension pricing as outlined.

- M. Hooker reviewed the 2009 customer rate schedules developed in accordance with the approved 2009 Operations and Maintenance budget. Mr. Hooker presented the concept of a revamped rate schedule whereby the minimum charge for all customers is tied to OCWA debt service and not consumption. Further, all consumption would be tied to actual use, thus eliminating the minimum consumption billing process. After discussion, it was recommended that Industrial and municipal rate schedules be implemented in the current format, with the prospect of changing them to the new format early in 2009. Mr. Hooker was charged with developing the new rate schedules for commercial and residential accounts for review prior to the December 12 Board meeting. The Board directed Mr. Hooker to engage a third party for review of the proposed changes to ensure the accuracy of the numbers and the projected revenue stream for the Authority. Further, as there is no change to the fire protection rate schedules, it was recommended they be approved as presented.

On Motion F. Picardi duly seconded W. Simmons with all Members approving, the Board agreed to approve the outlined rates Industrial and municipal rate schedules and the fire protection rate schedules as presented.

On Motion by F. Picardi duly seconded by C. Incaudo with all Members approving, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 3:55pm

As there was no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 3:55pm. The next Authority meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2008 at 10:00am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Khazadian,
Recording Secretary