

The Onondaga County Water Authority met in regular session on December 12, 2008. Members of the Authority present were R. Tomeny, F. Picardi, C. Incaudo, H. Rosenthal and W. Simmons.

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

- I. R. Tomeny called the meeting to order at 10:15am.
- II. Minutes of the meeting of November 18, 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.
- Recently spoke to K. Mannion, Dewitt Town Board member, and discussed the potential of the Dewitt consolidation. Review will be conducted after the first of the year.
- Reported and updated the status of the Southern Branch agreement. There is a letter, to the City of Syracuse Water Department, forthcoming from David Fitch, outlining two topics of concern. M. Ryan has indicated to both B. Tomeny and M. Hooker that his interest is making sure that the language is clear and understood as the project moves forward.
- Updated the Board on the analysis of the proposed rate revision. Reported that Stearns & Wheeler is assisting in the review of rate schedules and numbers. Requested that the review continue and new rates be implemented February 1, 2009. A proposed outline of the rate structure will be reviewed at the January meeting.
- C. Marvin was asked to review OCWA's Bond Underwriting and the outcome of the RFP's. C. Marvin reported that OCWA sent out a Bond Underwriting RFP to six underwriters. Distributed and reviewed the cost comparison of proposals received. Curt explained that First Albany provided a range of fees when all others provided a set price as requested. After discussion, it was decided that Curt would indicate that we have two finalists and follow-up with First Albany and Roosevelt & Cross, looking for their final price from which we will make a decision. The Board Chairman, Robert Tomeny, requested a motion to allow the Executive Director to move forward and engage in initial discussions.

On Motion by F. Picardi, duly seconded by W. Simmons, with all Members approving, the Board authorized the Executive Director to begin Bond Underwriting discussions and planning with either First Albany or Roosevelt & Cross as determined.

- Reviewed financing alternatives for the covered tank projects. Reported that G. Miller, C. Marvin, T. Pickard and T. Geiss are all assisting M. Hooker in the review of alternatives. Options include several alternatives through the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), who administers the State Revolving Fund (SRF) money. We are also monitoring potential funding via the proposed federal economic stimulus package. M. Hooker is working with AWWA regarding the economic stimulus package as it relates to drinking water infrastructure. Additionally, Terry Pickard has been contacting our local members of Congress advancing the position of AWWA and other related water and wastewater organizations and their members.
- Reviewed a recent letter received from an OCWA retiree indicating that his monthly benefit estimate has been reduced due to responding to the retirement systems request on wages versus non-wage payments. After much discussion it was concluded that the retirement system has responsibility for reporting estimates and benefits and that the employer has the responsibility of complying with NYS Retirement reporting. Reported that C. Marvin is investigating the possible overpayments made by OCWA to the retirement system related to calculations based on OCWA's "health waive"

- Reviewed the budget variance report and commented on expenses related to Outside Contractors and Outside Professional Services. Reviewed the projects related to the need for outside professional services. Indicated that there were more breaks in 2008 necessitating the need for more paving and restoration. Continue to hold on staffing, evaluating each open position and remain cautious in spending.

#### IV. CHIEF ENGINEERS REPORT:

- T. Geiss reviewed the Engineering report.
- Report indicates that the Otisco Lake level is at -3.00", with today's update at -4.75".
- Reported that the Nedrow connection is near completion and that testing of the first section is currently underway.
- Indicated that there are three primary bidders for the Western Reservoir concrete storage tank project.
- Reported that the temporary re-organization of the Operations and Facilities department, due to N. Kochan's retirement, is going smoothly. S. Hayes and D. Martin are sharing leadership responsibilities along with support from G. Miller and T. Geiss.
- Reported a small chlorine leak at the Otisco Lake dam on 11/26/2008. The cause is the possible failure of a cylinder, which has been sent out for analysis. A report will follow. The release was less than ten pounds, and employees were appropriately evacuated.
- Working on clean-up of the dam site for the winter.
- Indicated that OCWA received numerous reports of dirty water in N. Syracuse on 12/9/08 which resulted in our phone system becoming temporarily backed-up. The water was cleared by early morning on 12/10/08.
- An informational report on algae was distributed. T. Geiss will continue to gather information. Discussed DEC regulations and reviewed OCWA's role and the question of the need for OCWA to control weeds.
- Reported on the Limeledge project and indicated that Marcellus has received bids on the water mains and tanks. The pump station has not yet gone out for bid.
- M. Hooker commented positively on the number of projects currently underway that G. Miller and T. Geiss are working on and tracking.
- Discussion of a possible upcoming project with the County DOT for road work and the potential OCWA main replacement work. It is estimated that the project for relocating the water main will cost approximately \$1.5M with costs for OCWA totaling \$954,000. Because of the extensive road work this is a possible opportunity for OCWA to make repairs.
- Requested resolutions, authorizing DWSRF Application and agreement for project financing of the Western Reservoir – 20mg Tank and the Eastern Reservoir – 30mg Tank.

On Motion by F. Picardi duly seconded by W. Simmons with all Members approving, the Board agreed to adopt the resolutions for the Application and Agreement for Financing for the Eastern Reservoir – 30MG water storage tank, and Application and Agreement for Financing for the Western Reservoir – 20MG water storage tank.

#### V. LEGAL REPORT

- T. Pickard reviewed the Legal report.
- Indicated that there are no new updates to report on the railroad rights-of-way.
- Distributed and reviewed the proposed changes to the customer service rules regarding liability of a home buyer and payment of the seller's water bill. The Board tabled the proposed changes until the January meeting in order to consider the option of a policy in lieu

of a customer rule concerning the issue of staff authorized adjustments to customer bills for delinquent charges and water leaks. T. Pickard will review the request to change policy by resolution and report at the January Board meeting.

- Reviewed the terms of payment/check processing equipment offered by Aperta for UNISYS. The Customer Service department has requested to replace the four year old check processing equipment with digital scanning equipment. The cost is \$3,046.31 per month for 48 months. Legal Counsel indicated that the true lease nature of the transaction, coupled with the highly skilled professional services offered by the software company exempted the transaction from competitive bidding. Requested authorization to enter into a lease agreement.

On Motion by H. Rosenthal duly seconded by F. Picardi with all Members approving, the Board agreed to authorize the lease agreement for the upgrade of bill processing equipment through Aperta.

#### VI. HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- L. Khanzadian reviewed the HR/Insurance report. Reported that the outcome of the CSEA contract vote which was held on December 8, 2008 was that it had passed. The CSEA contract along with the three tier prescription drug coverage is effective January 1, 2009. The Board approved the contract as previously discussed and will formalize a motion for approval at the January meeting with a complete contract.

#### VII. NEW BUSINESS:

- Three Rights of Way were presented for consideration.

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

4080080	Vinciguerra Properties LLC	8" Ext. Brittany Hills Town of Onondaga
4080086	Michael D. Mastriano	4" Ext. Mastriano Landing, Town of Sullivan
4080086	Joseph S. & Denise Buda	4" Ext. Mastriano Landing, Town of Sullivan

- One Developer Main Extensions was presented for consideration.

On Motion by H. Rosenthal duly seconded by W. Simmons, with all Members approving, the Board authorized M. Hooker to execute the following Main Extension Contract:

4080068	Oswego County Airport	8" Ext., Volney Airport
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- B. Tomeny reported on a recent presentation that was made to MWB by Johnson Controls. They complete energy improvement projects on a performance contract basis.

## VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- M. Hooker requested that the regular Board meeting adjourn to Executive session to discuss Compensation topics for 2009.

On Motion by C. Incaudo duly seconded by W. Simmons with all Members approving, the Board agreed to move to Executive Session at 1:15pm.

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 1:40pm

On Motion by F. Picardi duly seconded by C. Incaudo with all Members approving, the Board agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1:45pm

As there was no further business to come before the Authority, the meeting adjourned at 1:45pm. The next Authority meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 12:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Khazadian,  
Recording Secretary