

The Onondaga County Water Authority met in regular session on February 10, 2021.

Members of the Authority present were: J. Bianchini, K. Gardiner, and J. Dougherty.

Others present: M. Hooker, G. Miller, C. Marvin, J. Brown, L. Khanzadian, and A. Weiss.

I. Call to Order:

- J. Bianchini, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM

On motion by J. Dougherty, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members present approving, the Board approved the regular Minutes of January 20, 2021 as presented.

II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- M. Hooker reviewed the Executive Director's report.
- 2020 daily water demand dropped 679,000 gallons per day, compared to 2019.
- 12-month metered ratio (through January 31, 2021) is above 85.09%. Nine days into the month of February and production is at 34.6 MGD.
- Distributed and reviewed OCWA Water Production and Water Sales Comparison for 1994-1995-1995-2020. J. Dougherty asked about the impact of the drop in meter ratio when taking over a water system. Mr. Hooker further explained that when we sold OCWA water at wholesale, lost water was the responsibility of the towns thus creating a higher ratio. When we lease and manage town water systems, the losses belong to OCWA, but revenues tend to increase to compensate.
- Reviewed IT's project on developing a GIS application to track lead sampling at day care facilities. G. Miller commented that the EPA had released the revisions to the lead and copper rule followed by the Biden Administration delaying its implementation for another review.
- Combined electronic payments through the end of January 2021 totaled 18,821 representing 52.91% of customer payments.
- OCWA's bond rating call, with Moody's, was held on February 1 resulting in retention of the Authority's Aa2 bond rating. On February 8th a due diligence call was completed with all parties involved in the 2021 bond refinancing participating. Bond pricing is scheduled for February 23 with the bond closing scheduled to follow on March 17th.
- OCWA's annual audit with Dermody, Burke & Brown is progressing. Continuing to work on the Management Discussion & Analysis portion of the report with Curt Marvin.
- 2020 Confidential Board Evaluation summary has been completed and distributed to the Board members.
- Work on the Salt Springs Road Water Project continues.
- D. Fitzpatrick has submitted his resignation to accept another position and his last day with OCWA is scheduled for February 12, 2021.

IV. WATER PRODUCTION & DELIVERY REPORT

- G. Miller reviewed the Water Production and Delivery report.

- Reported that the Variable Frequency Drives on the Ontario System were very effective with the recent lower demand for water.
- Reviewed the recent news of the water system SCADA hack on the City of Oldsmar, Florida. We did learn that there was an obvious computer security issue. OCWA's SCADA system is separated from OCWA's business enterprise system and is not connected to the internet. The second concern was the chemical feed system which was set up for a very high limit of dispensing chemicals. OCWA has physical limits that would not allow chemicals to be supplied at a high rate that could cause harm to our customers.
- Otisco Lake watershed has a significant snowpack. Based on the runoff potential and soil moisture we are confident that the Otisco Lake level will return to average levels when temperatures go up and the snowpack melts.
- The return of winter weather caused a spike in watermain breaks. We experienced 16 breaks over the last week in January from Friday to Monday. OCWA staff responded quickly and managed well. A job well done by Water Distribution and Operations staff.
- Reported that the Hastings project was split into several contracts due to the scope of the work. Granby project will not start until Spring and other town projects have not materialized due to Covid-19 delays and lack of funding. Salt Springs project is focused on the Skyridge system on the Manlius side with hope of securing grant funding. Once started, other areas should follow.
- OCWA has developed a committee of Engineering and Water Quality staff to evaluate and come up with a plan for compliance and projected budget impact of the revised Lead and Copper Rule implementation. There are currently many questions about the time frame for implementation and the exact requirements. We will continue to provide updates.
- Provided an update on the use of generators at OCWA and the positive impact their use has had on maintaining water service to customers throughout numerous types of issues. Some of our generators are approaching 20 years of use so we are reviewing and planning the maintenance and replacement of generators as they age.
- National Grid notified OCWA of maintenance work that needs to be done at the Oswego Steam Generating station resulting in a shutdown of one electrical supply line to our Raw Water pump station. We have a second line and storage as a backup.
- Included in the authorizations are several system betterment projects. Engineering department has been preparing for watermain replacements. Numerous projects are ready to go and we anticipate a very busy construction year.
- A. Weiss reported on capital projects.
- Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant design is proceeding very well with a target date of February 28 to advertise.
- Lake Ontario WTP electrical work is progressing steadily with the Contractor performing the interconnections and initial programming. We expect late February or early March to start energizing sections.
- Raw water pump #3 was returned following repairs and reinstalled. The motor will be reconnected, wired and start-up scheduled for next week.

- OCWA staff from Operations and Distribution have been completing work within the building at Alverna Heights. The PRV system will be coming online very soon. Overall, work is progressing very well.

IV. LEGAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPORT:

- Jeff Brown reviewed the Legal & Public Affairs report.
- Otisco Lake properties going for auction, have received a lot of attention from individuals, CNY Regional Planning Board, Onondaga County Legislator Julie Abbott. The CNYRPDB had concerns with the sale of the property which have been discussed. OCWA has reached out to potential purchasers including the DEC & several land trusts. G. Miller and J. Brown will be attending the CNYRPDB's next meeting. Auction will be held off until Spring when people can access the property.
- The NSYDEC has a continuing interest in the large 91-acre parcel and is working to secure funding.
- Reviewed the new Retention and Disposition Records Management Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-01) issued by the NYS Education Department, NYS Archives. Used for disposition of documents.

On motion by J. Dougherty, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members present approving, the Board adopted the Retention and Disposition Records Management Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-01) per the Resolution on file with the Authority.

- Mentioned that the first draft of the agreement with Town of Lafayette & Town of Tully for the Honeywell Water Systems is under review internally.

V. HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE/SAFETY:

- L. Khanzadian reviewed Human Resources/Insurance/Safety report.
- Reported that there were 35 recipients of the Perfect attendance award in 2020.
- Provided an update on the fraudulent unemployment claims. OCWA has had seven additional claims since January 1, 2021.

VI. FISCAL SERVICES

- C. Marvin reviewed the Fiscal Services report.
- Water revenues were under budget by \$162,000 (4.1%) in January. Residential and commercial revenues were under budget by \$131,000 and \$48,000 respectively. Municipal revenues were under budget by \$21,000, but industrial revenue was surprisingly over budget by \$39,000.
- January residential consumption was up consumption was up by 5% and 4% as compared to 2020. Slightly better than the year over year consumption decreases we saw pre-COVID.
- Operating Expenses were \$285,000 less than budgeted for the month. Labor and benefits are pretty much permanent savings, but the contractor and supply amounts will likely be used later in the year if revenue ends up being on target and spending is approved.
- Cash receipts for January were \$900,000 or 25% more than January 2020 which is a significant amount.
- Past due Accounts Receivable decreased by \$91,000 (6%) in January. It is the first time that past due A/R decreased since July. Also, the 31-

60 day past due amount decreased for the third consecutive month, which may be due to the lower late fall and early winter bills.

- Updated the Board on an industrial customer account that is significantly past due, currently owing \$151,000. Spoke to the president of the company and learned that they are hoping to get financing and reopen in approximately four months. Plan to follow-up in about two weeks.
- Reviewed the cyber penetration testing performed in December 2020 by the Department of Homeland Security. Per DHS staff, OCWA's systems performed better than average rating, noting that SCADA is separate.
 - Board members asked questions about OCWA's security in general including the physical controls in place. Reviewed employee training that is provided along with the limits in place in disbursing chemicals that would affect water quality.

VII. BIDS

- D-2020 Fairmount Reservoir Improvements
- Reviewed the bids received with managements recommendation to accept the Lowest responsible bidder, DN Tanks of NY, LLC for the sum of \$16,429,566.00.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by J. Dougherty, with all Members present approving, the Board accepted the recommendation of the lowest responsible bidder, DN Tanks of NY, LLC for the sum of \$16,429,566.00.

- Bid #1 – Valve, Pipe and Misc. Painting Work. OCWA management recommends the lowest responsible bidder, M.G. Industrial Painting Co., Inc for the sum of \$119,660.00.

On motion by J. Dougherty, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members present approving, the Board accepted the recommendation of the lowest responsible bidder, M.G. Industrial Painting Co., Inc for the sum of \$119,660.00.

- Bid #2 – Exterior Washing of Water Storage Tanks. OCWA management recommends the lowest responsible bidder, National Wash Authority, LLC for the sum of 42,050.00.

On motion by J. Dougherty, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members present approving, the Board accepted the recommendation of the lowest responsible. National Wash Authority, LLC for the sum of 42,050.00.

On motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by J. Dougherty, with all Members present approving, the Board adjourned the regular Board meeting at 1:55 pm and moved to Executive Session to discuss the employment history of particular individuals.

On motion by J. Dougherty, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members present approving, the Board adjourned Executive Session at 2:40 pm and returned to the regular Board meeting.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by J. Dougherty, with all Members present approving, the Board adjourned the regular meeting at 2:40 p.m.

The next Authority meeting is scheduled for March 24, 2021, 12:30 p.m. at Northern Concourse.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Khazadian, Recording Secretary