

The Onondaga County Water Authority met in regular session on April 20, 2022.

Members of the Authority present were J. Bianchini, K. Gardiner, M. Luber, B. Doran and J. Dougherty by telephone.

Others present: J. Brown, G. Miller, C. Marvin, L. Khanzadian, T. Frateschi, A. Weiss. P. Sherlock, S. Drake and T. Gilbert providing a presentation. Greg Mosure and Jessica Martinez from Barton & Loguidice presented.

I. Call to Order:

- J. Bianchini, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. and introduced P. Sherlock, Management Engineer, P. Sherlock introduced two of his staff S. Drake, Water Systems Construction Engineer and T. Gilbert, Water Systems Construction Engineer from the Engineering department. Presented a general overview of water main replacement and water lining projects. The Board thanked the department for their informative presentation and the Engineering employee's dedication to multiple projects and continued efforts in providing safe water.

J. Bianchini commented favorably regarding recent awards

AWWA Project of the year award – Lake Ontario Electrical Substation and Generator Project

AWWA NYS Safety award

On motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members approving, the Board approved the regular Minutes of March 16, 2022, as presented.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members approving, the Board approved the March 16, 2022, Audit Committee Minutes.

- Board discussed reviewing in detail, at the May Board meeting, budget, spending status and excess funds. Agreed to begin this discussion at 12:30 pm

II. Executive Director

- Reviewed KPI's, specifically three groups
 - Product Quality
 - Enterprise Resiliency
 - Employees & Leadership Development
- Briefed on disinfection by products and recent spikes which are being reviewed and evaluated.

- Discussion of recent recruitment and retention issues for which we are working on including the potential of adding a stipend for CDL license for employees in Distribution required to have a CDL as part of their job.
- OCWA successfully negotiated with one of the potential developers of the Attis site, a \$25,000 payment towards Attis outstanding balance.
- Review of policies and consideration of discretionary funds related to numerous programs for morale, recognition, and retention of OCWA employees. Further details will be provided at the May meeting.
- Customer Satisfaction Survey has been completed, details to follow.
- HomeServe has requested a price increase from \$4.49 per month to \$5.49 for water service line coverage. Willing to go with a \$1 increase for two years, through 2024. Labor and material costs are increasing and challenging. There was no objection to this increase.

III. WATER PRODUCTION & DELIVERY

- Uni-Directional flushing has started in Camillus.
- Provided an update on the cost of materials and delivery, including a recent ductile iron pipe cost increase. We anticipate a surcharge and a 10% increase in the cost. OCWA management recommends moving forward and tie to an index.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by J. Dougherty, with all Members approving, the Board approved moving forward with the index pricing agreement for ductile iron pipe.

- Further discussion of potential emergency purchasing scenarios.

On motion by J. Dougherty, duly seconded by M. Lubber, with all Members approving, the Board authorized the Executive Director to make the decision to purchase materials in an emergency and alert the Board by email.

- Watermain breaks dropped off which resulted in a below average month in March. April, to date, has been about average.
- Water demand has returned to normal levels, but the losses in the first quarter have caught up to our metered ratio. We dropped slightly below the goal of 85%, down to 84.7%. Metered ratio changes typically lag by a few months due to meter read dates.
- Otisco Lake level is holding at about 6" over the crest of the dam. One gate open 5" We are slightly above the long-term average, and we are comfortable with where we are.
- Water Quality – OCWA had a high DBP result in southern Onondaga, so we flushed extensively and resampled. Awaiting sample results.
- Nedrow – The DOT started work on replacing the Sentinel Heights bridge over Route 81 this month with the work expected to take most of the year. Our main supply to Nedrow is the pipe on the bridge which will be out of service as well.

We will be utilizing the backup supply from the south side of the City of Syracuse which requires us to use an old pump station and for three homes at the higher elevations we have installed a temporary pump system. We will be monitoring water quality as the water from the south side of the City has had issues in the past.

- Completion of the Eastern Pump station pump control project that was done in house. New variable frequency drives were installed and replaced the cross control valves with check valves. Great project completed by OCWA employees instead of having to contract out.

IV. ENGINEERING

- Current projects are moving along smoothly as outlined in the Engineering report.
- Reservoir at Fairmount is progressing, waiting for materials.
- Engineering flooring and furniture is nearing completion.
- Business office is the next work area scheduled for improvements.
- Final coat of paint going on in the Garage.
- Fire payout is nearing closure. Final look at vehicles and furniture and electronics.
- Projects at the Ontario Water treatment plant will occur over a three-year period with some expected price increases based on materials.
- T-Mobile has requested an installation at the Liverpool tank. Working on preparing an agreement.

V. LEGAL

- Qualifications were received from three insurance brokerage firms. Interviews planned for next week.
- ATTIS – Riverview Business Park selling to another company who has agreed to pay \$25,000 in escrow to offset what is owed to OCWA. OCWA will work with new buyers and the next step is to segregate the meter connection.
- Terminal litigation has been settled.
- OCWA policy adopted regarding a new law, providing employees with OCWA's Electronic Monitoring Policy.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by M. Luber, with all Members approving, the Board adopted the outlined Electronic Monitoring Policy, dated April 20, 2022.

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES & INSURANCE

- Discussed recruitment in general with the focus on Distribution Maintenance. Using other avenues to attract entry level and summer aides – BOCES. Looking at pay structure and incentives.

- Reviewed the open position in Operations, the lack of qualified candidates interested in shift work and the length of time the position has been vacant. Request the Board waive the anti- nepotism policy for the selection of a candidate.

On motion B. Doran, duly seconded by M. Luber, with all Members approving, the Board approved the waiver of OCWA's anti-nepotism policy to hire Rocco Scacella, Jr.

- Upcoming review of three insurance brokers by a five-member committee.

VII. FISCAL

- Water revenues are \$186,000 more than budgeted for the month and about \$320,000 or 2.6% more than budgeted for the year to date.
- OCWA received \$225,000 in grant revenue during March. It is related to the North Shore Transmission Main project.
- Investment Income for the year is six times more than budgeted. It will likely continue to increase as the yield on the 3-month T-bill has increased by 55%, and the 6 month and 1-year T-bills have increased by about 20% since the end of March
- Net Operating Expenses are \$319,000 less than budgeted for the month. Labor will be under budget each month if there are a significant number of unfilled positions. Power costs are over budget by \$59,000 and fuel costs are over budget by \$17,000. It seems that fuel and power are going to be recurring monthly items. With inflation running the way it is the cost of everything will be increasing.
- OCWA's 2008 bonds have been refinanced by the EFC as part of a larger financing. It will save \$787,000 over the next eight years including \$112,000 this year. That \$112,000 represents a 12% decrease for the 2008 debt service this year. It will certainly help debt service coverage.
- Past due accounts receivables have decreased by nearly 20% since the first of the year. And the 120 days+ amount decreased for the 3rd consecutive month and have decreased by almost 12% since the first of the year.
- Reported that early Bond closure on the 2022 Bonds resulted in a significant reduction in interest.
- Continue to work on past due accounts. At some point, (not sure of the time frame) past due OCWA water bills will move to the tax roll.
- Reviewed OCWA's 1st Quarter investment report.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by M. Luber, with all Members approving, the Board approved the first quarter investment report as presented.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Four Contractor Main Extension Contracts and Three Job Order Contracts(s) presented for consideration. On motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members approving, the Board authorized J. Brown to execute the following:

Project #	Developer/Contractor	Job Title (new accounts)	Location	Project Cost
4220024	Eldan Homes, Inc.	8" Ext. River Grove Subdivision, Ph. 2 -11 Services	River Grove, TLYS	\$36,920.00
4220026	Eustachio Alberici	8" Ext. Copper River, PH. 2-20 services	Copper River, TLYS	\$61,517.50
4220027	J. Alberici & Sons	8" & 12" Ext. Timber Banks Sec. #3, Phs. 5 & 6 -40 services	Timber Banks, TLYS	\$113,096.50
4220032	North Syracuse Storage, LLC	8" Ext. N. Syr. Storage, S. Bay Rd.	Aero Center, TSAL	\$22,687.50
Job Orders				
9003971	Clay Fire Department	Relocate Hydrant #12417 zero services	State Rte 31, TCLA	\$35,000.00
9004065	6680 Man. Ctr. Rd, LLC	Geiger Automotive, Inst. 6" Fire Svs. -2 services	6680 Man. Ctr. Rd.	\$10,000.00
9004092	TDJ Properties	400 N. Peterboro, Install. 6" Fire Svs	N. Peterboro St, VCAN	\$10,000.00

- A. Weiss reviewed the NYS DOT-Town of Cicero Resolution

On motion by M. Lubber, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members approving, the Board approved the resolution regarding the Rt 11 ADA sidewalk project in the Town of Cicero.

- L. Khanzadian reviewed the standard workday & reporting resolution for John Dougherty.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by B. Doran, with four Members approving and one (J. Dougherty) abstaining, the Board approved the standard workday & reporting resolution as posted.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Terminal Pipe Repair Project – Digital presentation and review by A. Weiss, G. Mosure and J. Martinez, from Barton & Loguidice. A comprehensive review and presentation of repairs and replacement of Terminal pipe. Costs have been projected for both known or necessary repairs versus total repairs/ replacement. Recommendations from both

outside Engineers as well as inhouse Engineers. Board requested to table a decision until the May meeting.

X. BIDS

- Bid #3 Sodium Hypochlorite – Lowest bidder did not meet the outlined specifications. Management recommends rejecting the first and awarding to the second lowest, Bison Laboratories as the responsible bidder.

On motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by M. Luber, with all Members approving, the Board approved the selection of the lowest responsible bidder, Bison Laboratories totaling \$217,500.00

- Bid #4 – Copper tubing. Reviewed two bids received, waived an informality which had a discrepancy in the quantity of one bid item which did not impact the bid prices of any of the bids. Management recommends waiving the discrepancy and awarding to the lowest responsible bidder, Ferguson Waterworks.

On motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members approving, the Board approved the bid selection of Ferguson Waterworks totaling \$170,899.50

On motion by M. Luber, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members approving, the Board adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

The next Authority meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at the Onondaga County Water Authority headquarters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Khanzadian, Recording Secretary