

The Onondaga County Water Authority met in regular session on July 12, 2022.

Members of the Authority present were J. Bianchini, K. Gardiner, B. Doran, A. Geiss, and D. Wickman.

Others present: J. Brown, G. Miller, C. Marvin, L. Khazadian, A. Weiss and T. Frateschi. Also present, J. Carni, Government & Public Affairs.

I. Call to Order:

- J. Bianchini, Chairman called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

J. Bianchini welcomed the new Board Member appointments, Anthony Geiss, and Douglas Wickman, two good additions to the Board, both bringing extensive engineering experience.

On Motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, the Board approved the regular minutes of June 22, 2022, as presented.

J. Bianchini introduced J. Carni, Director Government & Public Affairs. J. Carni presented on recent efforts working with area fire departments, online water service material survey, Water Wednesday, Facebook, facility tours for local schools, and attending OLPA meetings. Continued outreach with towns in the OCWA service area. J. Bianchini, on behalf of the Board, thanked Joe Carni for his continued effort.

J. Bianchini proposed a proclamation recognizing the distinguished service of past OCWA Board Members, John Dougherty, and Michael Luber.

On motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by K. Gardiner, with all Members approving, the Board approved recognition of John Dougherty and Michael Luber for their distinguished service as Board members.

J. Bianchini thanked C. Marvin and the OCWA management team for the efforts and timing of finalizing the \$50M bond issue. With expedient effort, savings will be achieved over the life of the bond which is passed to rate payers.

II. Executive Director

- Reminded Board Members of OCWA's Family Day on July 13 from noon to 3:30 p.m. The afternoon will include department demonstrations, food provided by the AQUA flower fund, and an ice cream truck from Empower Federal Credit Union.
- Breakfasts are scheduled over the next few weeks at all OCWA work centers to express appreciation and thanks to OCWA

employees for their continued work effort with excellent customer service scores and continued safety awareness.

- On Thursday, July 14, 2022, OCWA management will attend a site visit at White Pine with the newest interested company.
- COVID numbers are down with zero employees out of work.
- Discussion continues on a study of shared services with the City of Syracuse. Based on discussions between the County Legislature and the City of Syracuse, the plan is to move ahead with an RFP/RFQ for the evaluation of conditions and options for shared for shared services.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by T. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Board approved a 50/50 cost share between the City of Syracuse and OCWA on proceeding with an RFP/RFQ to study opportunities for shared services.

- Updating employee photo I.D.'s is in progress. Board Members are asked to update at their convenience.
- Reviewed KPI's, specifically four groups
- Product Quality
- Enterprise Resiliency
- Employee Development
- Leadership Development

III. WATER PRODUCTION & DELIVERY

- 1. Water Demands:** For June water demands were down about 5%. Water demands have increased to just under 40 MGD for the first part of July. A little above last year but below previous years. We have not seen any high demand days as the weather has been moderate with a good bit of rain.

- 2. Lake Levels:** Otisco Lake is about 5" below the crest of the dam, about at our 62-year average – at a good level. Lake Ontario is still slightly above the long-term monthly average with no impacts on our operations.

- 3. Water Main Breaks:** The number of watermain breaks was slightly below average for June, and so far in July we are just about on average.

- 4. Metered Ratio:** Update on the metered ratio is that we are slightly above our goal of 85%. We are not seeing any big areas of losses, so our leak detection staff is searching for small leaks throughout the system.

- 5. Water Quality:** Finished water quality from both treatment plants continues to be excellent. Regarding the lead sampling – this year we are required to conduct triannual sampling. We have received ninety-four samples so far and are required to obtain one hundred samples. The existing standards are to take first draw samples from houses with either lead services or lead solder piping. The proposed regulations are to sample only lead services and the fifth liter sample – we have distributed 120 sets of sample bottles; twelve we are doing both the old and new ways.

IV. ENGINEERING

- At the Fairmount tank project site, currently evaluating concrete cores and slab for analysis. There is a surface defect or concrete quality concern. More information to follow the testing.
- Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant – Materials and major equipment delivery is coming in with appropriate shipping and protection. Happy to report that the delivery specification was followed.
- Phase 2 of the pipeline cleaning and lining project in the Split Rock/Onondaga Road area is going well.
- Meeting scheduled with National Grid regarding the repairs that are needed on the Milton Avenue transmission main.

V. LEGAL

- Managing several routine employee issues.
- Called about ATTIS, no new action, they are still working on a sale.
- Meeting with Brown & Brown, to review insurance and better understand pricing, costs, broker responsibility and competition. Discussed the volume of insurance and specific lines of coverage. Mentioned Haylor, Freyer & Coon and sharing the insurance coverages, specifically workers compensation, as a chance to evaluate service. Requested a motion to change the broker of record on OCWA's current Workers Compensation insurance policy.

On motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, the Board approved the appointment of Haylor, Freyer & Coon as the broker of record for the current workers compensation policy with PERMA, effective immediately through 12/31/2023.

VI. HUMAN RESOURCES & INSURANCE

- Applicant flow improving which is related to updating job outlines and announcements.
- Successful in reaching agreement with the Teamsters on adding a Laborer II position in Distribution Maintenance resulting in adding two recent hires.
- Mentioned upcoming CDL training offered through Onondaga County, with assistance from M. Voss. The Board and OCWA thank Marty Voss, Onondaga County for including OCWA in the available training.
- Received excellent response to our Director of HR recruitment initiatives. Three particularly good applicants scheduled for interviews with others pending.
- Reported on the Standard Workday error and update requesting Board approval of the corrected resolution for John Dougherty

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by T. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Board approved the Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution as outlined, for John Dougherty.

VII. FISCAL

1. Water Revenues are \$28,000 less than budgeted for the month and are about \$166,000 or 0.7% more than budgeted for the year to date.
2. OCWA received \$1.3 million in settlement of the Terminal Reservoir lawsuit. Those funds are currently shown under Non-Operating Income.
3. Net Operating Expenses are \$335,000 less than budgeted for the month. Labor, Employee Benefits and Outside Contractors are all significantly under budget. The Labor variance is due to the significant number of positions that are unfilled as well as the difficulty we have had recruiting summer aides. Also, Electric and Transportation Costs are over budget which has been the case all year.
4. Payee Positive Pay which OCWA implemented last summer has been a very useful addition. Payee Positive Pay is a banking antifraud system which compares a list of the checks that we have uploaded to M&T bank to those that are presented for payment. In the last two weeks fifty-two fraudulent checks totaling \$205,000 have been presented against the O&M account and because they did not match the list of checks that we uploaded, they were blocked with very little effort on our part.
5. Total past due accounts receivables continue to show a good downward trend on the graph and have decreased by \$555,000 or 31% since the first of the year. And the 120 days+ amount decreased for the 6th consecutive month and have decreased by over 29% since the first of the year.
6. 457 Deferred Compensation audit is in progress.
7. Review of the 2nd Quarter Investment report.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Board accepted the Second Quarter Investment report as presented.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

- Two (2) Contractor Main Extension Contracts 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
4220022	Restaurant Depot	12" Extension Restaurant Depot (2 Svs-Fire/Dom.)	Buckley Road	\$15,369.50

9004094	Stewart Hancock Partners	8" FS – Dunn Tire (2 Svs-Fire/Dom.)	Stewart Drive	\$45,000.00
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- Two Rights-Of-Way(s) presented for consideration. On motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by T. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Board authorized G. Miller to execute the following:

Project #	With	For
4220032	Gulf & Western Aero Devl. LLC #1 – TM #058. -01-03.3 #2 – TM #058.-01-03.5	N. Syracuse Storage, S. Bay Road

- Review of OCWA’s long range plans. J. Brown presented the long-term financial plans which included a 20-year O & M budget projection and capital project projections. A. Weiss reviewed the capital portion and discussed that a 40 year “look out” will show the life span of major facilities and provide a clearer understanding of capital needs. C. Marvin explained how the O & M projection and capital projections compare to the annual budgets.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by B. Doran with all Members approving, the Board adjourned the regular Board meeting and moved to Executive Session at 12:12 pm to discuss the financial history of particular individuals.

On motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by T. Geiss, with all Members approving the Board adjourned Executive Session at 12:47 p.m. and returned to the regular Board meeting.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, the Board adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

The next Authority meeting is scheduled for August 17, 2022, at the Otisco Water Treatment Plant to begin at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Khanzadian,
Recording Secretary