

Minutes of a Budget Workshop Meeting Onondaga County Water Authority

A Budget Workshop meeting of the Onondaga County Water Authority was convened on October 12, 2022, at 12:05 pm at 200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse NY 13212.

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

Others present: J. Brown, G. Miller, C. Marvin, A. Weiss, M. Thomas, and J. Stowell.

J. Brown gave an outline of the process to prepare the 2023 budget. He noted that it included more detailed conversations with department managers than in the past.

The tentative budget was presented with a 7.4% increase in revenues and an 1.8% increase in expenses over the 2022 budget. J. Brown noted an emphasis was placed on increasing capital funding to allow for continued improvement of OCWA's infrastructure.

J. Brown presented the following reports and conversations ensued regarding:

- Twenty Year O & M Projection
- O & M Assumptions
- Labor Count and Organization Chart
- O & M Budget Comparison
- O & M Budget Monthly Summary
- Year-End Projected Fund Balance
- Rate Increase Impact
- Capital Budget

J. Brown discussed that the proposed budget includes \$1.1m in additional reserves resulting from the recent award of the North Shore Loop Grant. Management recommended using \$500,000 of that award to fund an additional main replacement project in Canastota. The Authority members agreed to add the project to the capital budget. The Authority members discussed at length main replacement work. A. Weiss noted that the 2023 budget includes approximately 5 miles of main replacement for a total of \$5.3 million, which represents an increase of 23% from 2022 (not including the Canastota project).

J. Brown reviewed the proposed rate increases. The Authority discussed in detail the impact of the proposed rate increases. Conversations ensued regarding the

capital plan. The Authority recommended increasing all rates to 7% and using the additional revenue to fund the supplemental Canastota main replacement project.

C. Marvin discussed the year end projected fund balance. The Authority discussed allocation of fund balance and reserves. C. Marvin will present to the Authority proposed revisions to required reserve balances in November.

On motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all members approving, the Authority adjourned the Budget Workshop meeting at 1:19 p.m. and moved to Executive Session to discuss the financial history of particular individuals.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all members approving, the Authority adjourned Executive Session at 1:48 p.m. and returned to the Budget Workshop meeting.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all members approving, the Authority authorized the wage adjustments and clarification/standardization of ambiguous compensation language in the employment agreements of A. Weiss, G. Miller and J. Brown.

On motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all members approving, the Authority adjourned the meeting at 1:50 p.m.

The next regular Authority meeting is scheduled for October 26, 2022, at Northern Concourse to begin at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennie S. Stowell
Recording Secretary