

**Onondaga County Water Authority
Regular Monthly Authority Meeting**
200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse NY
Monday June 19, 2023 @12:30 p.m.

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

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

Public in attendance: A. Scamehorn and J. Messineo

A. Board Meeting

1. J. Bianchini introduced Andrea Scamehorn and Joe Messineo both from Manlius.
2. J. Messineo led the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. J. Bianchini, Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:43 p.m.
4. On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the regular meeting minutes of May17, 2023 as presented.

B. Executive Director

- J. Brown provided a summary of recent meetings with Micron. Conversations regarding water demand for both Phase 1 and 2 are ongoing with OCIDA, WEP and DEC. Micron continues to refine its daily water requirement. OCWA is finalizing preliminary infrastructure improvements cost estimates, which will be the basis for the draft water services agreement.
- Salt Springs Road Betterment Project – J. Brown, J. Bianchini and G. Miller provided a brief overview of the history of the proposed water project. A stakeholder meeting was held on May 26th to discuss funding opportunities and the roles of the various agencies and elected officials involved in moving the project ahead.
J. Messineo spoke about areas of concern with a project of this magnitude. A conversation ensued regarding the topography of the area. J. Bianchini noted the adverse conditions that fire departments face when fighting fires in areas with restricted or less than optimal water flow and pressure. It was discussed that future development or improvements to the area would be under the Town of Manlius’ jurisdiction.
A. Scamehorn and J. Messineo thanked the Authority of the opportunity to speak and left the meeting at 1:05 p.m.
- Reviewed KPI’s relating to the following four attributes of Effective Utility Management:

- Customer Satisfaction
- Community Sustainability
- Operational Optimization
- Stakeholder Understanding and Support
- Southern Branch – J. Brown and G. Miller reviewed the history of the Southern branch of the OCWA system that provides City of Syracuse water to the Town of DeWitt wholesale and other OCWA retail customers. The branch was originally controlled by the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB). When OCWA and MWB merged in 2017, OCWA inherited the service and pricing agreements. These agreements are outdated and do not accurately represent the costs associated with operating the system, including, and most significantly, purchasing water from the City of Syracuse. There was lengthy discussion about the pricing structure.

On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all the Members present approving, the Authority authorized OCWA management to develop a new rate schedule, to become effective September 1, 2023, to reflect the cost of purchasing water from the City Syracuse to sell to Town of DeWitt off the Southern Branch.

- Authority members discussed training OCWA offers local fire departments. OCWA has placed an emphasis on communicating with the fire agencies to offer training and understand their needs.

Executive Session

- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members present approving, the Authority adjourned the regular meeting at 1:59 p.m. and moved into Executive session to discuss matters leading to contracting with a particular individual and union contract negotiations.
- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority, adjourned Executive session at 2:32 p.m., and returned to the regular meeting.
- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by, D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority agreed to extend the independent contractor agreement with R. Andrews until December 31, 2023 at the same financial terms.

C. New Business

1. Expenditure Authorizations

- Were signed without issue.

2. Easement

- *One (1) Easement.* On motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority authorized G. Miller to execute the following:

Project No.	With	For
	Waterhouse Road Easement	Local Union No.43 Reality Corporation

3. Long range budget review

- J. Brown presented Authority members with the 20-year capital and O & M budgets. He explained that the proposed budget does not include the Micron project. Authority members discussed their desire to continue to support initiatives that provide continuity of water delivery in a reliable and affordable manner.

On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the 20-year capital and O & M budget as presented with an anticipated 7% increase on rates for 2024.

4. Fund balance resolution

- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman with all Members present approving, the Authority adopted the following resolution:

IN THE MATTER OF THE ENACTMENT OF A RESOLUTION OF THE ONONDAGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY REQUESTING INCLUSION OF APPROPRIATED FUND BALANCE IN THE 2024 COUNTY BUDGET

The Onondaga County Water Authority met in regular session at its headquarters building at 200 Northern Concourse in the town of Salina, County of Onondaga and State of New York (Post Office Box 4949, Syracuse, New York 13221-4949) on the 19th day of June, 2023 at 12:30 pm.

The meeting was called to order by John Bianchini, Chair, and the following were present, namely:

John V. Bianchini Chairman
 Anthony Geiss, Jr. Vice Chairman
 Bénédicte H. Doran Secretary
 Douglas R. Wickman Board Member

At the request of the Chair, the following matter was considered and adopted:

WHEREAS, the Authority and the County of Onondaga entered into a Public Water Supply Cooperations Agreement dated December 30, 2016 (“Agreement”) whereby the Authority assumed the operations of the Onondaga County Water District (“District”); and WHEREAS, the Agreement states that the county shall inform the Authority of “[t]he balance of the County’s bonded debt reserve fund(s) related to District operations and the

proposed amount of the reserve fund(s) to be applied to the County’s annual debt service obligation” by no later than June 30 of each year;” and WHEREAS, the Agreement states that “[t]he OCWA Board may transmit to the county Executive, no later than August 15 of each year, a request to appropriate within the County Executive’s proposed budget a specified amount as Appropriated Fund Balance, a specified amount as reserve(s) for bonded debt to offset debt service costs described herein, and explanation of the proposed District costs in support of the request”; and WHEREAS, the County has not yet informed the Authority of the balance of the County’s bonded debt reserve fund(s) related to District operations and the proposed amount of the reserve fund(s) to be applied to the County’s annual debt service obligation and therefore the Authority is unable, at this time, to make an appropriation request to the County for District bonded debt; and WHEREAS, the Authority does have several District-related projects it intends to pursue in 2024 for which it desires to utilize a portion of the Appropriate Fund Balance. NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Authority requests that a \$325,486 appropriation be included within the County Executive’s proposed 2024 budget from the District’s Appropriated Fund Balance to be applied to the cost of the following projects: 1) Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant Improvements (\$325,486)

5. Fairmount Tank Project Change Order No. 1

- A. Weiss presented to the Authority the following change order:
 1. Adjustment is made to the Contract Price to reflect the final quantity of unit price items incorporated into the Work, as well as the value of work assigned to the contingency allowance (Bid Item 1.7). This reconciliation is reflected in the attached spreadsheet and results in a new decrease in the Contract Price.
 2. Adjustment is made to the Contract Times to accommodate unforeseen delays, including abnormal weather, as governed by GC-4.05.C.On a motion made by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved change order no. 1 for contract no. D-2020 as presented.

D. Bids

1. Bid #6 2023 Crane and Hoist Inspections

Management recommends awarding to Simmers Crane Design & Service in the as corrected bid amount of \$17,242.00.

On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the award of Bid #6 To Simmers Crane and Service.

2. Bid #7 Copper Tubbing

Management recommended awarding Ferguson Waterworks.

On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the award of Bid #7 to Ferguson Waterworks in the amount of \$159,304.75

3. Bid #5 Maintenance garage door and employee entrance modifications project

Management recommended awarding McGinnis Nelson Construction.

On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the award of Bid #5 to McGinnis Nelson Construction in the amount of \$157,000.00.

E. Other business

- Authority members discussed the positive impact that the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District has had on the health of the watershed and surrounding community.

On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved increasing the 2023 monthly allocation for Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation to \$16,000 per month effective immediately.

- J. Brown reminded the Authority members that annual self-evaluations will be discussed in July.

F. Reports

1. Water Production and Delivery

- G. Miller presented the following:
- Lake Levels: Otisco Lake level is -4" as of June 7th which is about 5" below average for this time of year. One gate open 1". There has been very little rain since the first week of May contributing to the lower lake level. Lake Ontario water level remains above the long-term monthly average. At this point, neither lake level is causing any operational issues.
- Water Main Breaks: The number of watermain breaks was slightly above average for May, but we are still below average for the year.
- Metered Ratio: The twelve-month metered ratio is 87.04% and remains above our goal of 85%.
- Water Quality: Finished water quality from both treatment plants continues to be excellent. Our operations and water quality departments have worked hard to keep the chlorine levels up throughout the distribution system with over 88% of all sample points above 0.20 ppm for the month.

2. Engineering

- A. Weiss stated The Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant project is going well. Filter #6 is online; two contact basins are online; Filter #5 is going online soon.
- He explained that the Fairmount project is wrapping up.
- Conversations are ongoing with the contractor for the Salt Springs tank project. Horizontal cracks have appeared, and the team is evaluating to determine if they require reinforcements.

3. Human Resources and Insurance

- J. Stowell advised the Authority that M. Carbery is resigning her position at OCWA to pursue a new career opportunity.
- OneGroup is in the process of finalizing the insurance binder renewal. A conversation ensued regarding the recent insurance market assignments.

4. Legal/Public Education/Communications

- M. Thomas advised the Authority members that the committee is continuing to review the proposals for the emergency notification system. A vendor will be selected next month.
- Progress continues on the draft agreement for Micron.
- Several employees are working on the displays for the exhibit at the MOST.
- During Drinking Water Week, OCWA hosted a poster contest for elementary school students. The winning poster was shared on social media. All the entries are on display in the break room.

5. Fiscal Services

- Water revenues are 4.5% less than budgeted.
- Net operating expenses are 7.2% less than budgeted.

The Authority members discussed receivables. It was agreed that the current collections process is appropriate and does not expose the Authority to egregious accounts receivable balances.

On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Authority is scheduled for July 12, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., 200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie S. Stowell

Recording Secretary

