

Onondaga County Water Authority
Regular Monthly Authority Meeting
200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse
Wednesday October 18, 2023 @ 12:30 p.m.

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

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

Public in Attendance: Glenn Coin, Post Standard

A. Board Meeting.

1. The Pledge of Allegiance.
2. K. Gardiner, Chairman called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.
3. On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the regular meeting minutes of September 20, 2023.
4. On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the budget workshop meeting minutes of October 11, 2023.

1. Executive Director

- J. Brown acknowledged the recent article on Syracuse.com regarding Mircon. He said the article fairly depicted OCWA's current status with Mircon and that a draft agreement was sent to Micron. We have not received a response at this time.
- J. Brown presented K. Gardiner with three proclamations to sign. Two for staff retirements, Janis Jones 33 years and Dick Stevens 18 years. One for John Bianchini for 10 years as Authority Chairman.

2. Water production and delivery

G. Miller presented the following:

- **Otisco Lake Level** – The lake level is -16" which is about 10" above the long term average. K. Gardiner asked that historical data be added to the chart.
- **Water Demand** – we are seeing about 35 MGD now which is typical for this time of year.
- **Watermain Breaks** – about average for September, still down for the year. First half of October has been above average, we'll see how the next two weeks go. A conversation ensued about the main breaks.
- **Metered Ratio** – dropped a little to 87% - but still really good.

- **Water Quality** – continues to be very good.
- **Lead and Copper Sampling** – We are now required to analyze every six months. Sampling must be done by the customers, and we need at least 100 samples to be compliant. Customers are getting a little annoyed because they don't see lead as an issue. To encourage customers to participate in the sampling we are giving a \$10 participation gift card. The regulations are based on the level at the 90th percentile –our result were six PPB. The current action limit is now 15 PPB. Regulations are changing significantly next year, we will update the Authority when the regulations are finalized.
- **Eagleview Tank in Manlius** – One MG tank built seven years ago, drained, cleaned and inspected this week – looks good and we will be putting it right back in service later this week or early next week.
- **DeWitt** – They have some new staff and we are working more closely with them on their operations. We are now monitoring their metered connections off the Southern Branch on our SCADA system. We identified two leaks for them in the past couple of weeks on their Northern connections.
- **Skyridge** – We replaced one of the well pumps this week. The old pump was slowly failing, we are seeing much better flow results.

3. Engineering

A. Weiss presented the following:

- **LOWTP:** Work on Filter four has progressed. Work in the filter gallery will halt at Filter four until the valve issues have an agreed resolution. Conversations ensued regarding the valves. The new Motorized Control Center's have arrived which will allow for progress on final power terminations.
- The new roof work over the operations gallery is defective and is under review. Conversations are ongoing with the contractor.
- **Salt Springs Tank:** Rehabilitation of the existing five MG tank is nearly complete.
- **Terminal Piping Repairs:** The repairs on the East side are nearly complete (as of 10/10/23). The last repair area is on the 54" inlet piping. Conditions remain challenging but have not stopped progress.
- A. Weiss explained the process regarding the DEC inspection of the dam at Otisco Lake.

4. Human Resources and Insurance

J. Stowell presented the following:

- Recruitment is especially active. Many vacancies are due to internal promotions or transfers, retirements, and resignations.
- Human Resources attend the following career fairs:

- LeMoyne College
- CNY Works
- Syracuse University
- SUNY ESF
- Syracuse Construction Career Day
- BOCES – Syracuse and Cortland locations
- OCWA and the Teamsters met on October 4, 2023 to continue negotiations on the CBA that expires December 31, 2023.
- J. Stowell joined G. Miller for the inspection of the Eagleview tank.

5. Legal/Public Education/Communications

Legal

M. Thomas presented the following:

- We have hosted multiple colleges at the Otisco Water Treatment plant in the past month. We have additional tours and presentations planned, as well as some other unique ways to reach students.
- The NYS mandatory harassment and DEI training will be conducted in November

Public Education and Communications

- Imagine a Day Without Water - Tiffany LG. is planning a press conference for Imagine a Day Without Water on October 19, 2023. This National Day of Action brings together people to highlight the essential role of fresh, clean water in society. OCWA will highlight our ongoing push to raise awareness about the Lead Service Line Identification & Replacement Program.

6. Fiscal Services

C. Marvin presented the following:

- Water Revenues are \$149,005 (2.9%) less than budgeted and Net Operating Expenses are \$11,813 (0.4%) more than budgeted for September.
- Noted that residential consumption billed in September and the first billing in October were significantly lower than for the same period in 2022. K. Gardiner asked report with the details of the bills over 120 days past due.

7. KPI's

J. Brown presented the following:

- Key Performance Indicators relating to the following three attributes of Effective Utility Management:
 - Product Quality
 - Enterprise Resiliency
 - Employee and Leadership Development

Executive Session

- On motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Board adjourned the regular Board

meeting at 2:06 p.m. and moved to Executive session to discuss matters leading the compensation of particular individuals and collective bargaining negotiations.

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority adjourned Executive session at 2.53 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting.

C. New Business

1. 2024 O&M Budget

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the 2024 O&M budget as presented.

2. Capital Budget

- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the 2024 capital budget as presented.

3. ABO Documents

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority approved the 2024 ABO documents as presented.

4. Expenditure Authorizations

- Were signed without issue.

5. Main Extension & Job Order

- *One (1) Main Extension.* On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority authorized J. Brown to execute the following:

Job No.	With	Job Title	Proj. Cost
9004147	Chittenango DG, LLC	12" Relocation Dollar General	\$60,000.00

- *One (1) Job Contract(s).* On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority authorized J. Brown to execute the following:

Job No.	With	Job Title	Proj. Cost
9004126	Royal Wash Development	4" fire service & 6" fire service	\$20,000.00

6. Capitalization of Subscription Based Information Technology Agreements

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority adopted \$25,000 as the minimum capitalization amount for the subscription-based information technology agreements (SBITA). SBITAs that are capitalized will be amortized over the term of the agreements using the straight-line method of amortization.

7. Quarterly Investment Report

- C. Marvin presented the quarterly report. The Board discussed investment advisor and the future of investment income.
- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority approved the quarterly investment report as presented.

D. Unfinished Business

- J. Brown reviewed the changes to the By-Laws.
On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority approved the By-Laws with changes submitted.
- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority approved the vision and mission Statement without changes.
- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority appointed Brian Johnson Chairman of the Audit Committee, with a stipend amount of \$500 annually.
- On a motion by K. Gardiner, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority appointed John Bianchini the Chair of the Finance Committee.
- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority appointed Ken Gardiner the Chair of the Governance Committee.
- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority appointed Doug Wickman the Chair of the Ethics Committee.
- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Authority members present approving, the Authority appointed Benedicte Doran the Chair of the Innovation Committee.

E. Bids

Bid #2023-8

- G. Miller –
- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Board approved awarded Bid #2023-8 to the lowest responsible bidder, Univar Solutions,USA Inc in the amount of \$125,000.
- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority adjourned the meeting at 3:22 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Authority is scheduled for November 15, 2023 at 12:30 p.m., at 200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie S. Stowell
Recording Secretary