

Onondaga County Water Authority
Regular Monthly Authority Meeting
200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse
Tuesday November 21, 2023 @ 2:00 p.m.

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

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

Presenter: Lori Ciarla of DB&B

A. Opening business

1. The Pledge of Allegiance.
2. K. Gardiner, Chairman called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

K. Gardiner present J. Bianchini with an award and proclamation, recognizing his years of service as Chairman.

3. On a motion by A. Geiss seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members in favor, the Authority approved the meeting minutes of October 18, 2023.

4. Key staff takeaways

a) Legal/Public Education/Communications

M. Thomas presented an offer from NYS DEC to purchase the 90-acre parcel of land in Otisco. OCWA has been awaiting an offer from the DEC for the past year plus. OCWA and DEC have both obtained appraisals and the offer is in alignment with them. K. Gardiner asked the executive team to prepare plans for the sale proceeds. J. Bianchini recognized the efforts of local legislators. J. Brown will send thank yous.

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority accepted the purchase offer from NYS and authorized J. Brown to enter into an agreement for the sale equal to the DEC's appraised value.

b) Human Resources/Insurance

J. Stowell noted that recruitment has been very active. Over the past 60 days, OCWA has received 65 applications and since the October Board meeting has conducted 20 interviews, hired seven new employees, and facilitated three promotions.

c) Finance

C. Marvin advised the Board that the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) established to assist residents with their water bill has ended. Before the program closes there will be one last funding. A \$415 payment will be applied to each resident who previously received funding.

d) Engineering

A. Weiss advised the Board that representatives from the valve and actuator manufacturers were onsite to troubleshoot the ongoing valve issues at the Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant. The testing identified that the valves themselves were performing acceptably. The actuators were found to be defective. It was also discovered that the actuators were assembled with the wrong type of grease. The issue has been repaired and is scheduled to be reinstalled.

The Board inquired about the work at Farrell Pump Station. A. Weiss stated that work to install two new pumps has been advertised. Pipe repairs have been completed on the 48" pipe and the contractor is working on the 54" pipe repairs.

e) Water Production and Quality

G. Miller noted that operationally all components are within or are better than normal operating ranges including Water demand about 34 MGD, Otisco Lake water level -20" is about 5" higher than normal, metered ratio at 86% is above our goal of 85%, and water quality remains good. All of the tanks are in service (Mallory tank is not considered ours yet, but should be in service soon). Watermain breaks in November are running on average.

f) Executive Director

J. Brown lead a conversation regarding the annual stakeholder open house. The event has been an opportunity to share the OCWA mission with stakeholders, community leaders and partners.

- A motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Board approved holding the annual key stakeholder open house scheduled for December 15th due to its the direct positive impact on OCWA's mission.

g) Chairman

K. Gardiner advised the Board that a meeting of the Metropolitan Water Board (MWB) has been scheduled for December 7, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. in Oswego. Conversation ensued regarding the Southern Branch rates assumed from the MWB operational consolidation.

5) Audit Committee

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members in favor, the Authority approved going into Audit Committee at 2:34 p.m.

K. Gardiner introduced B. Johnson as the Audit Committee Chair.

L. Ciarla briefed the Committee on the upcoming 2023 audit. The Committee discussed GASB (Governmental Accounting Standards Board) 96, timelines, deliverables, and fraud. The final report will be delivered to the Committee in March. L. Ciarla noted that next year is the final year of next contract to provide audit services. A Request for Proposals will need to go out later this year.

B. Johnson asked that his contact information be made available to all OCWA staff.

L.Ciarla also presented to the Committee an audit of the financial records for OCWA's Deferred Compensation Plan ending December 31, 2022. There were no significant findings or concerns. The Authority Deferred Compensation Plan is now under management by NYS Deferred Compensation and therefore annual audit is no longer required.

- On a motion made by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Audit Committee recommended that the Board accept the Deferred Compensation Audit as presented.
- On a motion made by B. Doran, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned the Audit Committee meeting at 2:55 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting.
- On a motion made by B. Doran, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority accepted the Deferred Compensation Audit as presented.

B. Executive session

- On a motion made by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned the regular meeting at 2:57 p.m. and moved to Executive session to discuss matters leading to the employment of a particular individual, collective bargaining negotiations, and litigation.
- On a motion made by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned Executive session at 3:42 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting.
- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, the Authority agreed to permit an exemption to the Anti-Nepotism policy and hire Mallory Marvin as a Clerk II in the Distribution Maintenance Department.
- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority authorized the PFAS (Polyfluoroalkyl substances) legal settlements as discussed in Executive session. K. Gardiner asked the Executive team to prepare a plan for the proceeds from the settlement.

C. Bids

- 1) Bid #9 - Brass water service fittings - corps, curbs & brass fittings
 - On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, Bid #9 was awarded T. Mina Supply East, LLC the lowest responsible bidder.
- 2) Bid #10 - CI valve boxes, valve box grade adjusters, service boxes and extension pieces
 - On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, Bid #10 was awarded to F.W. Webb Company, the lowest responsible bidder.

- 3) Bid #11- DI cement lined pipe
 - On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members approving, Bid #11 was awarded to McWane Ductile, the lowest responsible bidder.
- 4) Bid #12- DIMJ and CI compact fittings
 - On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, Bid #12 was awarded to F. W. Webb Company, the lowest responsible bidder.
- 5) Bid #13- CI or DIMJ resilient seated gate valves - 12" & smaller
 - On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, Bid #13 was awarded to Ti Sales Inc., the lowest responsible bidder.
- 6) Bid #14 - CI or DIMJ resilient seated gate valves - w/bevel gearing 14" & larger
 - On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, Bid #14 was awarded to Core & Main, the lowest responsible bidder.
- 7) Bid # 15 - Hydrants
 - On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, Bid #15 was awarded to Ti Sales, Inc., the lowest responsible bidder.
- 8) Bid #16 - MJ tapping valves - 12" & smaller
 - On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, Bid #16 was awarded to T. Mina Supply East, LLC, the lowest responsible bidder.
- 9) Bid #17 - Stainless steel tapping sleeve
 - On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, Bid #17 was awarded to Ferguson Waterworks, the lowest responsible bidder.
- 10) Bid #18- Wedge section MJ restraint gland with accessory kits
 - On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, Bid #18 was awarded to F. W. Webb, the lowest responsive bidder.
- 11) Bid #19 - Construction & maintenance annual contract

The Board discussed the legacy of this contract and concerns that only one contractor bid.

 - On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, Bid #18 was awarded to Casinella Excavating LLC, the lowest responsible bidder.

D. New business

- 1) Expenditures were authorized.

2) Main extension & job order contracts

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Authority authorized Jeff Brown to execute the following:

Project number	Developer	Job title	Description	Cost
Main extensions				
4230035	QP2 Properties	12" extension	T. Clay	\$125,356.50
4230073	T&L Companies	8" extension	T. Cicero	\$ 63,429.75
4230076	Maple Road Associates	8" extension	T. Clay	\$104,353.50
4230082	Rolling Meadows	6"&8" Ext	T. Camillus	\$ 50,655.50
Job Contracts				
9004154	Reed Hauland	4" fire service	V. Central Square	\$15,000.00

3) 2024 water rate schedules

- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Authority approved the following resolution.

The Onondaga County Water Authority (OCWA) met in regular session at 200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse, NY 13212, County of Onondaga and State of New York on the 21st day of November at 12:00 p.m.

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

Kenneth C. Gardiner	Chair
Anthony Geiss Jr.	Vice Chair
John V. Bianchini	Treasurer
Bénédicte H. Doran	Secretary
Douglas R. Wickman	Member

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

WHEREAS, Subdivision 12 of Section 1154 of the Public Authorities Law states that the Onondaga County Water Authority shall have the power to make by-laws for the management and regulations of its affairs and, subject to agreements with bondholders, rules for the sale of water and the collection of rents and charge therefore; and

WHEREAS, Subdivision 17 of Section 1154 of the Public Authorities Law further states that the Onondaga County Water Authority shall have the power to fix rates and collect charges for the use of facilities of, or services

rendered by, or any commodities furnished by the Authority. Rates schedules are attached.

4) 2024 Main extension contract cost (MEC) and advance benefit plan

- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority accepted the MEC and advance benefit plan as submitted.

5) RFP 3-2023 Strategic plan development

S. Roth presented the results of request for proposals for strategic plan development services. After summarizing the proposals, management recommended Raftelis.

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority accepted the proposal from Raftelis to provide strategic plan development services.

6) 2024 Authority meeting schedule

J. Brown presented a meeting schedule for 2024. A conversation ensued.

- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Authority is scheduled for December 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m., at 200 Northern Concourse, Syracuse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie S. Stowell
Recording Secretary