Onondaga County Water Authority
Regular Monthly Authority Meeting
Otisco Water Treatment Plant
Wednesday July 17, 2024 @ 12:00 p.m.

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

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

Guest: J. Bookman, T. Burtis, and J. Scott

A. Opening business

1. The Pledge of Allegiance.

2. K. Gardiner called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

3. J. Scott of Nexamp presented to the Authority Board on the benefits of joining the community solar cooperative.

4. On a motion made by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members in favor, the Authority approved the meeting minutes of June 19, 2024, as presented.

5. On a motion made by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members in favor, the Authority approved the Finance Committee meeting minutes of June 19, 2024, as presented.

6. A. Geiss advised the Board that J. Snow, Water Treatment Plant Operator at the Otisco Water Treatment Plant, was recently appointed Clay Town Historian.

B. New business

1. Nexamp – Community Solar Agreements

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members in favor, the Authority authorized J. Brown to enter into an agreement with Nexamp.

K. Gardiner asked S. Roth to provide the Board with future reports regarding the savings with associated with the community solar.

The Authority Board thanked J. Bookman and M. Thomas for their detailed work on this program and agreement.

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2. RFP-04-2024 Professional Auditing Services

- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members in favor, the Authority accepted the recommendation of B. Johnson and S. Roth and award the external auditing services contract to Dermody, Burke & Brown.

3. Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant Improvements – Change Order #3

- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members in favor, the Authority approved Change Order #3 as presented.

4. Sole Source

- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, Northeast Site and Tower was approved as sole source provider for services related to tower and tank climbing.

5. Record of Activities

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, the Record of Activities for K. Gardiner was approved as submitted.

6. Quarterly Investment Report

S. Roth presented the quarterly investment report. A conversation ensued regarding interest rates.

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the quarterly investment report was accepted as presented.

C. Bids

1. Bid #7 Copper Tubing

- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, Bid #7 was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder Blair Supply Company.

D. Unfinished Business

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1. Accounts receivable and collections update

M. Thomas stated that she is researching the agreement or lack thereof, with the Village of Canastota for sewer billing.

S. Roth explained the impact sewer billing has on OCWA's account receivables. The Board discussed the history of the OCWA and Canastota relationship.

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E. Reports

1) Executive Director

J. Brown reminded the Authority members that Family Day is July 31st.

Micron - The Executive Team participated in multiple communications with Micron regarding technical planning, which included: how to efficiently bring OCWA water to the White Pine site and negotiations for the water services agreement.

J. Brown reviewed KPI's relating to the following three attributes of Effective Utility Management:

- Product Quality
- Enterprise Resiliency
- Employee and Leadership Development

2) Water Production and Quality

G. Miller provided the following updates:

Storms: Power outages were experienced across the north shore of Oneida Lake – Constantia, Martin Road, Vienna, North Bay, Sylvan Beach, McConnellsville – tanks and generators keeping water in service. North Bay had low pressure but OCWA crews gated down the watermain to reduce water loss, locating curb boxes today and shutting off water to damaged houses on Barlow St in Canastota.

Water System Demand: Water system demands have been lower than normal, we've seen peak daily demands of about 46 MGD, in years past we have had 50 to 55 MGD peaks. On a typical day we are seeing demands of 38 to 42 MGD.

Water Main Breaks: The number of watermain breaks was just about average for June, we are seeing a slight increase for July. We are just above average for the year now.

Metered Ratio: Our twelve month metered ratio dropped to 83.79% just below our goal of 85%. Residential water usage down about 10%, municipals down about 12%, industrials about the same, commercial sales down about 10%, while our production is only down 2%. Leak detection is searching and we are hoping some of the production will show up in sales the next few months.

Otisco Lake water level: about 7" below the spillway, just slightly below the long term average (1" below). No operational issues or concerns at this time.

Water Quality: Water Quality is good, no issues, good chlorine levels have dropped off as we typically see in the summer months, but we are boosting chlorine levels and flushing more for water quality. We are continuing with uni-directional flushing in the Town of Salina.

Lead and Copper Sampling: Last year we were notified by the NYSDOH that we needed to return to standard monitoring for Lead and Copper sampling

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and to sample for additional water quality parameters in the distribution system relative to corrosion control. Last week we were notified that they were pleased with what we are doing and the sampling results, and as such they are evaluating whether to return us to reduced monitoring. They requested additional information regarding our corrosion control practices. We sent the requested information and are awaiting their review and response.

Transmission Main Break: 20" transmission main broke in Geddes on Sunday June 30th. It was a great team effort from numerous employees. There were 25 employees directly involved plus another eight assisting. We were able to keep everyone in water, maintained system operations by back feeding with Lake Ontario water.

3) Technical Services

A. Weiss presented the following:

Otisco Lake Dam Engineering Assessment: Field work is complete including the underwater inspection of the up and downstream faces of the dam. Next step will be coring of the concrete for materials testing and strength analysis.

Farrell Pumping Station (FPS) Improvements: Shop drawing submittals of proposed equipment are largely halted. Contractor selection of a vertical turbine pump supplier/product continues to be delayed. We are working on this matter with the engineer and contractor but as of July 8th we do not have a submitted manufacturer/product.

A. Geiss inquired about the transmission main modeling. A conversation ensued.

The Authority members in engaged in conversation regarding the Skyridge Water District and LaFayette/Tully systems.

4) Human Resources/Insurance

J. Stowell noted that progress is being made on imple database of certificates of insurance.

5) Legal/Public Education/Communications

M. Thomas reported on the following:

Legal -

Otisco Lake 90 Acre Parcel - We are in the process of finalizing the change of boundary lines for the DEC, which they require prior finalizing the purchase. All residents involved have paid for the appraisal and the results of the appraisal have been obtained. The next steps are to obtain a boundary line adjustment and finalize the sales with the residents. We also need to grant one easement. The DEC has been cooperative in this process, and we are making good progress.

Settlement with CCI – OCWA has reached an agreement with CCI.

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PFAS Litigation – The settlement claim forms are due on July 26th. This is an important step towards finalizing the settlements.

External Engagement –
Business Office Surveys - M. Thomas shared OCWA's phone surveys have commenced and all of the voice messages we have received from customers have been positive. We are still working on collecting the non voicemail data with our vendor. We hope to have some phone survey metrics to share next month.

OnSolve Notification System -
The OnSolve bill insert will be sent out towards the end of the month

6) Finance

S. Roth provided the following updates:
Water Revenues were $25,643 (.5%) more than budgeted and Net Operating Expenses were $224,868 (6.6%) less than budgeted for June. Water Revenues are up as compared to budget year to date and are $3,796,624 (15.0%) more than through June 2023. Investment Income was $94,680 (61.0%) more than budgeted for the month of June and $805,550 (83.3%) is more than budgeted year to date.

F. Executive Session

- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned the regular meeting at 2:23 p.m. and moved to Executive Session to discuss proposed litigation.
- On a motion made by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned Executive session at 2:47 p.m. and returned to the regular meeting.

- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

The next regular meeting of the Authority is scheduled for August 21, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., at the Ontario Water Treatment Plant.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie S. Stowell
Recording Secretary

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