Onondaga County Water Authority
Regular Monthly Authority Meeting
200 Northern Concourse
August 23, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

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

Others present: J. Brown, G. Miller, J. Stowell, and A. Weiss.

A. Opening business

1. The Pledge of Allegiance.

2. K. Gardiner called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m.

3. The Board briefly discussed the meeting schedule and is considering morning meetings.

4. On a motion made by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present in favor, the Authority approved the meeting minutes of July 17, 2024, as presented.

B. Executive Session

- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members present approving, the Authority adjourned the regular meeting at 10:26 a.m. and moved to Executive Session to discuss the financial history of a particular individual.
- On a motion made by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present approving, the Authority adjourned Executive session at 10:59 a.m. and returned to the regular meeting.

5. **Executive Director**

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

  - Financial Viability
  - Water Resource Sustainability
  - Infrastructure Strategy and Performance

- J. Brown updated the Board on the blueline sales at Otisco Lake. The letters OCWA sent have provoked a lot of questions amongst the residents. OCWA will hold a community gathering to explain the process and answer questions. The Board discussed the history of blueline properties, and the impact of liability/ownership has on OCWA.
- Management is considering late fees for industrial customers.
- At the meeting in September, G. Miller will update the Board on the status of lead identification surveys and replacement program.

C. New business

1. Expenditure authorizations

- Expenditures were authorized.

2. Sole source and standardization

- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members present in favor, the Authority approved Jumo Process Controls as a sole source and standardized vendor for transmitters and temperature probes.

D. Bids

1. Bid #8 Polyaluminum Chloride

- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members present approving, Bid #8 was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder USALCO, LLC.

2. Bid #9 Remove, Furnish and Install 2 (two) Boilers

- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with K. Gardiner abstaining and A. Geiss, D, Wickman and B. Doran approving, Bid #9 was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder Wilkens Mechanical.

3. Bid #10 Electrical Substation Maintenance

- On a motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members present approving, Bid #10 was awarded to the lowest responsible bidder Matco Electric Corporation.

E. Reports

1) Water Production and Quality

G. Miller provided the following updates:

- **Summer Aides:** Most of the summer aides have gone back to college. They assisted with painting 4,700 hydrants, conducted 200 dye tests and obtained 1,200 inspection results from the watershed, assisted with grass cutting crews, and computer programming with the instrumentation technicians.
- **Water System Demand:** Water system demand continues to be lower than normal. The peak daily demand has been about 42 MGD. In years past we had 50 to 55 MGD peaks. Our daily average demand is about 38 MGD.
- **Lead and Copper Sampling:** Last month, the Board was briefed on a call with the NYS Health Department. The DOH is pleased with OCWA's corrosion control efforts and lead/copper levels in the system. They were thinking about having OCWA return to a reduced monitoring schedule for lead. The DOH reviewed the information and determined that although results from sampling look very good, OCWA's water system is very complicated; and they don't really understand our operational practices.

They would prefer OCWA to conduct another round of lead sampling for their review. We are now in the process of distributing and collecting sample bottles from our customers.

- **Service materials:** We are distributing door tags to determine the construction material of more customer service lines.

3) Technical Services

A. Weiss presented the following:

- **Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant:** Completion of the project is anticipated by the end of September. K. Gardiner recognized the capital projects team and the staff at the Lake Ontario Water Treatment Plant for their efforts during the $43 million dollar rehabilitation of the plant. A. Weiss reviewed the scope of the project and efficiencies that were gained. Conversation ensued regarding the clear well expansion. A. Weiss noted that the project includes projected growth and water system demands.
- **Hidden Knoll:** Projected construction cost is estimated to be higher than budgeted. The project will be deferred a year to allow for evaluation of alternate technologies and consider the cost of total replacement versus rehabilitation.
- **Solvay Pumping Station:** A. Weiss and C. Brutis met with Solvay officials regarding the rehab and relocation of the pumping station.
- **Farrell Pumping Station:** As of August 7th, a pump manufacturer has not been identified. We have been advised the contractor is finalizing its contract with a named manufacturer. Work has not progressed due to the absence of a manufacturer. Once a manufacturer is identified and reviewed, the project will need to re-evaluated, to determine the impact of the delay.
- **Raw Water Transmission Main Inspection:** The initial results are being reviewed. Our understanding is that some areas of concern have been identified but nothing that requires immediate action under current conditions. This inspection was the first time OCWA used the pipe driver and smart ball by Zylem technology. The team is currently evaluating the cost benefit of this inspection verse other methods.

4) Human Resources/Insurance

J. Stowell provided updates on the following:

- Ashley Wells has been hired as the Risk Assistant. She has a strong background in insurance claims review and billing.
- Briefly reviewed with the Board a claim with PERMA. The process was positive and resulted in a proactive engagement with the employee returning to work on transitional duty in a short period of time.
- Noted that July was a busy recruitment month. Retirements continue to be the genesis of the majority of new hires.

5) Legal/Public Education/Communications

J. Brown reported on the following:

Legal -

- **Otisco Lake 90 Acre Parcel:** M. Thomas participated in Town of Spafford Planning Board Meeting and obtained the resolution necessary to file a boundary line adjustment. The DEC continues to be cooperative. A. Geiss inquired about the parcels involved with lot line adjustments.

6) Finance

J. Brown provided the following updates:

- **Water Revenues:** Water Revenues are $13,722 (.25%) less than budgeted and Net Operating Expenses are $222,215 (6.3%) less than budgeted for July. Industrial and municipal accounts are over budget.

F. Adjournment

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

The next regular meeting of the Authority is scheduled for September 18, 2024 at 12:00 p.m., at the Ontario Water Treatment Plant.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie S. Stowell
Recording Secretary