Onondaga County Water Authority
Regular Monthly Authority Meeting
200 Northern Concourse
October 30, 2024 @ 8:30 a.m.

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

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

Guest:C. Crowley

A. Opening business

1. The Pledge of Allegiance.

2. K. Gardiner called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

3. **Budget Workshop Minutes**
   - On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the minutes of the October 9, 2024 Budget Workshop were approved as presented.

4. **Executive Director Report**
   J. Brown presented the following:
   - 3rd Annual Leadership Summit is scheduled for November 6th.
   - There have been multiple communications with Micron regarding funding and technical planning.

B. New Business

1. **Fiscal Advisors**
   C. Crowley discussed with the Authority Board future financing of infrastructure enhancements with revenue bonds. Conversation ensued about the importance of maintaining healthy days cash on hand in order to sustain our high bond rating and avoid increased bond financing costs in the future.

2. **2025 Budgets**
   The Authority Board discussed the 2025 budget. S. Roth shared that Raftelis performed a rate analysis. The proposed rate increase of 5.8% is in alignment with generally accepted principles and practices. The Board discussed the budgets and rates.
   - On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the O & M and Capital Budgets were approved as presented.

3. **ABO Budget Report**
   - On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members

approving, the Authority approved the 2025 ABO documents as presented.

4. OCWA Guidelines for Acquisition & Disposal of Property

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority approved the amend Guidelines for Acquisition & Disposal of Property as presented.

5. OCWA Code of Ethics Policy

The Board reviewed the proposed DEI language and training.

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority approved the amended Code of Ethics Policy as presented.

6. OCWA Budget and Fiscal Policies

The Board discussed the proposed multiple amendments to the Budget and Fiscal Policies , including the creations of an emergency response reserve and reallocation of excess funds.

- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members approving, the Authority approved the Budget and Fiscal Policies as presented.

7. Quarterly Investment Report

S. Roth advised the Board that although investment income has declined, investment revenue continues out performing budget.

- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members approving, the Authority approved the Investment Report as presented.

8. 2025 Meeting Schedule

The proposed meeting schedule for 2025 was discussed.

9. Main Extension & Job Order

- *One (1)* Main Extension and *three (3)* Job Contracts. On motion by D. Wickman, duly seconded by A. Geiss, with all Members approving, the Authority authorized J. Brown to execute the following:

Job No.	With	Job Title	Proj. Cost
4240052	Old Town Estates, LLC	8” Extension Old Towne Estate Phase II	$70,357.50

Job No.	With	Job Title	Proj. Cost
9004172	4600 Enders Road	6” & 10” Extension (1 fire svs) The Colony Settlers Village	$60,000.00

9004180	Ryan O'Mara	Install 1" Domestic Service Tapp/3350 New Boston Road	$15,000.00
9004115	Splash Car Wash	Relocate 10" Water Main/129 W Genesee St	$90,000.00

10. Expenditure Authorizations

- Were signed without issue.

C. Procurements

A. Weiss presented two change orders.

- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, the Authority approved Change Order #1 Locker Room Northern Concourse.
- On a motion by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving and K. Gardiner abstaining, the Authority approved Change Order #1 Warners Tank.

D. Reports

1) Water Production and Quality

G. Miller provided the following updates:

- Service Material Inventory: The OCWA team met the New York State Health Department's deadline and submitted our water service inventory for all four water systems that we operate: the large OCWA system, Skyridge, Cardiff and East Side Spring (Tully). Despite extensive efforts over the past several years we still have numerous services with unknown materials. We have over 72,000 services where either our side, the customer side, or both sides are classified as unknown materials. We have identified 23 lead services on our side and 381 on the customer side. We continue to work on our public notification campaign to identify the material types. The next step is to mail notification letters to the customers with lead services, galvanized services and whose service material construction is unknown.
- Lake Levels: Otisco Lake level on October 10th was -24" which is about 1" above average for this time of year. We have one gate open 1". Lake Ontario water level is 1" above the long-term monthly average. Neither lake levels is causing any concern with operations.
- Water Main Breaks: The number of watermain breaks was slightly above average for the month. We are also slightly above average for the year.
- Water Quality: Finished water quality from both treatment plants continues to be excellent. We have decreased chlorine feed rates leaving the treatment plants and at our chlorine booster stations as distribution system chlorine levels continue to hold steady. We have been able to maintain the chlorine levels at a good rate. 84% of our distribution system sample points were

above 0.20 ppm for the month. A conversation ensued regarding metered ratio.

2) Technical Services

A. Weiss presented the following:

- Town of Sterling. Management has presented a water sale agreement to the Town. The Town Board will be reviewing the agreement at its next meeting.
- Cleaning and lining. Two liens for non-payment against the prime contractor remain in place. We are working with the parties involved to obtain the release of liens. Work remains adequate and the third phase of relining is in progress currently with anticipated completion by November 15th.
- LOWTP Clearwells. Project to be advertised this week for bid opening in January.
- Farrell Pumping Station (FPS) Improvements: We are awaiting shop drawings for the pumps, which, despite initial promises, have not yet been provided. No work has progressed due to this delay and once a submittal is received and reviewed, the project will need to evaluate the progress schedule and impact of the delay. Pump manufacturing lead time is expected to be about 1-year but will be updated once submittals are reviewed and approved.

4) Human Resources/Insurance

J. Stowell provided updates on the following:

- Recruitment – OCWA is attracting a lot of talented candidates.
- CSEA has not contacted OCWA to negotiate the expiring CBA.
- An RFP for occupational medical services will be going out at the end of this week.

5) Legal

J. Brown reported on the following:

- Otisco Lake 90 Acre Parcel **–** At the request of the State, we closed on the sale of three small parcels to adjoining landowners during this past month. This should clear the way for the State to move forward with its purchase of the remaining large 90-acre parcel.
- PFAS Litigation – According to information we received at the recent AMWA Executive Management conference, it is projected that OCWA will receive its settlement from Dupont in one lump sum in early 2025 and its settlement from 3M in three installments (with the first two coming in 2025).

6) Finance

S. Roth provided the following updates:

- Status of delinquent accounts. Several industrials account balances were turned over to the County and balances will be added to the tax bill.
- GASB 75 Report has been completed.

A conversation ensured regarding the Town of DeWitt and water main breaks. The Board briefly discussed the utility costs.

7) Executive Director

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

- Product Quality
- Enterprise Resiliency
- Employee and Leadership Development

E. Executive Session

- On a motion by B. Doran, duly seconded by J. Bianchini, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned the regular meeting at 11:26 a.m. and moved to executive session to discuss matters leading to the employment of particular persons.
- On a motion made by J. Bianchini, duly seconded by D. Wickman, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned executive session at 11:45 a.m. and returned to the regular meeting.

F. Adjournment

- On a motion by A. Geiss, duly seconded by B. Doran, with all Members approving, the Authority adjourned the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Authority is scheduled for November 20, 2024 at 8:30 a.m., at the 200 Northern Concourse.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennie S. Stowell
Recording Secretary