

**WAYNE COUNTY WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting of:** July 27, 2021

**Location:** Wayne County Water & Sewer Authority Operations Center, Walworth, New York

**Present:** LaVerne Blik, Robert Hutteman, David Scudder, Jean Johnson, Dan LaGasse, Mark Humbert, Donald Ross, Lori Furguson, William Hammond

**Advisors Present:** Michael Howard, General Counsel

**Staff Present:** Martin J. Aman, Executive Director  
Jason Monroe, Director of Operations  
Derek Ceratt, Technical Director  
Peter DiBenedetto, Operational Support  
Sheryl LaDelfa, Accounting Manager  
Demaris Verzulli, Secretary of the Meeting

**Visitors:** None

Chairman LaVerne Blik called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. Chairman's Report**

**Adoption of Minutes**

After due discussion and deliberation, Mr. LaGasse moved, Mr. Hammond seconded and all members present unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the June 29, 2021 meeting of the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority be accepted with no changes.

Mr. Humbert entered the meeting.

**Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Johnson invited questions on the warrant, which had previously been emailed to the Board members for examination. After due discussion and deliberation, Mr. Humbert moved, Ms. Furguson seconded and all members present unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the following claims are hereby authorized and directed to the Treasurer for payment: Vouchers 21-1124 to 21-1289 totaling \$2,097,050.52.

Ms. Johnson invited questions on the Financial Statements for the month of June, which had previously been emailed to the Board members for examination. Ms. LaDelfa invited discussion of the Income Statement as prepared in Sage, the accounting software, which she had previously emailed to the Board. It was the consensus of the Board that the Sage version was acceptable. After due discussion and deliberation, Mr. Humbert moved, Ms. Furguson seconded and all members present unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority's Monthly Financial Statements for June 2021 be approved and accepted.

**II. Agenda Items**

**COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Howard reported that the CDC had changed mask guidance just today, recommending use of masks indoors for fully vaccinated people when in areas with substantial transmission rates of the virus, but allowing local jurisdictions to make decisions about requiring mask wearing. He will continue to monitor the guidance issued by the CDC and state.

Mr. Ross entered the meeting.

**Regional Water Storage Tank Update**

Mr. Aman reminded the Board that the decision on the directional drilling bid for the project had been tabled at the last meeting due to the amounts bid being well above the budgeted amount. Consequently, a review of the drilling areas was made in the field with the engineers, and a number of areas could be reduced or eliminated with concurrence of the Corps of Engineers. He recommended that the Board reject the currently outstanding bids and authorize a re-bid of the drilling. After due discussion and deliberation, Mr. Scudder moved, Ms. Furguson seconded and all members present unanimously approved the following resolution:

WHEREAS, each of the bids submitted in response to the specifications for the remaining directional drilling on the Route 88 section of the Regional Water Storage Tank Project exceed the Project budget and acceptance would not be in the best interest of the Authority or its ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, based on the advice of its engineers, the Authority has determined that it may be technically feasible to reduce the number of areas requiring such drilling and thereby revise the specifications and re-bid the project; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, to reject each of the current bids and re-bid the project based on such revised requirements and specifications.

Mr. DiBenedetto displayed on the white board photos of the water tank being assembled, including the scaffolding inside that will support the concrete dome top as it is poured. When the dome is finished, the tank will be wrapped with cabling and numerous shotcrete coatings applied to the exterior. Mr. Aman is pleased with the work of Preload, LLC, the contractor building the tank, which is on schedule.

Mr. Monroe reported that the water main installation crew has completed the loop from Brantling Hill Road south to the Austin Road tie-in. There was a successful pressure test on that section today. Since the last Board meeting, 3,700 feet of pipe have been installed. The next phase of the project will be the approximately two-and-a-half-mile section to the north connecting to the Joy Road Pump Station. Mr. Aman reported that the pump station site has been cleared and a crew has been excavating the pad site and hauling in stone in preparation for the pad on which the building will be constructed. The building construction start is expected in mid-August. Mr. Aman reported that this year the farmer will spray the apple trees remaining on the site but the retention of the trees will be addressed again next year.

**Western Regional WWTP Project Update**

Mr. Aman reported that LaBella Associates will have the SEQR amendment resolution and paperwork addressing the addition of a sludge dryer to the project prepared for the August Board meeting. He hopes the project plans will be delivered to the DEC by the following week and the project will be approved and can go to bid by the end of the year. Mr. Aman hopes to meet with the DEC representatives in person to walk through the plans, since it is a complicated project. Mr. Howard

reported that the power line relocation easement has been executed by the Authority and delivered to NYSEG. He is still working with NYSEG to determine the form of NYSEG's consent to the proposed location of Authority improvements on the site - whether by NYSEG's execution of the easement or by a separate document. Mr. Hammond reported that the boards of the Towns of Macedon and Walworth have scheduled a meeting to discuss how to deal with the sewer service area they share, as this has not been determined yet. Mr. Aman reported about the procurement/contracting strategy for the project; the idea is to minimize the number of contracts with a general construction contract covering the plant, another general construction contract for the pump stations and force mains, and an electrical contract for both the plant and the pump stations. He feels this is a large enough project to attract bidders from across the state. Mr. Howard noted that the Authority is coordinating this approach with EFC and confirmed that the Authority is not subject to either State Finance Law §135 or GML §101.

### **Huron Water District #8**

Mr. Aman reported that the preconstruction meeting for the project was held via Zoom with the Town of Huron and representatives from MRB Group and USDA Rural Development. Hopefully, work on the project and the direction drilling will both start next week; it will continue for approximately two and a half months. The project is just under 20,000 feet of main, including both open cut installed pipe and directional drilled pipe.

### **Pipeline Inspection Camera Bid**

Mr. DiBenedetto reported that five bids were received for the CCTV pipeline inspection camera. Three of them were in the \$70,000 range, as hoped. The low bidder, FN Environmental, bid a product that did not meet a number of the specifications in the bid. The next lowest bidder, J & J Equipment, was an unexpected bidder who had not had an opportunity to demonstrate the product they bid. The Authority is evaluating whether that bid meets the specifications and has arranged for a demonstration of the product before making a final determination. The next lowest bidder, Joe Johnson Equipment, bid the Envirosight brand; this is the product that most closely meets the needs of the Authority. Mr. DiBenedetto contacted the references provided and this dealer and the product came highly recommended by all he contacted. Mr. Howard concurred that this plan was demonstrating due diligence and the Board could wait until the next meeting to make any award.

### **Miscellaneous Meetings**

Mr. Aman reported that he and Mr. Ceratt had one discussion with the community solar consultant. There have been no proposals received so far.

Mr. Aman reported that he continues to receive periodic calls from Ashley Shiwarski of HomeServe in regard to the National League of Cities service line warranty program she presented to the Board some time ago. Discussion ensued. It was the consensus of the Board that it is not necessary to move forward with this opportunity at this time.

In response to a question from Mr. LaGasse about the recent meeting with the Town of Savannah, Mr. Bliet reported that it appeared that the town was merely assessing any possible options it might have for the operation of their water and sewer systems. Mr. Aman offered to have one of the Authority's staff fill in for the town's one water and sewer employee on an hourly basis if necessary.

### Monthly Operations

Mr. Monroe reported that the last week had been very busy with repairs, including a big water main break on William Street in Lyons where a hole the size of a football blew out of a 10-inch main at 3 a.m. on Thursday. On Sunday there was another break in Lyons in the busy intersection of Jackson and Phelps Streets. The Lyons mains are possibly 100 years old, and are odd-sized cast iron, not modern ductile iron.

Mr. Ceratt narrated a photo show of the summer crew performing hydrant maintenance in teams of two, to prepare and then paint the hydrants. He feels this has been a very capable summer crew that is becoming more involved as they understand the process better. To date, 703 hydrants have been checked and painted with a more commercial grade of paint, which appears to be superior to previously used products. One of the crew members, Alex Groff, has been very helpful organizing and updating the Authority's GIS data; he is taking a course on GIS in his college curriculum.

At 5:25 p.m. Mr. Scudder moved, Mr. LaGasse seconded and all members present unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss with counsel the employment history of a particular person and salaries of particular persons.

During the Executive Session, Mr. Humbert left the meeting.

At 5:43 p.m., upon a motion by Mr. LaGasse, seconded by Mr. Hutteman, all members voted unanimously to return to open session.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Ms. Furguson, seconded by Ms. Johnson, the meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

  
Demaris Verzulli, Secretary of the Meeting