

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

Meeting of: Tuesday, July 25, 2023

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

Present: LaVerne Blik, David Scudder, Jean Johnson, Lori Furguson, William Hammond, Dan LaGasse, Donald Ross

Absent: Robert Hutteman, Mark Humbert

Advisors Present: Michael Howard, General Counsel

Staff Present: Martin J. Aman, Executive Director
Derek Ceratt, Technical Director
Peter DiBenedetto, Operational Support
Mark Loria, Director of Engineering and Program Compliance
Jessica Freling, Executive Administrative Assistant
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 27, 2023 meeting of the Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority be accepted with no changes.

Correspondence: None

II. 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. LaGasse 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 23-1198 to 23-1378 for a total of \$5,578,724.23.

Ms. LaDelfa reported that she had been approached by Community Bank with offers of improved interest rates for Authority checking and money market accounts. She discussed this with the Authority's current bank, LNB, and they matched Community's money market rate of 4%. She also reported that \$515,000 was transferred out of the LNB CD maturing 3/27/24, as authorized at the last Board meeting, for payment of various capital project costs. LNB did not assess a penalty for this

withdrawal. She expects to soon receive the \$975,000 EFC grant money for substantial completion of the Regional Water Tank Project.

Ms. Johnson invited questions on the Financial Statements for the month of June, which had previously been emailed to the Board members for examination. After due discussion and deliberation, Ms. Furguson moved, Mr. Hammond 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 2023 be approved and accepted.

III. Agenda Items

Western Regional WWTP Project Update

Mr. Aman reported that the wastewater plant construction was moving ahead on or slightly ahead of schedule. Mr. Monroe reported that Villager, the contractor for the pump stations and force mains, was proving to be a good working partner, enabling some changes and adjustments to be discussed and made without problems. Mr. Aman reported that the greatest effort recently has been preparing to meet with LaBella and Garlock to finalize the terms of an easement agreement with Garlock.

Mr. Howard has received preliminary comments from Garlock's attorney on the draft easement which was discussed at the last Board meeting. Mr. Howard is now working with Mr. Aman, MRB and Kocher Surveying to respond to those comments. Mr. Howard reported that the proposed risk allocation has not been questioned with indemnification by Garlock being requested with respect to construction of a lateral connection and any passive migration into the easement area. Garlock expects to discuss the easement at its next Board meeting and has given a tentative commitment for an answer by the second week in August. The subject of compensation for the easement is still at the discussion stage.

Mr. Aman reported on the results of the environmental testing done by LaBella, which was shared with Garlock and will be reported to the DEC; results were favorable with the exception of cinders in the upper 18" of a former railroad line showing some exceedance of copper, lead, PAH and arsenic. Ground water is at a reasonable level so that dewatering should not be needed. Mr. Aman encouraged the Board members to visit the sites of the regional plant and pump stations and observe the progress.

Regional Water Storage Tank Update

Mr. Aman reported that the EFC grant funding that has been held for a year should soon be received, since the notice of Substantial Completion has been accepted by NYSDOH and EFC. Most of the fencing has been installed and just awaits installation of the redesigned gates. A number of customers along the route of the new transmission main have signed up for water service, which will help lower the costs to water customers within the participating towns. A mixing system has been installed in the tank to keep the layers from separating due to temperature differences and an aeration system is planned to be installed. There is a meeting scheduled in Williamson; they still have to install vaults to control different pressure zones. Since the new tank is intended to augment Williamson's own supply when needed and the Authority will be metering water going back into Williamson, new meter upgrades will be made as well.

Update on LIHWAP Program

Ms. Freling reported that the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program is coming to a close and applications will not be accepted after Thursday, August 31, 2023. Currently the Authority has only two applications outstanding. Over the course of the program, the Authority has received \$96,558.58 toward unpaid water bills.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Aman reported that in the service area where the water is purchased from the Village of Newark, there was a THM (Trihalomethane) violation. Although the quarterly average was only 81 and the limit is 80, the customers had to be notified according to NYSDOH and EPA regulations. He commended the office staff for accomplishing this quickly, and especially Caitlyn Wicks, who had taken charge of the project of mailing over 2,000 letters. The high THM results appear to be due to higher organics coming out of Canandaigua Lake and if the situation persists, Lake Ontario water could possibly be routed to Lyons, instead of water from Newark.

Monthly Operations

Mr. Monroe reported that there have been discussions about declaring the 2017 Bobcat E55 surplus since its replacement has been received. He would like to put it in the monthly online auction to move it along, instead of waiting for the fall municipal auction. After due discussion and deliberation, Mr. LaGasse moved, Mr. Ross seconded and all members present unanimously approved the following resolution:

RESOLVED, that the 2017 Bobcat E55 mini excavator, SN AJ1912138, be declared surplus and put up for auction.

Mr. Monroe reported that the Arcadia 15 project is moving along well with 12,000 or so linear feet of pipe installed. The crew is averaging 800 feet per day, but were challenged this day by working alongside both fiberoptic and cable lines. Water service applications have increased, with a large number being in the Arcadia 15 district. He has also had the crew do some paving to stay ahead of these restorations instead of letting them accumulate. There were two substantial water main breaks in Lyons in the month, and another today, with large chunks of main being blown out of the pipe. Mr. DiBenedetto displayed a Power Point presentation of photos of work on Arcadia 15, the fencing around the Regional Water Tank, and photos of the new wastewater plant, including the influent building before and after the concrete was poured and the installation of the huge Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) tanks. Each of the many tank panels weighs 27,000 pounds and a crew of seven people installed all of them over a period of ten days. Mr. Aman reported that Attorney Paul Rubery suggested that a canal-themed mural be painted on the side of the tanks.

Mr. Ceratt reported that so far about 1,100 hydrants have been serviced and painted by several very good crews of summer help. He reported that the County would like the Authority's assistance in moving forward with its GIS initiative, since the Authority has been so successful with GIS. The internet at the Red Creek WWTP has been upgraded from cellular-based service to cable. The hydrant meter box program is very successful this year with all units being rented out to a variety of users. In response to a question from Mr. Scudder, Mr. Ceratt replied that the Authority does not typically use weed killer around hydrants. If areas appear to have been sprayed, it would have been the County. Occasionally highly concentrated vinegar is used to knock down poison ivy.

Mr. Loria reported that the next day would bring the third try at lining the broken sewer line under Route 14 in Lyons. Prior scheduled appointments had to be cancelled due to the inability of the contractor to obtain some necessary equipment. He supervised the repair of trickling filters at the Macedon and Palmyra wastewater plants to keep them operational until the new plant comes on line. He completed lockout, confined space, and hazard communication plans for each of the wastewater facilities. He has been looking at energy savings that might be possible for the oxidation ditches and alternatives for odor control at the Red Creek plant and within the associated collection and conveyance systems.

Mr. Aman reported that he was approached by Jim Colacino to discuss the installation of EV charging stations at Authority sites. There are grants that would allow this to happen at no cost to the Authority and the stations would not need to be accessible to the public. He hopes to have more details at the next Board meeting.

There being no further business, upon a motion by Mr. Scudder, seconded by Ms. Furguson, the meeting was adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Demaris Verzulli
Demaris Verzulli, Secretary of the Meeting