



SARATOGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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SARATOGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS DRAFT MEETING MINUTES WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024 @ 3:30 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman Tim Szczepaniak, Vice Chair Robert Wilcox, Treasurer Phil Barrett, Supervisor Kevin Tollisen, Mr. Michael Mooney and Ms. Jennifer Weaver. **Absent:** Supervisor Tom Richardson. Also in attendance: Supervisor Cynthia Young of the Town of Malta, County Administrator Steve Bulger (joined at 3:39 p.m.) Executive Director Ed Hernandez, and General Counsel Leah Everhart by phone.

Chairman Szczepaniak inquired if there were any changes, additions or deletions to the April 24, 2024, meeting minutes. **On a motion by Mr. Wilcox and a second by Mr. Mooney the minutes of the April 24, 2024, meeting was adopted. (2024-0032)**

Reports:

Operations:

Mr. Hernandez reported average daily water flows for April 2024 were 5.95 mgd. The rolling annual average was 7.15 mgd.

Financials:

Mr. Hernandez reviewed the Administrative Summary as of April 30, 2024. Budgeted water revenues through April 30, 2024, were \$2.47 mil. Actual revenues through April 30, 2024, were \$2.26 mil. Budgeted expenses through April 30, 2024, were \$1 mil and actual expenses were \$808k. The next Debt Service payment is due June 1st, 2024, for \$373,000 for the Series 2014 Unrefunded bonds and the Series 2021 Taxable Green Bonds. Cash available for operations after that payment is estimated at \$3.74 mil.

Legal:

Ms. Everhart referenced the monthly legal memo and the finalizing of the agreement with CHPE (Champlain Hudson Power Express).

Motions & Resolutions:

A motion was made by Mr. Wilcox and seconded by Mr. Tollisen to authorize the payment of the monthly vouchers at a cost of \$136,247.22 in operating costs. Motion carried unanimously. (2024-0033)

Next motion was to appoint and authorize a third signer on all Ballston Spa National Bank accounts. Discussion ensued and Mr. Mooney agreed to be the third signer. The motion was made by Mr. Wilcox with a second by Mr. Barrett. **Motion carried unanimously. (2024-0034)**

Old Business:

Chairman Szczepaniak discussed the pending agreement with Northwoods Water Company and reiterated that the Board had settled that matter but at the last meeting the Board had wanted to make the Supervisor of the Town of Malta aware of the matter. At this time, Chairman Szczepaniak invited Supervisor Young to speak on the issue. Supervisor Young thanked the Board for agreeing to supply Northwood due to health and safety issues. She discussed the placement of the connection and how it related to a potential roundabout planned for that location. She also discussed the financial arrangements relating to the connection and how it was very beneficial to Northwood and the Town to allow the currently approved mixed-use project that would be located in Northwoods supply area. Both Chairman Szczepaniak and Mr. Barrett mentioned that the Authority would be breaking precedent to supply to a reseller of water. Mr. Tollisen discussed how the initial request had since changed to include this new development. Mr. Barrett reiterated that the Board can't pick and choose who is supplied once precedent is broken. Mr. Tollisen inquired of counsel if language was included in the agreement to limit future hookups on a case-by-case basis. She concurred stating that factual outlined reasons are listed as to why the Board considered this connection on its own merits. She stated that this project was fully approved before the contract was signed with Northwood, it is a benefit to the Town of Malta, that funding would be less of a burden to the taxpayers. Discussion ensued about contract provisions. The Board inquired about how the project was approved without a confirmed water supply. Ms. Everhart responded. Ms. Young volunteered to supply the Board with a copy of the Will Serve letter. Mr. Hernandez stated the entire matter could be resolved if the Town of Malta contracted to purchase the water from the SCWA then Northwood contracted directly with the Town of Malta. This would allow Malta to sell water to Northwoods and any other developers that it wanted. Ms. Young stated the Town was currently working on negotiations to purchase a water system within the Town and wanted to get that matter settled first. Ms. Young asked for clarity on what the Town would own. Mr. Hernandez stated the Town could own the pump house and the waterline to control any future expansion or could just contract with Northwoods to maintain and operate the system. As long as the Authority was selling water directly to the Town of Malta it doesn't matter who owns or maintains the infrastructure. In addition, the Authority could sell water to the Town at the lower municipal rate, further reducing costs to the customers. Mr. Barrett stated the Town should "bite the bullet" and plan for future expansion. Ms. Young thanked the Board for their time and ideas to resolve this matter.

New Business:

Chairman Szczepaniak set the next meeting of the Authority Board for June 26, 2024 at 3:30 p.m. at the Water Authority. He indicated he would be unable to attend and requested that Mr. Wilcox run that meeting.

Chairman Szczepaniak indicated that with the retirement of the current Confidential Secretary, the Board should move forward with posting the position for 10 days and start the process of hiring a replacement. He inquired if the Board agreed, and Mr. Hernandez was directed to proceed with posting the position.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m. by Mr. Richardson with a second by Mr. Tollisen. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A. Alden, Confidential Secretary