



SARATOGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

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SARATOGA COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2019 @ 1:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Chairman John Lawler, Vice Chair Anita Daly, Deputy Treasurer Tim Szczepaniak, Supervisor Art Johnson, Supervisor Darren O'Connor; also, Executive Director Ed Hernandez, General Counsel Mark Schachner, Esq. **ABSENT:** Treasurer Tom Cumm and Board Member Jim Smith.

Chairman Lawler welcomed all to the meeting and inquired if there were any requests for changes to the meeting minutes of September 26, 2019.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Johnson to adopt the draft minutes of the September 26, 2019 meeting minutes as the official minutes of that meeting. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Mr. O'Connor and seconded by Mr. Johnson to adopt the draft minutes of the September 26, 2019 Audit committee meeting minutes as the official minutes of that meeting. Motion passed.

(As is the practice of the Board, the Board waived a reading of the draft minutes and the adopted minutes include the long form resolutions that were passed at said meeting and the Board waived the reading of the long form resolutions.)

At this time, Chairman Lawler invited Berny Terpening and Tina Burns of The Heritage Group Insurance Agency to present the health insurance options for the 2019-2020 plan year. She reviewed the various plans presented and discussed the renewal plan option if the Authority opted to stay with an MVP Silver plan with HRA. She noted that the increase was approximately 6.5% for that renewal plan. Discussion then ensued regarding the use of the HRA benefit and the additional cost to maintain that benefit. Ms. Terpening suggested perhaps the Board may consider reducing the HRA benefit to reduce costs. She also suggested the Board may wish to consider upgrading the plan to a gold plan and doing away with the HRA benefit completely. She stated that the plan currently in place is a very good plan for the lower cost. Chairman Lawler questioned what types of procedures employees can use the HRA for. Ms. Terpening indicated that the rider for the HRA did include optional vision and dental procedures. He inquired of the Board what their thoughts were to reduce costs. Mr. O'Connor discussed what the Town of Malta was considering to reduce costs with an HSA plan to allow employees to contribute towards their own deductible costs. Ms. Terpening discussed incentives to place the responsibility of health on to the employee. Chairman Lawler talked about the quality of the work force at the Authority. He reiterated that the Board consider maintaining the plan for the current year and then take a

hard look next plan year. His concern was employees delaying healthcare due to costs. Ms. Daly discussed offering more than one plan for the employees. A higher plan and a lower plan to allow the employee to make the choice. Chairman Lawler thanked Ms. Terpening for her time and attention to this matter on behalf of the Authority.

Chairman Lawler requested that the regular meeting adjourn for a period to allow the Governance Committee to conduct its meeting. Chairman Lawler made a motion to adjourn at 1:35 p.m. and Ms. Daly seconded that motion. Unanimous.

The Governance Committee met at this time with Chairman Lawler and Supervisor Szczepaniak in attendance. Mr. Smith was absent. Chairman Lawler listed the following SCWA policies for consideration of Readoption as required by the Authorities Budget Office:

- SCWA Code of Ethics
- SCWA Whistleblower Policy
- SCWA Discretionary Funds Policy
- SCWA Equal Opportunity Policy
- SCWA Affirmative Action Policy

Motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak and seconded by Chairman Lawler to readopt the policies listed with no changes at this time. However he requested that Counsel review the policies for any potential updated language. Unanimous.

The members of the Committee then completed the annual Self-Evaluations of the Governance Committee. Motion was made by Chairman Lawler to adjourn the Governance Committee with a second by Mr. Szczepaniak. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Chairman Lawler then made a motion to resume the regular meeting of the SCWA Board of Directors at 1:45 p.m. Ms. Daly seconded that motion. Unanimous.

Reports:

Production: Mr. Hernandez reported that production data for the month of September was 6.4 MGD. Rolling annual average was 5.7 MGD.

Financial: Mr. Hernandez discussed the financial reports through September 30, 2019. Revenues for the year were budgeted at \$4.3 Million while actual revenues were \$4.75 Million. Budgeted expenses for the year were \$1.5 million while actual expenses were \$1.34 million. Estimated cash available for operations at December 1, 2019 is \$1.8 million after the next debt service payment of \$101,000 and a debt repayment to the county of \$1million. Mr. Hernandez stated he expected to make a second payment of \$1 million in December barring any unforeseen expenses.

Capital Projects: The Halfmoon Project is completed on the SCWA side and he was awaiting completion by the Town of Halfmoon to begin serving that community.

The Storage Building was 95% completed with a small amount of electrical work to be done.

The Water Plant Expansion Project was ongoing and awaiting closing from the NYS EFC.

Chairman Lawler complimented Mr. Hernandez regarding the staff at the facility and the outstanding care the staff takes to maintain the facility. He was impressed with how well kept the Authority was and the obvious pride the staff takes in keeping it that way. Ms. Daly complimented Mr. Hernandez on his leadership with the staff and the development of such a great crew of operators.

Legal Update: None.

Motions & Resolutions:

Motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak and seconded by Mr. O'Connor to authorize the payment of the monthly vouchers at a cost of \$79,921.55 in operating costs, \$115.00 in Halfmoon Project Costs. Motion carried unanimously. (2019-00)

Chairman Lawler then asked for a motion to award the contract for health insurance coverage to MVP with the continuation of the Silver 4 plan with HRA rider. **Motion was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Daly to renew the employee health benefit plan MVP Silver 4 with HRA for the 2019-2020 plan year. Motion carried unanimously. (2019-00)**

The next agenda item was a proposal from General Control Systems for a 4.1% increase to the prevailing wage rates for SCADA Engineering Services effective October 2, 2019. Mr. Hernandez stated that they were doing a very good job and he would like the Board to consider this increase as reasonable. **Motion was made by Ms. Daly and seconded by Mr. Johnson to approve the new rate schedule from General Control Systems. Motion carried unanimously. (2019-00)**

The next item was a motion to accept the Annual Arbitrage Reports prepared and submitted to the Authority by AMTEC Corporation. Mr. Hernandez indicated that no rebate was necessary at this time for either bond issuance. Motion was made by Chairman Lawler and seconded by Mr. O'Connor. Unanimous. (2019-00)

Motion was made by Mr. Szczepaniak to readopt the SCWA policies reviewed and recommended by the Governance Committee. Mr. Johnson seconded that motion. Motion carried unanimously. (2019-00)

The final matter was a discussion of the agreement between the Town of Stillwater and the Town of Malta to supply water to the area in Malta commonly known as Maltaville. Mr. O'Connor stated that the agreement was moving along and would be presented at the next Town of Malta meeting for approval by their Town Council. He did not anticipate any further issues other than some minor "tweaking" by the two counsels for the respective towns. Chairman Lawler discussed that the SCWA policy on resale of water be more clearly

defined. He wanted to insure there was no violation of the original Bond Resolutions. He directed to counsel to address that in the future.

New Business:

The next meeting of the Saratoga County Water Authority Board of Directors was scheduled for Thursday, November 21, 2019 at 3 p.m. He also requested that the Board schedule the December meeting for Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 3:30 p.m.

With no further action, motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Johnson and seconded by Ms. Daly. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carol A. Alden, Confidential Secretary