

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** held in the office, 295 Main Street, Room 350, Buffalo, New York, on the 20th day of August 2026.

PRESENT: Jerome D. Schad, Chair
 Peggy A. LaGree, Commissioner
 Michele M. Iannello, Commissioner
 Jennifer Hibit, Secretary to the Authority
 Joyce A. Tomaka, Chief Financial Officer
 Mark S. Carney, General Counsel
 Charles E. Eaton, Chief Operating Officer
 Leonard F. Kowalski, Executive Engineer
 Katherine A. Gillette, Senior Associate Attorney
 Lavonya C. Lester, Director of Administration
 David W. Aubertine, Director of Cybersecurity and Information Technology
 Matthew W. Barrett, Security Officer

ATTENDEES:
 Earl Wells III, e3 Communications

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. A quorum was present with three Commissioners.

II. READING OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried to waive the reading of the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, July 16, 2026.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, July 16, 2026.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

IV. REPORTS

A. SECRETARY

1. 2026 Board Meeting Schedule

Secretary Hibit presented the Board with the 2026 Board Meeting schedule and requested a change of date for the October 2026 Board Meeting. The Board approved changing the date of the October Board Meeting to October 19, 2026. The Board also approved rescheduling the Budget Hearing from the afternoon of September 17, 2026 to the morning of September 22, 2026.

B. LEGAL

1. Executive Session

Discussion relating to the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property where the value could be significantly affected by public disclosure pursuant to Public Officers Law § 105 (1)(h).

The above executive session has been deferred to end of the meeting.

C. FISCAL

1. June 2026 Investment Report

Ms. Tomaka distributed the June 2026 Investment Report along with a brief explanation of the report.

2. June 2026 Financial Report

Ms. Tomaka distributed the June 2026 Financial Report along with a brief explanation of the report. A brief discussion took place concerning power costs. Chair Schad requested an update on the possibility of solar usage at a future meeting.

D. OPERATIONS

1. Projects Advertised for Bidding – Short Form Contracts

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board on one short form contract that had been advertised for bidding since the last Board Meeting:

- Furnish & Deliver One 5KV Breaker for Sturgeon Point Water Treatment Plant, PN 202600095

2. Emergency Declaration – Raw Water Pump Impeller

Mr. Kowalski reported to the Board that a Declaration of State of Emergency was issued on July 30, 2026 for an impeller for a raw water pump at the Van de Water Raw Water Pump Station. Mr. Kowalski gave an overview of a raw water pump impeller that is no longer functional due to deterioration. Mr. Kowalski discussed a company with the ability to reverse engineer the impeller. Utilizing this service will allow the Authority to obtain a new impeller in roughly ten weeks, offering a much lower cost and a faster delivery time than purchasing a new raw water pump. A brief discussion ensued.

E. HUMAN RESOURCES

F. AUDIT COMMITTEE

G. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

H. FINANCE COMMITTEE

I. ETHICS COMMITTEE

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND BILLS

(Communications may be limited to items that are provided electronically. Every effort will be made to provide all communications at future meetings.)

- C-1 NOTICE OF CLAIM – SCOTT V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-2 NOTICE OF CLAIM – MACHOVEC V ECWA – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-3 LETTER FROM CHARON CAGGIANO - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-4 EMAIL FROM ROER BRATH - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-5 FOIL FROM CAMPIONE SAFETY - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-6 FOIL FROM MARY CLAVELL - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-7 FOIL FROM NORTH AMERICA PROCUREMENT COUNCIL - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**

- C-8 FOIL FROM DODGE CONSTRUCTION NETWORK - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-9 FOIL FROM CHRIS WEBER - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-10 FOIL FROM DODGE CONSTRUCTION NETWORK - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-11 FOIL FROM ANNA MAZE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-12 FOIL FROM PSTA RECORD - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-13 FOIL FROM DODGE CONSTRUCTION NETWORK - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-14 FOIL FROM SHARYL HUMMEL - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-15 FOIL FROM BETH DAMES - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-16 FOIL FROM INFRACTIV - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-17 FOIL FROM SMARTPROCURE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-18 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-19 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-20 FOIL FROM MICHAEL ROWE - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-21 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**
- C-22 FOIL FROM MARK ZURADA - RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP**

VI. PERSONS ADDRESSING THE AUTHORITY

Pursuant to the Erie County Water Authority's Open Meetings Law Policy Section 10 Public Expression, as posted on its website, the Commissioners will hear the concerns of persons desiring to address the Commissioners on any Water Authority subject. No one appeared to speak.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 1 - AUTHORIZATION TO EXECUTE A REVOCABLE PERMIT FOR NON-COMMERCIAL USE OF UNIVERSITY FACILITIES WITH THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO RELATING TO CONTRACT NO. MP-086, BALL PUMPING STATION IMPROVEMENTS, PROJECT NO. 202000177

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Chair Schad questioned if the Authority needs to acquire more property at this location. Mr. Kowalski replied that additional space was only needed temporarily and didn't believe additional permanent property was necessary.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello
Noes: None

ITEM 2 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO NEW FRONTIER EXCAVATING & PAVING, INC. FOR WATER SERVICE INVESTIGATIONS AND LEAD SERVICE REPLACEMENTS, CONTRACT F, VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE AND TOWN OF AMHERST, PROJECT NO. 202600118 - \$3,100,606.43

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree asked if this project was the last of this kind. Mr. Kowalski replied that there will be one more project towards the end of the year. It was also noted that the bids received for this project, and other current projects, were very competitive.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello
Noes: None

ITEM 3 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO ADVANCED REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY, LLC. FOR EXISTING MANHOLE, VAULT, AND CHAMBER REHABILITATIONS AT VARIOUS ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FACILITIES FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 TO AUGUST 31, 2027, PROJECT NO. 202600094 - \$186,004.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioners LaGree requested additional information. Mr. Kowalski gave a brief overview of the process.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 4 - AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PRELOAD LLC FOR STORAGE TANK REFURBISHING – STURGEON POINT EAST AND WEST CLEARWELLS, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. W-035-D, PROJECT NO. 202300060 - \$496,000.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Chair Schad requested additional information regarding the process. Mr. Kowalski gave a brief overview of the process.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 5 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH HYDRO EAST, INC. TO REVERSE ENGINEER AN IMPELLER FOR THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S VAN DE WATER RAW WATER PUMP STATION , PROJECT NO. 202600185

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 6 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH ARCADIS OF NEW YORK, INC. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS ENERGY PROGRAM, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. MP-082, PROJECT NO. 201900143

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner LaGree verified with Mr. Kowalski that Lawley would be assuming some of the defunded tasks. Commissioner LaGree requested a timeline be given to the Board. Chair Schad requested a future update regarding annual safety requirements.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 7 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH GREATER NIAGARA MECHANICAL, INC. TO PROVIDE HEATING, VENTILATING, AND AIR CONDITIONING SERVICE AND PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE TO THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY FOR ONE YEAR, PROJECT NO. 202500098

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 8 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 OF THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WENDEL WD ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING, SURVEYING, AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, P.C. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWN OF AMHERST, NEW YORK, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. W-030, PROJECT NO. 201800074 - \$345,400.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Mr. Schad and carried.

Motion by Ms. Iannello to table Item 8. Motion was not seconded and therefore was not considered.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Commissioner Iannello asked if it was possible to table the item to allow future discussions. Mr. Carney noted that an executive session in this case would not be appropriate. Mr. Kowalski provided a comprehensive summary of the steps that led to the request for Amendment No. 2. Commissioner Iannello appreciated the information and agreed to move forward with the item.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello
Noes: None

ITEM 9 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LABELLA ASSOCIATES, DPC TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATING TO THE NEW OPERATIONS CENTER, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. LA-007, PROJECT NO. 202300077 - \$75,000.00 - CCII

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello
Noes: None

ITEM 10 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL O&M BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 – UNIT 2525 NEW SERVICES - \$200,000.00

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello
Noes: None

ITEM 11 - RATIFICATION OF THE INSTALLATION OF HYDRANTS AND VALVES AND RETIREMENT OF EXISTING HYDRANTS AND VALVES - VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello
Noes: None

ITEM 12 - AUTHORIZATION FOR JARED KELLER AND AARON DIVINE, INSTRUMENTATION ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS, TO ATTEND SCHNEIDER ELECTRIC VARIABLE FREQUENCY DRIVE

TRAINING IN RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

On the question, Chair Schad emphasized the significance of providing proper training to other staff members if needed.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 13 - AUTHORIZATION FOR RYAN CASSENS, PLANNER – GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS, TO ATTEND THE 2026 NEW YORK STATE GIS ASSOCIATION GEOSPATIAL SUMMIT IN SKANEATELES, NEW YORK

Motion by Ms. LaGree and seconded by Ms. Iannello and carried.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

Motion made by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello to go into Executive Session for the discussion relating to the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property where the value could be significantly affected by public disclosure pursuant to Public Officers Law § 105 (1)(h) at 9:57 a.m. Chair Schad invited Jennifer Hibit, Joyce Tomaka, Mark Carney, Charles Eaton, Leonard Kowalski, and Katherine Gillette.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Two; Commrs. Schad and Iannello

Noes: None

Motion made by Ms. LaGree, seconded by Ms. Iannello to exit Executive Session at 10:05 a.m.

DISCUSSION

Chair Schad reported that a productive discussion was held with Counsel and have provided directions on responding in this situation.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello carried that the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None



Jennifer Hibit

Secretary to the Authority

ALH