

MINUTES of the **MEETING** of the **ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY** held in the office, 295 Main Street, Room 350, Buffalo, New York, on the 16th day of September 2021.

PRESENT: **Jerome D. Schad, Chair**
Peggy A. LaGree, Vice Chair
Michele M. Iannello, Treasurer
Terrence D. McCracken, Secretary to the Authority
Karen A. Prendergast, Chief Financial Officer
Russell J. Stoll, Chief Operating Officer
Mark S. Carney, General Counsel
Leonard F. Kowalski, Executive Engineer (via teleconference)
Daniel J. NeMoyer, Director of Human Resources (via teleconference)
Lavonya C. Lester, Director of Administration (via teleconference)
Sabrina A. Figler, Director of Water Quality (via teleconference)
Matthew W. Barrett, Security Officer (via teleconference)
Jeffrey Schlierf, Acting Manager of Information Technology (via teleconference)

ATTENDEES:

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 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, September 2, 2021.

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, September 2, 2021.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

IV. REPORTS**A. SECRETARY****B. LEGAL****C. FISCAL****D. OPERATIONS**

1. Borden Road Watermain Improvements

Kowalski

Executive Engineer Kowalski informed the Board that representatives from the Erie County Department of Public Works, Division of Highways (“DPW”) recently contacted him regarding a project they have scheduled for the Spring of 2022. The DPW is planning a full rehabilitation of Borden Road from Strasmer Road north to Rowley Road (approximately 4,800 LF) in the Town of Cheektowaga and inquired if the Authority would be interested in replacing the waterlines in this area as part of this project. Within the project limits there is a 1,400 linear foot section of watermain on Borden from Como Park Boulevard to Zurbrick Road that was installed in 1950 and has been prone to failure in the past, therefore, this would be an opportune time to replace it. By replacing the watermain as part of the road rehabilitation project, the Authority would not need to pay for any of the restoration costs. Mr. Kowalski further explained the benefits of the project. The County has a consultant onboard for the design work of the road and sewer rehabilitation, and the Authority would need to pay for the design and installation of the waterline. Due to the timing of the project, the Authority would need to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the Erie County in order to meet the project schedule. Mr. Kowalski will start coordination a Cooperative Agreement if there were no objections by the Board.

Commissioner LaGree asked if the project will be a 2022 expense in which Mr. Kowalski replied it will most likely be a 2022 expense. The project will fall under design in the budget under betterments 2090. Commissioner Iannello added that she feels this is great, the Authority should take advantage of situations such as this. Chairman Schad asked if the design work will be done in-house, in which Mr. Kowalski answered that the County’s consultant will be doing the work. The Executive Engineer remarked that he feels there will be a savings of \$200,000-400,000 on restoration costs.

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 FOIL FROM WYATT SZELEST REGARDING WATER SHUT OFF LIST – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-2 FOIL FROM HODGSON RUSS REGARDING ALL BIDS SUBMITTED BY AND CONTRACTS WITH WRIGHT PIERCE ENGINEERING – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-3 FOIL FROM JOEL COPELAND REGARDING RESIDENTIAL RESIDENCES THAT HAVE BEEN DISCONNECTED FROM SERVICE FOR MORE THAN 90 DAYS – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

C-4 NOC – CHRISTOPHER HOFFMAN VS. ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

C-5 NOC – NATIONAL FUEL VS. ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO LEGAL FOR FOLLOW UP

C-6 LETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION – RECEIVE AND FILE AND REFER TO SECRETARY FOR FOLLOW UP

I. PERSONS ADDRESSING THE AUTHORITY

The Commissioners will hear the concerns of persons desiring to address the Commissioners on any Water Authority subject

No member of the public requested the opportunity to speak.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

III. NEW BUSINESS

ITEM 1 - MASTER PURCHASE ORDERS, RELEASES FROM MASTER PURCHASE ORDERS, PURCHASE ORDERS, AND AMENDMENTS OF SAME

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 2 - AUTHORIZATION TO SOLICIT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR VAN DE WATER DELIVERED WATER TRANSMISSION IMPROVEMENTS COLVIN BOULEVARD/TWIN CITY HIGHWAY TO I-290/I-990 INTERCHANGE, PROJECT NO. 202100182 (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 3 - AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH JM DAVIDSON ENGINEERING, D.P.C. TO PROVIDE CONSULTING ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS IN THE TOWNS OF HAMBURG, CHEEKTOWAGA AND WEST SENECA AND VILLAGE OF DEPEW, NEW YORK, IDENTIFIED AS CONTRACT NO. JMD-001, PROJECT NO. 202100200

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

ITEM 4 - AUTHORIZATION TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE FURNISHING AND INSTALLING OF GATE AND FENCING UPGRADES AT THE WINDOM PUMP STATION, PROJECT NO. 202100205 (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 5 - AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT LEAK ALLOWANCE REQUEST - \$757.55

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 - AUTHORIZATION FOR KATHERINE WISCHERATH TO ATTEND THE AWWA WQTC IN TACOMA, WASHINGTON

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

**ITEM 7 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE ERIE COUNTY WATER
AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL CAPITAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

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 - AUTHORIZATION TO AMEND THE ERIE COUNTY WATER
AUTHORITY'S ANNUAL O & M BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

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

DISCUSSION

On the question, Chairman Schad asked if this amendment is because the funds were underestimated this year. Mr. Stoll explained that a significant amount of contracted maintenance work has been performed at the pump stations in 2021, therefore, resulting in insufficient funds in Unit 1020 O&M Item No. 19 – Payments to Contractors-Other.

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

**ITEM 9 - RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO THE NEW YORK STATE
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT ADOPTING A NEGATIVE
DECLARATION FOR THE 48-INCH TRANSMISSION MAIN, TOWN OF
TONAWANDA PROJECT, IDENTIFIED AS ERIE COUNTY WATER
AUTHORITY PROJECT NO. 202000084**

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 INCREASE THE FORMAL BID THRESHOLD FOR PURCHASES OF EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS PURSUANT TO SECTION 1069 OF THE PUBLIC AUTHORITIES LAW

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 - APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT NO. 2 OF E3 COMMUNICATIONS, INC. TO PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES, PROJECT NO. 201800179

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

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Ms. LaGree seconded by Ms. Iannello carried that the meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

DISCUSSION

None

VOTE

Ayes: Three; Commrs. Schad, LaGree and Iannello

Noes: None



Terrence D. McCracken
Secretary to the Authority

PG