

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 26, 2013

ECWA APPROVES MOU WITH VILLAGE OF WILLIAMSVILLE FOR WATER SYSTEM MERGER ***More than \$3 million in upgrades to village system will result in long-term savings for ratepayers***

BUFFALO, NY – The Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) Board of Commissioners today approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to allow for the consolidation of the Village of Williamsville water system with the ECWA.

As part of the agreement and prior to the consolidation being completed, more than \$3 million will be invested to upgrade the village water system in order to meet the ECWA's system standards. Among the improvements being made to the village's system include installing higher capacity water mains, replacing all existing water meters with technologically advanced remote radio read meters, replacing outdated fire hydrants, and completing new interconnections between the two systems to improve fire service flows in and around the village.

"Over the past several years, the Village of Williamsville has performed its due diligence and concluded that the ECWA will provide the best, most affordable water service to its ratepayers," ECWA Chairman Francis G. Warthling said. "As the region's largest and most well equipped public water utility, the ECWA has the second lowest water rate in Western New York and provides a very high level of service delivery. Village officials should be commended for their work on this initiative, which is a smart and important investment in the future of the village and will have a positive impact on its ratepayers."

In its effort to get out of the increasingly expensive municipal water business the village has discussed consolidating its system with ECWA for several years.

"This has been a very consistent topic of discussion for many, many years," Williamsville Mayor Brian J. Kulpa said. "That we are finally getting out of the water business is great news for village ratepayers as it will result in substantial long-term savings. I also want to thank the village trustees for being progressive and doing what is right for the future of Williamsville and its residents."

The consolidation is expected to be completed in the next 12 to 18 months.

During recent years, several municipalities throughout Erie County have achieved significant savings by consolidating their water systems with the ECWA, including the Town of Hamburg and the Village of Blasdell.

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