

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 1, 2013

TOWN TO CONSOLIDATE WATER SYSTEM WITH ECWA ***Merger will result in long-term savings for town ratepayers***

BUFFALO, NY – The Erie County Water Authority (ECWA) Board of Commissioners recently unanimously approved an agreement to allow for the consolidation of the Town of Alden water system with the ECWA.

The town is now a “direct service customer” of ECWA and is completely out of the water business. The ECWA now owns and operates the town’s water system and is fully responsible for customer service, billing, meter reading, system maintenance and all future infrastructure upgrades.

“Over the past several years, the town 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. Supervisor Milligan should be commended for his support and work on this initiative, which is a smart and important decision for the future of the town and will have a positive impact on its residents.”

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

“Becoming a direct service customer of the ECWA was a logical next step for the town,” said Alden Supervisor Bud Milligan. “It is great news for town ratepayers as it will result in substantial long-term savings related to necessary and expensive infrastructure upgrades. I also want to thank councilmembers Mary Riddoch and Bill Weber for their support and doing what is right for the future of Alden and its residents.”

The consolidation took about one year to complete.

Over the past few 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 and most recently the Village of Williamsville.

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From left to right are ECWA Vice-Chairman Earl Jann, Alden Supervisor Bud Milligan, and ECWA Chairman Fran Warthling with the passing of the ceremonial valve key.



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