

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
August 12, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Oluwole A. McFoy
Gerald Kelly
Steven Stepniak
William Sunderlin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter Merlo
Jack McMahan
Stephen Waldvogel
Bill Ferguson
Dustin Steiner
Charlie Martorana
David Hill
Damon Sykes
Lisa Foti
Michael Ramos
Michael Wolasz
Doug Fultz
Bill Appenheimer
Delano Dowell

The regular monthly meeting of the Buffalo Water Board was called to order at 8:00 a.m.

1. Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to approve the agenda. Approved.

Motion by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2020 meeting. Approved.
2. During the public comments portion of this meeting Mr. Ramos reported to the Buffalo Water Board that he is looking for funding opportunities to help the Buffalo Public School system purchase and install new water fountains in schools once they reopen.
3. Staff Update: Mr. Hill with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
4. Mr. McFoy, the Buffalo Water Board Chairman reported that the City of Buffalo has developed an Amnesty Program to provide relief and assistance to residents of the City of Buffalo with respect to various charges for City and other governmental services in response to the adverse effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The Martin Group has developed a trifold document that is being used to inform residents of the Amnesty program, notably forgiveness of interest obligations and other programs to assist Buffalo Water customers during this pandemic. Information about these programs is currently available on the website www.GetWaterWiseBuffalo.org. The social media campaign component of the Let's Get Water Wise campaign is on-going.
5. The Buffalo Water Board's Rate Consultant, Lisa Foti, provided an update on the refunding of Series 2010 Bonds and additional financing for capital improvements. Underwriters have been selected and the proposed refunding and new financing transactions are currently scheduled to be completed by mid-October, 2020.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to authorize an increase in funding for the contract with Clough Harbour & Associates, LLP for professional engineering services, contract (Number

93002258) for the Michigan Avenue Waterline Rehabilitation project. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$152,100.00. Approved

7. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to authorize an increase in funding for contract with Nussbaumer & Clarke, Inc. for professional engineering services, contract (Number 93002230) for Modeling Services, as a portion of the Update of Water Records project. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$110,000.00. Approved
8. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to authorize and fund a Water Betterment for Jefferson Avenue Streetscape project, in an amount not to exceed \$40,800.00. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Engineering. Approved.
9. Proposal to authorize an increase in funding for the contract with The Martin Group professional services contract was tabled to a future date.
10. Proposal to authorize a budgetary staff modification to add an Assistant Water Distribution Superintendent position was tabled to a future date.
11. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, the Buffalo Water Board approved payment of an outstanding invoice for legal services, which pursuant to City of Buffalo and Buffalo Water Board procedures is managed as a settlement of a claim:
 - a) Motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak, to authorize payment of an outstanding invoice as a claim in the amount of \$12,936.00 due to Barclay Damon, LLP. Approved
12. Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Stepniak, to approve a Fund Transfer of \$3,288,105.00 from Buffalo Water Board Reserve Account to Structural Improvements Account (# 53023517-473020). Approved.
13. Mr. Steiner of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. presented a summary of the invoices to be paid to Veolia Water and recommended payment to Veolia Water for services rendered as follows:
 - a) Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to approve payment of \$188,196.01, inclusive of Veolia Water's 10% administrative fee for services by Great Lakes Plumbing for ROLL Program. Approved.
14. Mr. Waldvogel and Mr. Steiner of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. delivered a report of GHD's on-going professional services to assist the Buffalo Water Board on a number of projects, including: the Filter Project is on-going with the first five filters complete and work on-going on the second set of five filters, the new Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Replacement project is 80% complete, the feasibility analyses for the chlorine conversion study, working with the University of Buffalo on the next phase of the pipe loop analyses, meeting with Hazen and Sawyer regarding the modeling of the clear well project, and the Centennial Park Improvement project.
15. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly management report with the Buffalo Water Board. He reported that Veolia Water has re-opened the Exchange Street office to the public, consistent with NYS Department of Health Guidance. Meter Reading and Repair services are back to normal operations. Veolia Water has installed an upgrade

to the customer service system, with appropriate staff training. Veolia Water plans to upgrade computer hardware and software at both, Exchange Street and Colonel Ward locations. Planning and implementation for new projects is underway in connection with the new Management Agreement dated as of July 1, 2020. A search is underway for a new technology manager. Veolia Water is training staff in how to use some of the new programs such as the Amnesty Program, Affordability Program and others.

Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to adjourn at 9:19 A.M. Approved.

Next meeting, Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 8:00 A.M. This meeting will be a MSTeams conference call.