

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
September 9, 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
Greg Keiser
Samantha Podlas
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. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2020 meeting. Approved.
2. There were no public comments during this meeting.
3. Staff Update: Mr. Hill with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
4. Mr. Merlo and Robert Smith, Bond Counsel from Hawkins Delafield & Wood LLP presented information to the Buffalo Water Board about the Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority's proposed refunding of the Series 2010 Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority Bonds and issuance of the 2020 Bonds to provide additional financing for the Buffalo Water Board's Capital Improvement Plan projects. Received and filed.
5. Mr. McFoy, the Buffalo Water Board Chairman reported that approximately 9,000 trifold documents have been distributed to various organizations to inform residents of the Buffalo Water Board's Affordability and Amnesty program, notably forgiveness of interest obligations and other programs to assist Buffalo Water Board 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. Additionally, approximately 1,200 people received backpacks while getting information out about the Affordability and Amnesty programs.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to authorize and fund a professional services contract with LaBella Associates PC for professional engineering services for the Watermain Improvements 2021 – South project. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$292,000.00. Approved

7. Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to consider a Salary Ordinance Amendment that had been previously postponed and tabled for a Salary Ordinance Amendment for the Position of Assistant Water Distribution Superintendent within the City of Buffalo Water Department. Approved.
8. Motion by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to approve a Salary Ordinance Amendment for the Position of Assistant Water Distribution Superintendent within the City of Buffalo Water Department. Approved.
9. 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. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to approve payment of \$377,353.51, inclusive of Veolia Water's 10% administrative fee for services by Great Lakes Plumbing for ROLL Program. Approved.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to authorize and fund an increase to the Veolia Water Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$200,000.00 for continued preventive maintenance. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water under the Veolia Water Management Agreement. Approved.
11. 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: preparing a current Engineering Report which evaluates the Buffalo Water Board Water System in support of the Buffalo Municipal Water Finance Authority's proposed refunding of 2010 Bonds and issuance of 2020 Bonds to finance the Buffalo Water Board's Capital Improvement Plan,, preparing information to contribute to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) National Rate Survey, assisting with the preparation of the application to qualify the Buffalo Water Board for funding through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) in 2020. GHD continues to provide engineering and oversight services with the Filter Project where sweep filter installation is halfway completed on the third set of five filters. They also reported that the new Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Replacement project is nearing completion, and the repairs in the chlorine room are on-going.
12. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly management report with the Buffalo Water Board. He reported that information technology upgrades at both the Exchange Street office and Colonel Ward locations continue, some Water Distribution shut off crews have been repurposed and are investigating suspected underground water leaks, water production in 2020 has dropped below 2019 levels by approximately 1 billion gallons, the annual potable water report has been submitted to the New York State Department of Health and the annual customer satisfaction survey will be mailed out shortly. He reported that overtime has met budget for the last four years in a row. The Limit Account has expended approximately 65% of its funds on lead service line repairs already and next month he will be asking the Buffalo Water Board for additional funding for this account. Accounts Receivable are down by approximately 1.4% due to the effects of COVID-19 pandemic .Lead and Copper testing has collected the required number of tests and Mr. Hill plans to report on the results at the Board meeting next month.

Motion by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to adjourn at 9:04 A.M. Approved.

Next meeting, Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 8:00 A.M. This meeting will be a MSTeams conference call.