

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
December 9, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Oluwole A. McFoy
Gerald Kelly
Steven Stepniak
William Sunderlin

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter Merlo
Jack McMahon
Stephen Waldvogel
Bill Ferguson
Dustin Steiner
Charlie Martorana
David Hill
Damon Sykes
Lisa Foti
Greg Keyser
Samantha Podlas
Delano Dowell
Doug Fultz
Barbara Miller-Williams
Michael Ramos
Kelly Leeb
Madeline Harp

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

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

Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2020 meeting. Approved.
2. A motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to approve the proposed schedule of Buffalo Water Board 2021 monthly meetings (see attached). Approved.
3. During the public comment portion of this meeting Mr. Ramos updated the Buffalo Water Board with information that the Buffalo Common Council recently adopted legislation for proactive rental registration and property inspections and plans are being developed to roll out the program to the public.
4. A motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to approve the Draft Audited Financial Statements for FY 2019-2020 as presented by City of Buffalo Accountant, Mr. William Ferguson. Approved.
5. Mr. McFoy, the Buffalo Water Board Chairman updated the Water Board on the Water Affordability Program.
6. Staff Update: Mr. Hill with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board. Chairman McFoy and Principal Engineer/Secretary Merlo both discussed the retirement of the Water Treatment Supervisor, Jan Ford, at the end of this month. Jan has served the Buffalo Water Board for 30 plus years as Chemist, Laboratory Director and currently as Water Treatment Supervisor. She has been a great resource for the Buffalo Water Board and the City of Buffalo, and her dedication, experience and knowledge will be greatly missed.

7. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to authorize an increase in funding for the contract with Hazen and Sawyer for professional engineering services, contract (Number 93002561) for the Clearwell CFD, Finish Water Hydraulic, and Chemical Feed Evaluation project. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$230,800.00. Approved
8. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to authorize and fund an increase to the Veolia Water High Priority Repairs and Lead Services Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,000,000.00. A second motion was made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to authorize and fund an increase to the Veolia Water Specialty Preventive Maintenance Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$150,000.00. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water, as part of the Veolia Water Management Agreement. Approved.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Kelly to authorize and fund a Water Betterment for Dewey Street Bridge Reconstruction project, in an amount not-to-exceed \$20,787.00 for additional design services. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Engineering. Approved.
10. 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 \$18,424.46, inclusive of Veolia Water's 10% administrative fee for services by Destro & Brothers Concrete Company, Inc. for Emergency Watermain Repairs. 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: the work on the LaSalle Park project in order to confirm the status and protect the Buffalo Water Board's Infrastructure and assets is ongoing, working through issues for improvements to protect the Water Board facilities impacted by recent storm events affecting the shoreline and the Colonel Ward Facility. GHD is providing engineering and oversight services at the Filter Plant where sweep filter pipe installations are being completed, the new Uninterrupted Power Supply (UPS) Replacement project has been completed, the repairs in the chlorine room have been completed, and new instrumentation work at both the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Facility and Massachusetts Avenue Pumping Plant has been completed. Training for these completed projects will be ongoing.
12. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly management report with the Buffalo Water Board. He reported concerns over recent storm events affecting the shoreline and the Colonel Ward Facility. He also reported that through the first five months of the fiscal year, the Buffalo Water Board revenue has been below budget by approximately \$2.8 million. A number of factors relating to the COVID-19 pandemic adversely impact the revenue collection, including a reduction in water production and consumption caused by business shut down/slow down as well as customer payment challenges. Veolia Water continues to pursue collections as much as possible. He thanked the Water Distribution Crews for distributing 20,000 door hangers regarding the Buffalo Water Board Amnesty Program. Buffalo Water continues to handle a substantial number of telephone inquiries at the Exchange Street office and is working to register residents in this program. Mr. Hill further reported that Veolia Water is

completing the first phase of a five phase leak detection program throughout the City. Buffalo Water is repairing various leaks with the goal to reduce loss of water.

Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to adjourn at 9:12 A.M. Approved.

Next meeting, Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 8:00 A.M. This meeting will be a MSTeams conference call.

RESOLUTION OF THE BUFFALO WATER BOARD FOR COMPLIANCE WITH THE PAAA SCHEDULE OF BOARD MEETINGS FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2021

WHEREAS: The suggested schedule for the calendar year 2021 be approved as follows:

2021

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------|
| January 20 | July 21 (Annual Meeting) |
| February 24 | August 18 |
| March 17 | September 15 |
| April 21 | October 13 |
| May 19 | November 10 |
| June 16 | December 8 |

**Tentative dates*

All meetings are scheduled for 8:00 AM at 502 City Hall. (Except for the Annual Meeting to be held at Col. Ward Pumping Station). Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, tentatively, all meetings are held via conference call with the call in telephone number posted in the agenda on the Buffalo Water web site.

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Buffalo Water Board hereby approves the above Schedule of Board Meetings for the calendar year 2021.

MOTION TO _____ Approve _____

MADE BY: _____ Mr. Sunderlin _____

2nd BY: _____ Mr. Stepniak _____

AYES _____ 4 _____ NOES _____ 0 _____

Board Meeting of December 9, 2020