

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
February 24, 2021

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
Doug Fultz
Lisa Foti
Greg Keyser
Samantha Podlas
Delano Dowell
Michael Wolasz
Michael Ramos
Kelly Leeb

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. Stepniak to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2021 meeting as amended. Approved.
2. There were no public comments at this meeting.
3. Staff Update: Mr. Hill with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
4. Upon the recommendation of the City of Buffalo Legal Department, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to authorize payment of a claim to Santana Merriweather in an amount not-to-exceed \$13,000.00 from the Buffalo Water Board Judgment and Claims account (Number 53028218 480205). Approved.
5. 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 contract with Wendel for professional engineering services, for the 2021 Citywide Water Cut Rehabilitation Program. The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$266,650.00. Approved.
6. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to authorize the City of Buffalo, Purchase Department to issue a purchase contract for Large Pipe and Accessories in an amount not-to-exceed \$98,760.80. Approved.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak, to authorize the City of Buffalo, Purchase

Department to issue a purchase contract for Large Valves in an amount not-to-exceed \$91,442.00. Approved.

8. 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 the contract with DiDonato Engineering and Architecture, P.C. for survey and design services, existing Contract (Number 93002633) for the Waterline 2020 Improvements project. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$33,298.00. Approved.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Stepniak, to authorize an increase in funding for the contract for the Water Betterment portion of the Niagara Street Highway Rehabilitation and Reconfiguration Project Phase 3 (Contract 93002397). The project and contract will be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$109,609.50 for Concrete Applied Technologies Company (CATCO). Approved.
10. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin, to authorize Veolia Water to bid a contract for 12 weeks of Laboratory Services while short staffed due to personnel on leave. The project and contract will be administered by Veolia Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$33,000.00, inclusive of Veolia Water's 10% administrative fee. Approved.
11. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak, to authorize Veolia Water to make repairs and implement measures to mitigate flooding and wind damage to the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Facility caused by recent storms and water surges. The project and contract will be administered by Veolia Water in an amount not-to-exceed \$75,000.00, inclusive of Veolia Water's 10% administrative fee. Approved.
12. 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 increases for several projects and services authorized as part of the Management Agreement dated as of July 1, 2020 with Veolia Water: (a) increase to the High Priority Repairs and Lead Services Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$1,750,000.00, (b) increase to the Specialty Preventive Maintenance Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00, and (c) increase to the Spoils Removal Limit Account in an amount not-to-exceed \$50,000.00. These projects and services will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water, as part of the Management Agreement with Veolia Water. Approved.
13. Mr. Steiner of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. presented a summary report of the invoices submitted by Veolia Water and payments made to Veolia Water for services rendered as set forth in the report. No action requested. The report was received and filed.
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: GHD prepared and submitted an Engineering Report and Application for the Green Innovation Grant Program, GHD worked with Veolia Water to prepare a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a third party vendor to assist with management of the Buffalo Water Board Affordability Program, and met with University at Buffalo personnel on design adjustments for the pipe loop project. GHD is continuing to provide engineering and oversight services at Colonel Ward Treatment Facility, for among other matters, the Filter Plant Improvements, the Chlorine Improvements project, and Flood Mitigation Repairs.

15. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly management report with the Buffalo Water Board. He reported that through the first six months of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Buffalo Water Board has received revenue below budgeted estimates. Assuming this trend continues for the remainder of the fiscal year through June 30, 2021, revenue is projected to be approximately 11.8% below budgeted annual revenue. 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 best as possible, with consideration due to the unique circumstances during the State of Emergency throughout the State of New York. Mr. Hill noted an increase in water production recently and is optimistic that the revenues will be improving as the local economy improves. Veolia Water also has been working with GHD on the Green Innovation Grant Program submission and Federal Lead Rule changes. Further financial information will be presented to the Water Board in coming months.

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

Next meeting, Wednesday, March 17, 2021 at 8:00 A.M. This meeting will be a MSTeams conference call.