

**BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES**  
**March 17, 2021**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

**Oluwole A. McFoy**  
**Gerald Kelly**  
**Steven Stepniak**  
**William Sunderlin**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**Peter Merlo**  
**Jack McMahan**  
**Stephen Waldvogel**  
**Damon Sykes**  
**Dustin Steiner**  
**Charlie Martorana**  
**David Hill**  
**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. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2021 meeting as amended. Approved.
3. Mr. Ramos provided an update to the Buffalo Water Board.
4. Staff Update: Mr. Hill with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.
5. 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 in an amount not-to-exceed \$100,000.00, for the contract with Nussbaumer and Clarke, Inc. for additional engineering services, existing Contract (Number 93002522) for the Massachusetts Avenue Pump Station Electrical Upgrades project. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. 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 an increase in funding in an amount not-to-exceed \$96,800.00, for the contract with LaBella Associates for additional engineering services, existing Contract (Number 93002720) for the Watermain Improvements 2021 - South project. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Kelly, to authorize an increase in funding in an amount not-to-exceed \$279,475.00, for the contract with Kandy Company, Inc. for additional construction services, existing Contract (Number 93002578) for the Michigan Avenue Waterline Rehabilitation project. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. In addition, due to contract award delays and the COVID-19 pandemic, the substantial completion date for the contract is extended from August 30, 2020

to May 28, 2021 and the final completion date is extended from October 1, 2020 to June 25, 2021. Approved.

8. Upon the recommendation of the City of Buffalo Comptroller's Office, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to authorize a one-time pass through payment in an amount not-to-exceed \$12,671.33, to the City of Buffalo Department of Treasury for Lockbox Fees for the months from July 2019 through December 2020. Approved.
9. Upon the recommendation of the City of Buffalo Legal Department, motion made by Mr. Stepniak, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to authorize payment of a claim to Niagara Mohawk/National Grid through their attorney Solomon & Solomon in an amount not-to-exceed \$45,000.00 from the Buffalo Water Board Judgment and Claims Account (Number 53028218 480205). Approved.
10. Motion made by Mr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. Sunderlin to approve a Fund Transfer of \$45,000.00 from Buffalo Water Board Structural Improvements Account (Number 53023517 473020) to Judgment and Claims Account (Number 53028218 480205). 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 an increase in funding in an amount not-to-exceed \$130,000.00, for the contract with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. for additional engineering services, existing Contract (Number 93002696) for the Buffalo Water Board Engineering Retainer Fiscal Year 2020/2021 project. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
12. 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 reported a reduction in finished water turbidity attributed to the filter upgrades recently completed; 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 GHD is collaborating with Veolia Water in several programs that Veolia Water has recently initiated. 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, the Pipe Loop Project, and Flood Mitigation Repairs.
13. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly management report with the Buffalo Water Board. Through the first six months of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Buffalo Water Board has received revenue below the estimated budget. Assuming this trend continues for the remainder of the fiscal year through June 30, 2021, revenue is projected to be approximately 11.8% below budget. 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 for customers' unique circumstances during the State of Emergency in effect throughout the State of New York. Mr. Hill noted an increase in water production recently, and early March revenues have improved. Assuming current trends continue, he projects that by June 30, 2021 revenue will be approximately 10%, or less below the original budget for fiscal year 2020-2021.

Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Mr. Stepniak to adjourn at 8:53 A.M. Approved.

Next meeting, Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 8:00 A.M. This meeting will be a MSTeams conference call.