

BUFFALO WATER BOARD MINUTES
January 10, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Oluwole A. McFoy
William Sunderlin
Gerald E. Kelly
Denine N. Jackson
Raymour P. Nosworthy

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peter Merlo
Jack McMahan
David Hill
Doug Fultz
Charlie Martorana
Stephen Waldvogel
Damond Rand
Lisa Foti
Bill Ferguson
Kelly Leeb
Ryan Stotz
John Davis
Fouad Arab
Damond Sykes
Dustin Steiner
Barbara Miller-Williams
Nathan Marton
Laura Littlejohn
Matthew Adam
Beth Scheeler
Porsha Parson
Kevin Jolly
John D. Craig
Amanda Cryan
Patricia Polowy

The regular monthly meeting of the Buffalo Water Board (BWB) was called to order at 9:00 A.M.

1. Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Ms. Jackson, to approve the agenda. Approved.
2. Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Ms. Jackson to approve the minutes of the December 20, 2023, meeting. Approved.
3. The Buffalo Water Board (BWB) recently received approval from the New York State Department of Health for Public Water Supply Improvements for the addition of fluoride. The Principal Engineer of the Division of Water provided information about the State and Erie County Health Department's approval and the improvement project to the Buffalo Water Board.
4. Public Comment: After the Chair offered an opportunity for public comments, Dr. John D. Craig, Dr. Amanda Cryan, and Patricia Polowy, RN, who attended the meeting in person, addressed the Buffalo Water Board with their individual statements, and among other things, expressed support for the addition of fluoride to the Buffalo Water system and better communication with the public about the restoration of fluoride in the water system.
5. Staff Update: Mr. Fultz, with Veolia Water provided a staffing update to the Buffalo Water Board.

6. Upon the recommendation of the Associate Engineer of the Division of Water and the project engineering consultant GHD Consulting Services, Inc., motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Ms. Jackson to authorize a no cost change order contract time extension with Frey Electric Construction Co. for the Colonel Ward Pumping Station Electrical Improvements Project (contract #93002903). The revised project completion date will be June 28, 2024. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
7. Upon the recommendation of the Associate Engineer of the Division of Water and the project engineering consultant CHA, motion made by Ms. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Kelly to authorize a no cost change order contract time extension with 4th Generation Construction Inc. for the Capital Improvement Project – Various Locations 2 (contract #93003125). The revised project completion date will be November 26, 2024. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
8. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Ms. Jackson to authorize a cost increase for CHA for the Capital Improvement Project – Various Locations 2 (contract #93002734). The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water, and the contract, as amended, is approved in an amount not-to-exceed \$191,159.00. Approved.
9. Upon the recommendation of the Principal Engineer of the Division of Water, motion made by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Ms. Jackson, to authorize an increase in funding in an amount not-to-exceed \$250,000.00, for the contract with GHD Consulting Services, Inc. for additional engineering services (contract # 93003209) for the Buffalo Water Board Engineering Retainer Fiscal Year 2023/2024 project. The project and contract will continue to be administered by the City of Buffalo, Division of Water. Approved.
10. Mr. Waldvogel, Mr. Steiner, Mr. Stotz, and Mr. Davis of GHD Consulting Services, Inc. delivered a report of GHD's on-going professional services to assist the Buffalo Water Board on several projects, including: (a); Mr. Davis reported on the very positive social media response to information being presented, including the high volume of impressions and clicks on the internet web site; (b) informational pamphlets pertaining to the Affordability and Lead Service Line programs that Buffalo Water currently offers have been distributed to community and food centers throughout the City of Buffalo; (c) GHD is coordinating programs with Promise Pay that assist the Buffalo Water Board's mission; (d) GHD is developing a cost analysis for neighboring water utilities to compare rates and presented an initial draft of information; (e) GHD is continuing to provide engineering and oversight services at Colonel Ward Treatment Facility, for among other matters, the electrical upgrades at the plant, a Notice to Proceed has been received for the Berm Project with a pre-construction meeting scheduled for next week and weekly contractor meetings for work at the Ralph C. Wilson Centennial Park are continuing.
11. Mr. Hill of Veolia Water presented Veolia Water's monthly management report. Mr. Hill reported that the Buffalo Water Board collected \$48,304 in the month of December 2023 through the Promise Pay program while the total amount collected throughout the fiscal year was more than \$697,000. Two New York State programs have been assisting customers with support payments: the New York State Buffalo East Side Homeowner Assistance Fund (helping customers with payments, with receipt of nearly \$160,000 this month) and the New York State Low Income Household Water Assistance (LIHWA) Program with its funding ending as of September 30, 2023. No further applications are being processed currently. This program has helped a total of 2,737 customers receive over \$3 million to assist with Buffalo

Water and Sewer bills. This month Buffalo Water Board received more than \$545,000 in State program close-out funds, bringing the total revenue collected from this program from its inception to more than \$3.6 million.

Motion by Mr. Sunderlin to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation matters. Seconded by Ms. Jackson. Approved.

Motion by Mr. Kelly to exit Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Sunderlin. Approved.

Motion by Mr. Sunderlin, seconded by Ms. Jackson to adjourn at 10:40 A.M. Approved.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 9:00 A.M. This meeting will be held in the Colonel Ward Water Treatment Facility Administration Building Conference Room located at 2 Porter Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14201, for Board Members and by virtual conference call, as authorized by law.