

ALBANY WATER BOARD
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 17, 2019

A regular meeting of the Albany Water Board was officially convened at 9:03 am, in the Conference Room at the Albany Water Board, 10 North Enterprise Drive, Albany, NY on Friday, May 17, 2019.

PRESENT: Charles Houghton, Chairperson; Anthony Owens, Treasurer; Barbara Smith, Secretary, Karen Strong, Assistant Secretary

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Rachel Johnson, Vice Chairperson

STAFF PRESENT: Joseph E. Coffey, Jr., P.E., Commissioner; Thomas Dufresne, CFO; William Simcoe, P.E., Deputy Commissioner; Emily Lyons, Confidential Assistant; Kate Pochini, Environmental Specialist

BOARD ADVISORS PRESENT: Madalyn DeThomasis, Corporation Counsel; Bill Kahn, UHY Advisors

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Chairman Charles Houghton introduced the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 26, 2019. With no objection, the reading of minutes was dispensed and Mr. Houghton called for a motion to approve the minutes of said meeting. A motion was made, and seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Comment Period

Summary of comments from Larry Plac – Owner of 146 4th Ave: I have owned this residence since 2011 from a County Auction. DGS has reported to me that the sewer connection to the house is not established. My taxes are currently due on June 6th because of foreclosure deadline and I am trying to reduce taxes by reducing the water charges that have been added to my tax bill. I am appealing for a water bill reduction because the house is not connected to the main, and has accumulated \$140 per year for 11 years. I have spoken to AWD many times and they have not provided direct help on how to address this.

Comment from Andrea Scheely, Customer Service Supervisor— The house was receiving the non-metered rate until we removed the unmetered charges and moved the house to a vacant lot status. Unpaid vacant lot rates get rolled into property taxes. Even though the house has no connection, there are water/sewer mains on the street so he is responsible for water/sewer fees under the “vacant lot” rate. AWD will connect with County to see if there is anything to be done.

Committee and Staff Reports

Governance Committee Report: Since all members were present during the Governance Committee Meeting, it was decided to skip a report from the Committee.

Financial Report: Tom Dufresne, CFO

We have had a positive trend for the year due partly to the rate increase and partly due to volume of water usage. The expenses are neutral for the year and we are cash flow positive for May. We have had \$2 million in capital projects for the month with only about \$300,000 from within the operating

budget. We also received some DEC grant funds for the Tivoli and Floatable projects. This is the first month of the year that we have missed the revenue monthly budget, but we are still up for the year, and expenses are where we expected them to be.

Commissioner's Report: Joseph Coffey, P.E., Commissioner; William Simcoe, P.E., Deputy Commissioner

Key Performance Indicators:

- We are working to address the high amounts due-to from the City and our goal is to get down to around \$1 million.
- Overtime is under for the month and lower year to date by 11%.

Beaver Creek Clean River Project: Phase 2 of park land alienation was discussed at the recent City Council caucus meeting and they will vote on it next Monday. Council Member Johnson asked to hold another one in the future where we can share our flow meter and other data.

Tivoli Stream Daylighting Project: The board members viewed the recent drone images which showed the progress of the stream development.

Ramsey Place Project: We recently held a pre-bid meeting with three contractors in attendance.

Albany Colonie Emergency Water Interconnect: The project is on delay because of Karner Blue butterfly habitat disturbance by the Contractor. Commissioner Coffey attended a meeting with the Latham, Water District, OBG Engineers, Pine Bush Preserve and DEC to discuss the delineation of habitat and a path forward. The consultant should absorb the financial penalty from an expected Order on Consent to be issued.

Water System Improvements – SEQRA Compliance: Consultants OBG Engineers made a determination of type 2 and are making sure we comply with endangered species permit requirements.

Other Project Updates:

- Basin A at Loudonville is empty for cleaning and repairs.
- Orange street floatables project is moving along and we are making some piping connections
- We will be installing new tide gates at several locations to prevent river water getting into the interceptor sewer system.
- Upper Washington Water tank and pump station project is moving along.

Old Business

Mohawk Land Conservancy Agreement: Kate Pochini, Environmental Specialist
Departmental staff recently met with Mohawk Land Conservancy and will complete the document by next week to close on May 31. A check will be deposited to AWB upon the closing. We will establish a dedicated Carbon account for just watershed projects for the funds.

New Business

No new business.

Resolutions

Mr. Houghton called for a motion to approve each of the following resolutions. A motion was made and seconded for each; and each passed unanimously.

- Resolution 19-38: Determining that Action to Undertake Water Filtration Plant and

Distribution System Improvement Projects is a Type II Action and No Further Action is required under SEQRA with respect thereto.

- Resolution 19-39: Authorizing the Advertisement and Receipt of Bids for the Construction of the Water Re-use Facility at Woodland Park.
- Resolution 19-40: Approving Change Order #2 for the Tivoli Preserve Stream Daylighting Project with William J. Keller & Sons Construction Corp. to encumber \$293,984.94 of the Contract Allowance.

Executive Session

The Board found no purpose to enter Executive Session for this meeting.

Being no further business, Mr. Houghton called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 am.

Next regular meeting of the Water Board is scheduled for Friday, June 28, 2019, 9:00 AM, and an Audit Committee Meeting on Friday June 28, 2019 at 8:30 AM.

Recorded by: Emily Lyons, Confidential Assistant

Approved by: Barbara Smith
Barbara Smith, Secretary

