

Regular Board Meeting
Suffolk County Water Authority
January 25, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.
4060 Sunrise Highway, Oakdale
and Virtually via Zoom

Attendance

Present:

Members: Charles Lefkowitz, Chairman
Tim Bishop, Secretary
Jacqueline Gordon, Member
John M. Porchia, Member

Excused Absence: Elizabeth Mercado, Member

Jeffrey W. Szabo, Chief Executive Officer

The meeting was attended by Counsels B. Malik and J. Milazzo; and was also attended by Messrs. Aponte, Blevins, Bova, Brady, Cecchetto, Derenze, Deubel, Dubois, Finello, Fuller, Galante, Given, Huber, Jacobson, Kleinman, Kilcommons, Lehning, Litka, Marafino, Marsden, McDowell, Niebling, O'Connell, Penza, Pokorny, Rae, Schneider, SeEVERS, Thompson, Turcios, Wahl and Warner; and Mmes. Berberich Cameron, Cantore, Hannan, Mancuso, Naccarto, Pell, Pfeuffer, Simson, Spaulding, and Tinsley.

Barbara Yatauro of Local 393 was also present.

Chairman Lefkowitz called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m. At 3:07 p.m, on a motion by Ms. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was

(001-01-2024) RESOLVED, That the Members go into executive session to discuss litigation and personnel matters

On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Ms. Gordon, and carried with one opposed, it was

(002-01-2024) RESOLVED, To employ Alyson Bass to the position of Attorney at a salary of One Hundred Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$130,000); to be effective upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and background check.

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was;

(003-01-2024) RESOLVED, To employ Stuart Goodman to the position of GIS Technician at a salary of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000); to be effective upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and background check.

On motion made by Mr. Porchia, duly seconded by Ms. Gordon, and unanimously carried, it was;

(004-01-2024) RESOLVED, To employ Brian Bagozzi to the position of Single Resource Boss for the Central Pine Barrens Commission at an hourly rate of Thirty-one Dollars (\$31.00); to be effective upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and background check.

On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Ms. Gordon, and unanimously carried, it was;

(005-01-2024) RESOLVED, To employ Ronald Bagan to the position of Squad Boss Trainee for the Central Pine Barrens Commission at an hourly rate of Twenty-seven Dollars (\$27.00); to be effective upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and background check.

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was;

(006-01-2024) RESOLVED, To employ Thomas Cox to the position of Field Operator at an hourly rate of Forty-three Dollars and Forty-one Cents (\$43.41); to be effective upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and background check.

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was;

(007-01-2024) RESOLVED, To employ Shelby Kucera to the position of Talent Acquisition Coordinator at a salary of Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$60,000); to be effective upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and background check.

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was;

(008-01-2024) RESOLVED, To employ Dominick DiCarlo to the position of Communications Assistant at a salary of Sixty-two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$62,500); to be effective upon successful completion of pre-employment physical and background check.

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was;

(009-01-2024) RESOLVED, To increase the salary of Frank Carbone, Chief Enforcement Officer by Three Percent (3%).

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was;

(010-01-2024) RESOLVED, To correct the salary rate noted in Resolution 518-12-2023 Alena Lawston to an hourly rate of Twenty-seven Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$27.20).

On motion made by Mr. Porchia, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was;

(010-01-2024) RESOLVED, To change the title of Irene Ucci from GPS Analyst to Data Analyst in the Fleet Department.

At 4:10 p.m Chairman Lefkowitz called the meeting back into public session.

Mr. Given, Deputy Director of CM and Mr. Rae, Superintendent of CM gave a presentation to the board on main breaks. It was noted the increase during the winter months is

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due to colder temperatures and wetter conditions making it more likely for pipes to break. Ms. Gordon and Mr. Bishop inquired about the cost and frequency of replacing cast iron mains with newer mains. Mr. Porkony responded that about fifteen miles of main is replaced every year, with cost being the largest barrier to doing more replacements. Chairman Lefkowitz was complimentary of the crews working in difficult conditions to replace the main and asked about coordination with other utilities in doing this work. Mr. Porkony responded that we do coordinate with utilities and New York State to accomplish this work.

Mr. Jacobson, Environmental, Health and Safety Manager gave a presentation to the board on the Reduction of Incidents and Improvement Plan for 2024. He showed that incidents and injuries are down overall, and that there are plans to further increase safety in this new year. Ms. Gordon asked about how material vending machines work and if there is accountability and tracking use. Mr. Jacobson responded that employees must input their employee ID number and that we do track and make note of the data to analyze.

(012-01-2024) Mr. Lefkowitz presented the minutes of the regular board meeting of December 20, 2023, and on motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia the minutes of the regular board meeting on December 20, 2023 were unanimously approved.

Mr. Szabo presented the contracts to be considered for extensions. Items 2a through 2f were approved on consent with a resolution motioned by Mr. Porchia, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried.

(013-01-2024) RESOLVED, To extend for a one-year period beginning April 1, 2024, Contract 7830A to furnish and deliver cold-water service meters Group I, III, IV and VII with Neptune Technology Group, Inc.

RESOLVED, To extend for a one-year period beginning April 1, 2024, Contract 7830B to furnish and deliver cold-water service meters Group V and VI with Ferguson Enterprises.

RESOLVED, To extend for a one-year period beginning April 1, 2024, Contract 7917 to furnish and deliver ductile iron pressure fittings, Groups XIII and XIV with T. Mina Supply Inc.

RESOLVED, To extend for a one-year period beginning April 1, 2024, Contract 7929B to furnish and deliver gate valves and butterfly valves (Line Items 6, 7, and 8) with Mueller Co. LLC.

RESOLVED, To extend for a one-year period beginning May 1, 2024, Contract 7938 for excavating and backfilling construction holes with Quintal Contracting Corp.

RESOLVED, To extend for a one-year period beginning May 1, 2024, Contract 7945 to furnish and deliver ultra low sulfur diesel fuel with Romeo Enterprises Inc. dba Romeo's Fuel.

Mr. Szabo then referred to additional contracts and, recommended that they be awarded or rejected in accordance with the letters of recommendation.

On motion made by Mr. Porchia, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was

(014-01-2024) RESOLVED, That due to an oversight the award of Contract 7998 to Del Graz Enterprises dba R&R Landscaping under Resolution No. 487-12-2023 be and hereby is rescinded and be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the bid under Contract 7998 for seasonal landscaping and lawn maintenance at Authority properties within the Towns of Brookhaven, East Hampton, and Islip, during the six-month period beginning April 1, 2024, submitted by BIB Services Corp. of North Bellmore, NY, on a unit price basis as stipulated in the bidder's proposal and calculated on estimated quantities indicated in the contract documents, at an estimated total cost of Eighteen Thousand Three Hundred and Seventy-five Dollars (\$18,375), be and hereby is accepted; and that any Member and/or the Chief Executive Officer be and hereby is authorized to execute this contract on behalf of the Authority.

On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was

(015-01-2024) RESOLVED, That the bid under Contract 8012 for tree pruning and removals at various owned sites during the two-year period beginning April 1, 2024, submitted by Integrity Tree Care of Sayville, NY, on a unit price basis as stipulated in the bidder's proposal and calculated on estimated quantities indicated in the contract documents, at an estimated total cost of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$150,800), be and hereby is accepted; and that any Member and/or the Chief Executive Officer be and hereby is authorized to execute this contract on behalf of the Authority.

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was

(016-01-2024) RESOLVED, That the bid under Contract 8018 for electrical work at various Authority-owned sites Zone A, during the one-year period beginning March 1, 2024, submitted by MMJ Electrical Inc., of Saint James, NY, on a unit price basis as stipulated in the bidder's proposal and calculated on estimated quantities indicated in the contract documents, at an estimated total cost of Eight Hundred Ninety-three Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-three Dollars and Ninety-four Cents (\$893,133.94), be and hereby is accepted; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the bid under Contract 8018 for electrical work at various Authority-owned sites Zone B, during the one-year period beginning March 1, 2024, submitted by L.E.B. Electrical LTD, of Amityville, NY, on the same basis, at an estimated total cost of One Million Three Hundred Sixty-three Thousand Five Hundred and Twenty Dollars and Forty-two Cents (\$1,363,520.42), be and hereby is accepted; and that any Member and/or the Chief Executive Officer be and hereby is authorized to execute these contracts on behalf of the Authority.

On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was

(017-01-2024) RESOLVED, That the bid under Contract 8019 for furnishing and delivering calcium hypochlorite tablets for automatic tablet chlorinators, during a one-year period beginning April 1, 2024 submitted by Eagle Control Corp., of Yaphank, NY, on a unit price basis as stipulated in the bidder's proposal and calculated on estimated quantities indicated in the contract documents, at an estimated total cost of Seventeen Thousand One Hundred and Thirty-six Dollars (\$17,136), be and hereby is accepted; that any Member and/or the Chief Executive Officer be and hereby is authorized to execute this contract on behalf of the Authority.

Mr. Szabo then moved onto a discussion of equipment. On motion made by Mr. Porchia, duly seconded by Ms. Gordon, and unanimously carried, it was

(018-01-2024) RESOLVED, To accept the quote of Hoffman Equipment, of Medford, NY to furnish three (3) LED light towers at a price of Forty-one Thousand Four Hundred and Twenty-seven Dollars and Twelve Cents (\$41,427.12).

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was

(019-01-2024) RESOLVED, To accept the quote of Agilent Technologies, of Santa Clara, CA and enter into an agreement for maintenance and preventative services of Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrophotometers (ICP MS) during a two-year period beginning January 16, 2024 at a price of Sixty-eight Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty-two Dollars (\$68,832); and that any Member and/or the Chief Executive Officer be and hereby is authorized to execute this agreement on behalf of the Authority.

On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was

(020-01-2024) RESOLVED, To rescind the award to Modern Water, of London, UK for the purchase of a portable toxicity system under Resolution no. 333-07-2023, as vendor has been non-responsive.

Mr. Szabo then began a discussion on special services. On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was

(021-01-2024) RESOLVED, To extend RFP 1596 with Victor Elefante Technical Services of Center Moriches, NY, to provide grade IIB water treatment operators courses on an as-needed basis during the one-year period beginning March 1, 2024.

Mr. Szabo then referenced staff requests regarding attending meetings, seminars, trainings, and conferences. On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was

(022-01-2024) RESOLVED, To authorize Internal Audit Manager Alicia Simson and Internal Auditor Milton Turcios to attend the 2024 Great Audit Minds Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada from March 10, 2024- March 13, 2024, for a total cost of Six Thousand Four Hundred Dollars (\$6,400).

On motion made by Ms. Gordon, duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, and unanimously carried, it was

(023-01-2024) RESOLVED, To authorize Deputy Director of Construction/Maintenance Christopher Given to attend the Global Excavation Safety Conference hosted by the Excavation Safety Alliance in New Orleans, Louisiana from March 19, 2024 – March 23, 2024 for a total cost of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500).

On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was

(024-01-2024) RESOLVED, To authorize revisions to the budget for year ending May 31, 2024 as follows:

- Decrease to item 015 (Distribution System Improvements) in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000)
- Increase to item 025 (Hydrants – Contractor Installed) in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$200,000)
- This change will not impact the capital budget.

Mr. Szabo then moved onto a discussion of budget matters. On motion made by Mr. Bishop, duly seconded by Mr. Porchia, and unanimously carried, it was

(025-01-2024) RESOLVED, To authorize revisions to the budget for year ending May 31, 2024 as follows:

- Increase to item 035 (Developer Contracts) in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000);
- This change will increase the capital budget of One Hundred Three Million Six Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$103,600,000) to One Hundred Five Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$105,100,000); costs will be recovered through capital reimbursement revenues.

Mr. Szabo referenced a memo regarding rates, rules, and regulations. On motion made by Mr. Porchia, duly seconded by Ms. Gordon, and unanimously carried, it was

(026-01-2024) RESOLVED, To ratify the partially executed installment agreement from Ridge Fire District – Account #3000000972, in the amount of \$300,000 to settle a billing dispute.

The Members then reviewed the invoices for payment. On a motion made by Mr. Porchia, duly seconded by Ms. Gordon and unanimously carried, it was;

(027-01-2024) RESOLVED, To approve the following invoices be paid from the Operating Fund:

Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC	\$7,445.50
Heslin, Rothenberg, Farley and Mesiti	\$880.00
Long Island Water Conference	\$5,000.00
Morris, Duffy, Alonso, Faley and Pitcoff	\$4,695.00

The next meeting of the board members was scheduled for February 29, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. As there was no further business to be considered, on motion made by Ms. Gordon and duly seconded by Mr. Bishop, the meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Timothy Bishop
Secretary