

SPECIAL MEETING
SUFFOLK COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

March 9, 2017, at 5:30 p.m.

Oakdale, New York

Present: James F. Gaughran, Chairman
Patrick G. Halpin, Secretary
Jane Devine, Member
Errol D. Toulon, Jr., Member
Mario R. Mattera, Member

Jeffrey W. Szabo, Chief Executive Officer

The meeting was also attended by Counsel T. Hopkins and J. Milazzo; and by Messrs. Litka, Pokorny, Wallach and by Mmes. Mancuso, Tinsley, Trupia and Vassallo.

Rick Brand of Newsday was also in attendance

Booklets containing detailed information for all Agenda items were distributed to each Member, Executive Staff and Counsel to the Authority.

At 6:08 p.m. Chairman Gaughran called the meeting to order. He then opened the meeting for public comment. No one wished to address the Board at this time.

Mr. Gaughran reviewed a request regarding Mobile Workforce Management System Utility Visits. After further explanation of details, and on motion made by

Dr. Toulon, duly seconded by Mr. Mattera, and unanimously carried, it was

(078-03-2017) RESOLVED, To authorize Janice Tinsley, Deputy CEO of Customer Service, Larry Andersen, Workforce Technology Manager, Mike Litka, Chief Technology Officer, Paul Kuzman, Director of Construction Maintenance and Mike O'Connell, Director of Production Control, to visit Albuquerque Water in New Mexico and Montgomery Water in Alabama, to meet with key utility personnel to discuss their experience with Clevest of British Columbia, Canada, as a prerequisite to choosing a new Mobile Workforce Management System for the Authority from March 21, 2017 through March 23, 2017, at an approximate cost of \$1,400 per person.

The Members then reviewed two proposals regarding rates, rules and regulations. Mr. Halpin offered the following resolution; there was no second:

WHEREAS, The Authority authorized a rate study that was conducted by Municipal & Financial Services Group, and such study was updated with additional information and recommendations of Doug Celiberti, Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, based upon recommendations set forth in such rate study as updated with such additional information and recommendations a proposed rate schedule was posted on the Authority's website and a notice of public hearing appeared in the February 15, 2017 issue of Newsday regarding proposed rate increases, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was commenced on February 27, 2017 to consider such rate increases and such public hearing was adjourned and held open for further consideration of the rate proposal on March 9, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Authority continued such public hearing on March 9, 2017 and further considered the rate proposal; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the service availability charges, the commodity charges and the charges for wholesale water be amended in accordance with the duly posted rate schedule, except however, that the increase in those charges shall be limited to a five percent (5%) increase instead of the six and one-tenth percent (6.1%) increase set forth in the schedule posted in the notice of hearing, and that the public and private hydrant charges for the Shorewood area be amended as set forth in the schedule posted in the notice of hearing; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Authority's Rates, Rules and Regulations are hereby amended in accordance with such schedule, as amended.

This Resolution was **defeated** by a vote of four to one. Board Member Mr. Halpin being the only Member voting in favor.

After much discussion, on motion made by Mr. Gaughran, duly seconded by Mr. Mattera, the following Resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, The Authority authorized a rate study that was conducted by Municipal & Financial Services Group, and such study was updated with additional information and recommendations of Doug Celiberti, Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, based upon recommendations set forth in such rate study as updated with such additional information and recommendations a proposed rate schedule was posted on the Authority's website and a notice of public hearing appeared in the February 15, 2017 issue of Newsday regarding proposed rate increases, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was commenced on February 27, 2017 to consider such rate increases and such public hearing was adjourned and held open for further consideration of the rate proposal on March 9, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Authority passed a resolution at its February 27, 2017 Board meeting instituting a one-year hiring freeze on new employees and a resolution requiring each department within the Authority to establish a written plan to reduce operating costs by ten percent as compared to the department's operating budget for fiscal year 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Authority continued such public hearing on March 9, 2017 and further considered the rate proposal in light of the adopted hiring freeze and possible reductions in operating costs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the service availability charges, the commodity charges and the charges for wholesale water be amended in accordance with the duly posted rate schedule, except however, that the increase in those charges shall be limited to a four percent (4%) increase instead of the six and one-tenth percent (6.1%) increase set forth in the schedule posted in the notice of hearing, and that the public and private hydrant charges for the Shorewood area be amended as set forth in the schedule posted in the notice of hearing; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Authority's Rates, Rules and Regulations are hereby amended in accordance with such schedule, as amended; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Authority's staff is directed to assemble the requisite information and/or establish a process for obtaining information that would

allow the Authority to implement a two-tiered billing structure that promotes the conservation of water that could take into account the number of residential housing units served by each water meter so that the Authority can implement a two-tiered rate structure that takes into consideration the number of residential housing units served by each meter in 2018.

No vote was taken on this resolution. After further discussion, Mr. Gaughran offered an alternative resolution removing the directive to assemble information on residential housing units and on motion made by Mr. Gaughran, duly seconded by Mrs. Devine, the following amended Resolution was carried with one abstention by Mr. Halpin:

(079-03-2017) WHEREAS, The Authority authorized a rate study that was conducted by Municipal & Financial Services Group, and such study was updated with additional information and recommendations of Doug Celiberti, Chief Financial Officer; and

WHEREAS, based upon recommendations set forth in such rate study as updated with such additional information and recommendations a proposed rate schedule was posted on the Authority's website and a notice of public hearing appeared in the February 15, 2017 issue of Newsday regarding proposed rate increases, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was commenced on February 27, 2017 to consider such rate increases and such public hearing was adjourned and held open for further consideration of the rate proposal on March 9, 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Authority passed a resolution at its February 27, 2017 Board meeting instituting a one-year hiring freeze on new employees and a resolution requiring each department within the Authority to establish a written plan to reduce operating costs by ten percent as compared to the department's operating budget for fiscal year 2017; and

WHEREAS, The Authority continued such public hearing on March 9, 2017 and further considered the rate proposal in light of the adopted hiring freeze and possible reductions in operating costs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the service availability charges, the commodity charges and the charges for wholesale water be amended in accordance with the duly posted rate schedule, except however, that the increase in those charges shall be limited to a four percent (4%) increase instead of the six and one-tenth percent (6.1%) increase set forth in the schedule posted in the notice of hearing, and that the public and private hydrant charges for the Shorewood area be amended as set forth in the schedule posted in the notice of hearing; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Authority's Rates, Rules and Regulations

are hereby amended in accordance with such schedule, as amended.

As there was no further business to be considered, on motion made by Dr. Toulon, duly seconded by Mr. Mattera, the meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Patrick G. Halpin, Secretary