

MOHAWK VALLEY WATER AUTHORITY
Minutes – August 19, 2024

Chairman DeLia called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.
Chairman DeLia presided, and Amy Passacantando took the minutes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Carl Annese, Dennis Bova, Bruce Brodsky, Vincent Coyne, Elis DeLia, Mark Ford, George Haskell, Richard Karam, Frank Meola (arrived at 5:05), and Eugene Santa-Croce III

Absent: Bette Szesny

Also Present in Boardroom: Patrick Becher, Jim Korfonta, Dan Faldzinski, Jim Mack, Phil Tangorra, Anne Milograno, Sandra Dare, and Ken Bobrow Esq.

Approval of the July 15, 2024 Minutes:

Motion made by Mr. Bova to approve the Minutes. Seconded by: Mr. Brodsky
Vote: (8) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Abstain (2) Absent Motion Carried.
Abstained by Carl Annese.

Resolution: Award of Professional Services to Complete Engineering Assessments at (4) Reservoir Dams:

Four reservoirs contain earthen dams and are regulated by the NY State DEC through the Class C designation; Southern reservoir #2, 4 & 5 and Deerfield #6. Every ten years an updated engineering assessment is required by the DEC that involves a geotechnical structural and hydrologic evaluation of the dams. New certifications that the dams meet the safety regs are due at the end of 2024. This contract was awarded to Ramboll Engineering in the amount of \$91,700.00.

Motion made by Mr. Brodsky to approve the Resolution. Seconded by: Mr. Annese.
Vote: (9) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (2) Absent Motion Carried

Re-Affirmation of Policies:

• **Procurement Policy and Procedures**

Mr. Becher and Mr. Korfonta stated there are no major changes in this policy, only some language clean ups.

Motion made by Mr. Brodsky to re-affirm the policy. Seconded by Mr. Santa-Croce III
Vote: (10) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (1) Absent Motion Carried

• **Investment Guidelines**

Mr. Korfonta said some of the language in this policy has been changed from "Treasurer" to "Comptroller or his/her designee along with Chairman or Executive Director".

Motion made by Mr. Karam to re-affirm the policy. Seconded by Mr. Brodsky
Vote: (10) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (1) Absent Motion Carried

Re-Affirmation of IT Policy:

- **Mobile Device Policy**

Mr. Mack stated there are minor wording updates on page 2.

Motion made by Mr. Brodsky to re-affirm the policy. Seconded by Mr. Annese

Vote: (10) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (1) Absent Motion Carried

Approval of HR Policy:

- **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (PWFA) Policy**

Mrs. Dare stated that the final rule went into effect June 18, 2024, and was adopted by EEOC. On top of what pregnant workers already get through the ADA, this policy expands the rights for pregnant workers with complications during pregnancy and childbirth related conditions.

Motion made by Mr. Karam to approve the HR policy. Seconded by Mr. Haskell

Vote: (9) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (2) Absent Motion Carried (This policy was presented first and Mr. Meola had not arrived yet).

Committee Reports:

July Finance Report:

Mr. Korfonta stated that consumption for the year is down 1.2% and revenue is also down. Cash flow has gone up about \$100K but YTD we are still down about \$500K. MVWA is trying to minimize some of the expenses from now until the end of the year or see if we can move them into next year's budget if possible.

Charts/Graphs & KPI'S:

Mr. Korfonta gave the board a chart of the top 20 monthly and top 20 quarterly customers for 2019 and 2023 to show the board the changes in consumption over the years. He Stated that consumption went up in 2021 & 2022, then went back down a little in 2023 due mainly to more efficient appliances being installed and businesses that are running more efficiently.

Mr. Brodsky expressed concerns regarding the upcoming budget, rates and capital projects for MVWA and where cuts can be made, and money can be saved. This full discussion can be viewed on our website on www.mwva.us (under the Governance tab).

Executive Director's Report:

Mr. Becher discussed the budget timetable and said that he, Mr. Korfonta and his team have met with all departments to go over the budgets and discussed keeping operational costs at a minimum. The budget will be ready for the Board to review in September along with holding budget workshop(s). The budget and rate schedule need to be passed by October 31st.

Each of the Board Members had a notice in their binder explaining that there would be a planned outage due to work that needs to be done on a couple of valves, just in case they receive any phone calls from customers.

Mr. Becher announced that our new safety officer Timothy Beck started on August 12th and we are now fully staffed. Mrs. Dare has done a great job recruiting and filling positions. Turnover time has been minimal.

We recently had ergonomics training by a physical therapist from The Posture People. Shani was at the maintenance yard last year to train and has come back this year to the maintenance yard as well as employees at the office. MVWA has not had one reportable injury in more than nine months.

As of today, the Hinckley Dam is about 3 inches from the top of the dam, which is good.

Old Business: NA

New Business: NA

Executive Session: Potential Litigation:

Chairman DeLia asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:31PM to discuss potential litigation.

Motion made by Mr. Annese to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Mr. Brodsky.

Vote: (10) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (1) Absent Motion Carried.

Went into executive session at 5:33pm.

Motion made to come out of Executive Session by Mr. Haskell. Seconded by Mr. Bova.

Vote: (10) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (1) Absent Motion Carried.

Came out of Executive Session at 5:51PM.

A motion was made. The Board accepts the recommendation of the staff to not accept any current bids for the Phase 2 Raw Water Main Improvements Project and reissue an amended bid package.

Motion made by Mr. Annese to approve the recommendation. Seconded by Mr. Santa-Croce III.

Vote: (10) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (1) Absent Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 5:51PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Passacantando, Secretary
Mohawk Valley Water Authority