

**MOHAWK VALLEY WATER AUTHORITY**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 17, 2025**

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:** Dennis Bova, Bruce Brodsky, Deborah Burke, Elis DeLia, Dale Dodge, Mark Ford, Eugene Santa-Croce III, Jef Saunders and Bette Szesny

**Absent:** Vincent Coyne, Richard Karam, Frank Meola,

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

Chairman DeLia welcomed our newest board member, Deborah Burke.

**Approval of the January 13, 2025 and February 3, 2025 Minutes:**

Motion made by Mr. Ford to approve the Minutes. Seconded by: Mr. Santa-Croce III

Vote: (8) Ayes (0) Nays (1) Abstain (3) Absent Motion Carried.

Bette Szesny abstained.

**Resolution: Award of Contract for Engineering Services to prepare Environmental Site Assessments for 5 former tank sites.**

Mr. Faldzinski recommended this contract be awarded to Atlantic Testing Laboratories in the amount of \$39,491.00, the lower of 2 bids. This will be for an evaluation of 5 former tank sites to perform environmental site assessments to determine that no substantial contamination exists in the event the Mohawk Valley Water Authority would abandon or sell these vacant sites. They are of no value to MVWA and to abandon/sell the properties would lower the required maintenance.

Motion made by Mr. Saunders to approve the Resolution. Seconded by: Mr. Bova

Vote: (9) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (3) Absent Motion Carried

**Resolution: Award of Contract for Engineering Services to Complete Design of Electrical Improvements at the Water Treatment Plant**

Mr. Faldzinski recommended award of this contract to Towne Engineering PC in the amount of \$24,000. This was the lowest of 3 bids. Towne Engineering PC will complete the design of the electrical components associated with the new orthophosphate feed system at the Water Treatment Plant.

Motion made by Mr. Bova to approve the Resolution. Seconded by: Mr. Brodsky

Vote: (9) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (3) Absent Motion Carried

**Resolution and MOU for Adding a New Title to the MEA**

Oneida County Civil Service reclassified position PWB-241 to the title of Instrumentation Technician on December 17, 2024. The Management Employees' Association ("MEA") would like to add the position title of Instrumentation Technician to the bargaining unit and provide the Instrumentation Technician with the same clothing allowance as the positions of Assistant Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator and/or Head Water Utility Person and the same "on call" pay as Assistant Water Maintenance Supervisor(s) and Head Water Utility Person(s). MVWA executive management staff endorses these provisions as well.

Motion made by Mr. Bova to approve the Resolution. Seconded by: Mr. Brodsky

Vote: (9) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (3) Absent Motion Carried

### **Approval: 4th Quarter Investment Statement:**

Mr. Korfonta stated that the NY State Public Authorities Act requires that we provide the Board with a statement of investments that shows any earnings and expenses during the year. This is the fourth quarter, so it shows the full year. The interest earned was much more than what was budgeted. We (MVWA) may have an arbitrage situation because we earned more interest than the interest we are paying on our debt service payments. Money has been set aside for this.

Motion made by Mr. Ford to approve the Investment Statement. Seconded by: Mr. Santa-Croce III  
Vote: (9) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (3) Absent Motion Carried

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **December and January Finance Report**

Mr. Korfonta continued with the December 2024 finance report which is for the full year. The revenue for the year was \$31.3 million, which was a little above the revenue budgeted for the year. Water sales were a little less than what was budgeted. Consumption was down by 0.8% compared to the year prior. Cash went down \$1 million because we are fronting money for FEMA projects from the October 2019 Halloween flood. There was \$4.5 million in damage which created about 9-12 projects that are completed or near completion. We are now starting to get that money reimbursed.

The January finance report shows we are budgeted to be down in cash for the month because we are paying out several large bills such as insurance premiums we pay for the full year, renewing software licenses, etc. We will start to recover that over the next few months.

### **Executive Director's Report:**

Mr. Becher wanted to let the Board know that a press release from Governor Hochul came out Friday from Albany with a list of projects being funded across the state and the local news announced that MVWA is receiving \$3 million. However, this is not new money but money that was granted to MVWA in August 2024.

Mr. Becher mentioned that MVWA had a bond closing last week. The books in the center of the table are the official statement from the closing and are available for board members to take. The amount of the bond closing was \$17.5 million which was put into our construction fund for a variety of projects. Mr. Becher stated that usually when we borrow, we have to set up an account that is called a debt service reserve fund (to be used in the event of default). This time the underwriters and financial advisors recommended insuring the bonds with a surety bond instead of borrowing extra money to deposit into the debt service reserve fund. The surety bond is a onetime payment. There are additional bond series from 2016, 2018, and 2023 that are currently insured by reserve funds sitting with each of these bond issues. As principal payments are made the amount held in reserves will go down as well. Buying the surety bond will free up about \$700K which will be available for the draft budget this fall.

There is still approximately \$4 - 4.5 million in reserve funds from the prior bond issues that could be freed up if we buy surety bonds to replace the debt reserve funds. This is something to explore in the future. These are funds that would need to be used for capital projects.

A question came up regarding whether the surety bond needed to be collateralized. Mr. Becher stated that we did not need to collateralize the surety bond, however it is insured.

Mr. Becher said that Hinckley Reservoir is rebounding, it is currently at 1202' and the top of the dam is 1225'. The forecast shows that it will rise to about 1216' by Thursday, which will be good.

Mr. Becher has been in touch with NYPA (New York Power Authority) and the Canal Corp. to ask that they follow the diagram when releasing water from the reservoir and not any more than that so the reservoir can fill up.

The City of Utica tax re-levy happened in March and there were 2125 notices sent out to customers with delinquent accounts. 776 payments were made before the pull-off for a total of about \$198K.

Mr. Becher said they are having discussions still regarding the pipeline expansion heading east. Some of the municipalities are not sure if they want to connect to our service. Mr. Faldzinski, Mr. Tangorra and Mr. Becher will be meeting with the Village of Herkimer soon to discuss this again and see what their options are.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Confidential Board Performance Evaluations were handed out to Board Members to fill out.

Mr. Ford exited the meeting at 5:35.

**Executive Session:**

Chairman DeLia asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 5:35PM to discuss personnel matters.

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

Vote: (8) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (4) Absent Motion Carried.

Went into executive session at 5:38pm.

Motion made to come out of Executive Session by Ms. Szesny. Seconded by Mr. Santa-Croce III.

Vote: (8) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (4) Absent Motion Carried.

Came out of Executive Session at 5:54PM.

Contract approved for current Executive Director effective April 1, 2025 until the end of December 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Santa-Croce III to approve contract. Seconded by Mr. Bova

Vote: (8) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (4) Absent Motion Carried

Contract approved for the new Executive Director beginning January 1, 2026 until December 31, 2028

Motion made by Mr. Bova to approve new contract. Seconded by Ms. Burke

Vote: (8) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (4) Absent Motion Carried

Contract approved for the Comptroller from April 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31, 2025. Comptrollers contract will renew January 1, 2026 to coincide with the Executive Directors contract and extend until December 31, 2028.

Motion made by Mr. Brodsky to approve contract. Seconded by Mr. Dodge

Vote: (8) Ayes (0) Nays (0) Abstain (4) Absent Motion Carried

Contract terms and conditions have been accepted by all three parties and are reflected there-in.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Amy Passacantando, Secretary  
Mohawk Valley Water Authority