



CLIFTON PARK WATER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2018

Those present at the Clifton Park Water Authority board meeting were: Mr. Helmut Gerstenberger, Chairman; Mr. John Ryan, Vice Chairman; Mr. George Peterson, Treasurer; and Mr. Peter Taubkin, Secretary. Absent: Mr. William Butler, board member. Also present: Mr. Donald Austin Jr., Administrator; and Mr. Neil Weiner, Attorney.

Mr. Gerstenberger called the meeting to order at 7:12pm.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No members of the public present.

OLD BUSINESS

WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT ON PLANK ROAD

Mr. Austin reported this project will be going out to bid in mid-April for possible award at the May meeting. He met with one of the residents on Plank Road yesterday to discuss the project. She is willing to sign the easement. She stated that her neighbor is unwilling to sign the easement. Mr. Austin is attempting to set up a meeting with the neighbor and the engineer so they can discuss the project to hopefully alleviate any concerns they have.

HEALTH COVERAGE FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEES/RETIREES

A **motion** was made by Mr. Peterson to adopt a policy for Medicare-eligible retiree health insurance; seconded by Mr. Taubkin.

RESOLUTION #11, 2018 – ADOPTING POLICY FOR MEDICARE-ELIGIBLE RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEREAS, the Clifton Park Water Authority wishes to adopt a policy related to the provision of health insurance to retirees that are eligible to receive health benefits through Medicare, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Clifton Park Water Authority Board of Directors hereby adopts a policy to provide said coverage, as attached.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Gerstenberger - Aye
Mr. Ryan - Aye
Mr. Peterson - Aye
Mr. Taubkin - Aye
Mr. Butler - Absent

PROJECT TO INCREASE CAPACITY FROM SCWA

Mr. Austin reported the project is still in the design phase. He did some more research regarding the grant application and found that the information he received, which he had reported to the Board last month, was not accurate. There is no need to enter into a new agreement with the SCWA to qualify for this grant. We will proceed with the grant on the notion that we have a need for more water due to numerous wells that we have lost over the years and an aquifer that is failing.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL FINANCIAL AUDIT PRESENTATION

Karl Newton, a Director of Marvin and Company, presented the Board with the draft consolidated financial statements and audit report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017. Mr. Newton reported that revenue was down, approximately \$648,000.00, this year due to a decrease in consumption due to a wet summer. Expenses were also down due to a decrease in purchased water. Overall, there was an increase in net position of about \$531,000.00.

Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Newton about an article he read last year regarding the state putting money for employee costs into a capital fund to fund future post retirement obligations. Mr. Newton stated that municipalities cannot prefund for post retirement obligations. He will try to get more information for the board.

Mr. Peterson asked Mr. Newton if they audit non-financial activities, such as the policies for cyber-security. Mr. Newton explained that they do have an IT department that performs IT assessments where they test certain criteria in your computer system for vulnerability. Mr. Peterson questioned if there is a disaster recovery plan and would like reassurance that if the system was to fail it would be operational again in a short period of time. Mr. Austin explained that we have an inventory of our software and the system is backed up to the cloud. We would need to get a new server and work stations in place and have those applications loaded back onto them. Mr. Ryan asked Mr. Austin to look into the possibility of using web-based applications.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Gerstenberger accepting the 2017 Financial Statements as presented; seconded by Mr. Ryan. The **motion** carried 4-0, 1 absent.

VILLAGE OF ROUND LAKE WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT EXTENSION

The Village of Round Lake is proposing an amendment to extend the existing agreement to 2053. They are looking to bond money to do system upgrades to deal

with the disinfection by-products issues that they are having. Mr. Weiner will send a letter back to the Village of Round Lake attorney stating we are reviewing the agreement. Mr. Austin will review the usage and rates being charged to the Village of Round Lake and present it at next month's meeting.

AMENDMENT TO VISCHER FERRY NATURE PRESERVE LEASE AGREEMENT

The NYS Canal Corporation has forwarded a copy of an amended lease agreement relating to the leasing of the NYS Canal Corporation real property located within the area known as the Vischer Ferry Nature and Historic Preserve in the Town of Clifton Park. The agreement dated February 18, 1998 had an initial term of 20 years. The Lease provides the Lessee the right to extend the Lease for two additional successive ten-year terms, upon the same terms and conditions as contained in the Lease except for adjustment of rental. The Water Authority sent a letter to the Canal Corporation in August, expressing a desire to extend the lease for an additional ten years. The Board will review the proposed amendment.

SPRINT MODIFICATION REQUEST CONTRACT ISSUE

Mr. Ryan recused himself from this discussion.

Mr. Gerstenberger made a **motion** to move into executive session at 8:28pm to discuss contract negotiations; seconded by Mr. Peterson. The **motion** carried 4-0, 1 absent.

Mr. Ryan made a **motion** to move out of executive session at 9:00pm; seconded by Mr. Peterson. The **motion** carried 4-0, 1 absent.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Austin reported the new website is up and running. Customers can now sign up to receive email alerts.
- The Board has changed the board meeting schedule for the summer months to the second Wednesday of the month beginning in May and ending in September.

APPROVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2018 MEETING

A **motion** was made by Mr. Gerstenberger to approve the minutes of February 13, 2018; seconded by Mr. Ryan. The **motion** carried 4-0, 1 absent.

The Authority's next board meeting is Tuesday, April 10, 2018 at 7pm.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Gerstenberger to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm; seconded by Mr. Taubkin. The **motion** carried 4-0, 1 absent.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheri Collins
Recording Secretary

cc: CPWA Board of Directors
Neil Weiner, Esq.

Medicare Advantage/Supplement Plan

The Clifton Park Water Authority will offer a Medicare Advantage or Supplement Group Plan to all eligible retirees and employees. Medicare-eligible employees will not be required to leave the Authority's regular health plan coverage, but will have the option to do so, if they choose. Medicare-eligible retirees and Medicare-eligible spouses of retirees will be transferred to a Medicare Advantage or Supplement Plan selected and sponsored by the Water Authority.

Retiree Responsibility

Medicare-eligible retirees and their spouses will be responsible for paying their Medicare Part B premiums, which are typically deducted from their Social Security check. The CPWA will not reimburse these costs. Medicare-eligible retirees and their spouses will also be responsible for all copayments, coinsurances and deductibles associated with the Medicare Advantage or Supplement Plan.

Medicare-eligible retirees and their spouses will be responsible for a percentage of the premium cost of the Authority-sponsored Medicare Advantage or Supplement Plan in accordance with the schedule set forth under "Continuation of Health Benefits in Retirement" in this Handbook. If the retiree has sick leave accruals banked, these will be used to cover the Advantage or Supplement Plan premium responsibilities of both the retiree and eligible spouse until they are exhausted.

Employees may apply any unused, unpaid sick leave credits to pay their portion of their health insurance premiums. At retirement, sick leave credit will be converted to a dollar amount based on the employee's rate of pay at retirement and used to pay the employee's health insurance contributions until the amount is exhausted. Once the amount is exhausted, the retiree will be required to submit payment to the Authority for each contribution within thirty (30) days of the Authority's payment of premium. Failure to make any premium contributions required herein shall result in the cancellation of the retiree's health insurance.

Continuation of Health Benefits in Retirement – Hired Prior to 7/1/13 - For employees employed by the Authority as of July 1, 2013, and who retire directly from the Authority, upon retirement, under the New York State Retirement System, an employee shall be eligible for medical insurance and prescription drug coverage as follows until Medicare eligible. Upon becoming Medicare eligible, the retiree must enroll in Medicare. Coverage is also available for the retiree's eligible spouse if the spouse was covered under the Authority's medical insurance plan on the retiree's last date of employment with the Authority and married at least two (2) years.

In the event the retiree predeceases the retiree's eligible spouse and is age 65 or older, the surviving spouse may continue medical insurance and prescription drug coverage for a period of three (3) months from the death of the retiree after which the spouse shall pay the full cost of the Medicare/Advantage premiums.

In the event that the surviving spouse has not reached age 65, the surviving spouse shall continue receiving medical coverage until age 65 on an individual basis and will pay a percentage of the premium at the same rate the deceased was paying. In the event of legal separation or divorce, the retiree's spouse from whom he/she is separated or divorced, shall not be eligible for coverage except as provided under the COBRA and the law.

Upon the retiree or the retiree's eligible spouse, as the case may be, meeting the eligibility or criteria for Medicare coverage, the eligible retiree or spouse must enroll in a Medicare Supplemental / Advantage plan. If there are sick leave accruals banked, the retiree or surviving spouse may utilize them to pay their portion of the Medicare Supplement/Advantage Plan premiums until they are exhausted.

A retired employee shall be eligible for coverage under this provision as follows, which shall also apply to the Medicare Supplement / Advantage Plan:

Years of Continuous Full-Time Authority Service	Retiree Premium Contribution
15 Years	25%
20 Years	20%
25 Years	15%
30 Years	10%

Post-Retirement Health Benefits for Employees Hired After July 1, 2013 – All employees of the CPWA are eligible for the same post-retirement benefits, however, these benefits, as defined in this Employee Handbook, are subject to modification by the CPWA Board of Directors at any time for all employees hired after July 1, 2013. Post-retirement health benefits for employees hired prior to that date are as stated herein and in accordance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the CPWA and its union employees.