



## CLIFTON PARK WATER AUTHORITY

### BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 15, 2021

Due to COVID-19 the Clifton Park Water Authority board meeting was held via Zoom.

Those present were: Mr. Helmut Gerstenberger, Chairman; Mr. John Ryan, Vice Chairman; Mr. Peter Taubkin, Board Member; Mr. William Butler, Treasurer; Ms. Alexis Osborne, Secretary; Mr. Donald Austin Jr., Administrator; Mr. James Trainor, Attorney; Mr. Chad Kortz, CT Male Associates; and Mr. Anthony Morelli, Town of Clifton Park Liaison.

Mr. Gerstenberger called the meeting to order at 4:02pm

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### PROJECT TO INCREASE CAPACITY FROM SCWA

Mr. Kortz explained that the 36" SCWA water main is about 8 feet closer to our pumpstation than the plans stated. Some changes were made to the piping configuration to accommodate this discovery to make sure both water mains are able to be maintained. This has resulted in some changes to the contract and they are still negotiating with the contractor on how best to proceed. Mr. Kortz believes these changes should be accommodated within the allowance in the contract so there would not be a net increase to the contract. He explained that the contract has a \$30,000.00 allowance of which \$7,800.00 is scheduled to be for the controls work to integrate with the existing SCADA system. The contractor has been paid approximately \$7,000.00 from the allowance for unanticipated rock removal during the excavation of the site. Mr. Kortz stated the pumpstation is scheduled to be delivered in late May.

#### SCWA WATER PURCHASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Since last month's meeting Mr. Trainor has received an updated draft Agreement from the County that has incorporated most of the changes discussed at the meeting last month with the CPWA. He feels that we are in agreement with all the major items and it's just a matter of getting it formatted and reviewed one last time by both Boards. Mr. Trainor explained that one of the challenges is that the attorney for the SCWA wants to leave the original agreement in place and execute an addendum for the changes. Mr. Trainor would prefer to put it all in one document for clarity.

## **PROJECT TO INVESTIGATE CAPACITY IMPROVEMENTS IN PRESERVE**

Mr. Austin stated the well driller is scheduled for April 20, 2021.

## **VERIZON REQUEST FOR INSTALLATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS TOWER AT BOYACK WTP**

Mr. Ryan recused himself from the conversation. After last month's meeting Mr. Austin sent the representative from Verizon Wireless an email stating he had a discussion with the Board and the general consensus is that the Board is willing to allow the installation but the lease amount and the escalators should be equal to that currently paid by AT&T at that site. The CPWA Board understands that Verizon Wireless needs to spend more money to construct the tower but they do not see that as a reason why they should accept less money for them to encumber a portion of the property. He further stated that if this is not acceptable to Verizon Wireless, he does not see this application going anywhere and to please let him know what they would like to do from here. The representative responded back this past Tuesday stating she was aware the CPWA is having a board meeting this week and wanted to let him know that Verizon Wireless is still considering this request. She stated the rental ask is above market rent and Verizon Wireless is trying to make this work but struggling with the above market rent. Verizon Wireless is completely on board for the \$18,000.00 per year rent with 2% escalators. Mr. Austin told the Board that we currently receive over \$2,000.00 per month from AT&T with a 3% escalator. Mr. Austin recommended not doing anything at this point and see what they come back with. The Board agreed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Ryan recused himself from this conversation. Mr. Austin has had some preliminary conversations with Dish Network. Dish Wireless wants to locate on the Knolltop Tower. He stated they're coming in with some extremely low rental amounts due to their lease area being much smaller than the cellular companies. He asked them to put together a detailed proposal showing their proposed lease area so the Board can review.
- Mr. Austin informed the Board that he has been handling a complaint from a commercial customer regarding a termination notice sent to him for non-compliance of the annual requirement for backflow prevention device testing. He explained that the CPWA has approximately 500 commercial customers who are required to have prevention devices installed on their connections to the water system, who must conduct annual testing of these devices pursuant to the NYS Sanitary Code. In 2019 the CPWA partnered with VEPO CrossConnex who provided a way to be able to track and monitor compliance via their online application. These commercial customers have been notified of these requirements and must have a certified tester inspect the device(s) and submit their test data online annually to VEPO CrossConnex. Mr. Austin explained that about 225 customers were overdue on complying with this request. Notices were sent asking them to comply but were not being responded to so termination

notices were sent out to these customers stating they needed to comply within the next two weeks to avoid termination of their water service. Most customers either complied with the request or requested an extension to have the testing done. Going forward Mr. Austin said the notices will threaten fines if not in compliance.

- Mr. Gerstenberger asked about the status of anode installations. Mr. Austin explained that we are in the middle of the flushing program. The flushing will be finished by May 20<sup>th</sup>. We will try to schedule the anode installations when the flushing is complete.

### **APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2021 MEETING**

A **motion** was made by Mr. Ryan to approve the March 11, 2021 board meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Gerstenberger. The **motion** carried 5-0.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Gerstenberger to adjourn the meeting at 4:55pm; seconded by Mr. Taubkin. The **motion** carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sheri Collins*  
Recording Secretary

Cc: CPWA Board of Directors  
Trainor Law PLLC