

**ORANGE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
124 Main Street, Goshen, NY and Live Streamed on Zoom.us**

Meeting Minutes of August 16, 2023

- I. Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 9:15 AM
Roll call completed – 4/7 Quorum

Board Members Present: Dominic Cordisco
 Erik Denega
 Louis Ingrassia
 Wayne Vradenburgh
 Peter Tuohy (joined by phone)

Staff Present: Eenika Cruz, Administrator

Others Present: Joseph Mahoney, County Attorney
 Kyle Sanduski, OCLT
 Matt Decker, OSI
 John Petroccione PE, Greens at Chester

II. Consent Calendar

- a. **June 13, 2023 Minutes** – Louis Ingrassia made a motion to approve the June Board Meeting Minutes. Erik Denega seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.
- b. **August 2023 Demands List** – Louis Ingrassia made a motion to approve the August Demands List. Wayne Vradenburgh seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the motion passed unanimously.
- c. **Year-to-Date Budget** – Year to date budget was reviewed.

III. Greens at Chester Water Transportation Corporation

The Greens at Chester project in the Town of Chester is seeking to establish a water transportation corporation in order to provide water to a proposed subdivision. The Town of Chester must consent to such a formation, but they cannot do so until OCWA provides a recommendation as a NYS Public Authority. The project team provided documents, engineering plan, site plan and water system maps. After some discussion, the board agreed that its had jurisdiction, but it was not in a position to give a find to the Town nor make a comparison in context of compatibility with a possible future incorporation into a municipal water system. Mr. Petroccione noted the project's water system was designed in a way to allow for connections to the Town of Chester's water mains and another toward Goshen. Due to some changes in the plans over the years, the project will need to be reviewed again by the NYS DEC and the Health Department. Mr. Petroccione noted they intend to seek those approvals but couldn't do so until after OCWA's review and recommendation to the Town. **Resolution 2023-03** was read by Joseph Mahoney County Attorney. A RESOLUTION PURSUANT TO SECTION 41 OF THE NYS TRANSPORTATION CORPORATIONS LAW § 41. Whereas, the Orange County Water Authority was advised that The Greens at Chester is seeking to file with the New York Secretary of State a certificate of incorporation for a waterworks corporation to sell, furnish and distribute water within the Town of Chester; and Whereas, pursuant to Transportation Corporations Law §41, such a certificate of incorporation cannot be filed unless the Town of Chester (as the local authority) consents to the formation of the water-works corporation, and such consent is annexed to the certificate of incorporation; and Whereas, pursuant to Transportation Corporations Law §41, the Town of Chester may only provide such consent after the Orange County Water Authority has provided its written recommendation

as to whether the Town should consent to the formation of the proposed waterworks corporation; and Whereas, the purpose of such recommendation relates to how the proposed water supply and/or distribution system will impact and/or affect an existing county water system and any published standards relating to any such system; and Whereas, there is currently no county-wide water system within Orange County, New York, and there are no standards for any such system. NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

Resolved, as there is currently no county-wide water system within Orange County, New York, and there are no standards relating to any such system, that the Orange County Water Authority cannot make the requisite finding as to whether the proposed water supply and/or distribution system is reasonably comparable to standards of a county-wide water system and suitable for eventual integration with such system, as required by Transportation Corporation Law §41; and it is further Resolved, that the Orange County Water Authority is not in a position to make a recommendation whether the Town of Chester should consent to the formation of the proposed water-works corporation as the Orange County Water Authority cannot make the above findings, and the Town of Chester can proceed with its determination regarding its consent to the formation of the water-works corporation; and it is further

Resolved, that the Orange County Water Authority defers to the Orange County Department of Health, the New York State Department of Conservation and the Town of Chester for any determination regarding the adequacy of the engineering plans relating to the proposed water system. PASSED ON THE 16TH DAY OF August 2023 BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE: Ayes 4, Nays 0, Absent 2, Vacancy 1

IV. Executive Director's Report

- a. **Newburgh WQIP Update** – Kyle of the OCLT provided an update on their progress. They are currently pursuing a conservation easement with a sloped property with direct influence to Browns Pond. They expressed interest and they have met. Documents were provided to their attorney. He is feeling very positive about this potential project. Matt of the OSI provided an update on their work in pursuing the large vacant parcel next to the lake. OSI put in an offer for \$1.2 million, but they have other offers, one of which was from a developer that more. It is suspected it may become a solar farm since that developer has another one across the lake, but this is only a guess. It's conceivably better than a housing development, but pesticide usage and battery storage directly next to a reservoir is not ideal either. While this has been a long and frustrating process, we are not giving up hope. The board thanked Matt for his time over the past few years on this parcel.
- b. **Leak Detection project Update** – Upstate Leak Detection continues to survey municipalities. 14 of the 30 municipalities have been surveyed. According to 4 reports received to date 149 miles have been surveyed finding 61 leaks resulting in 58.2 million gallons per year of lost water.
- c. **2024 Budget Update** – OCWA's budget hearing is scheduled for today at 11:00 AM.

V. Other Business

Police drive update – Eenika to get the quit claim deed signed by the County Executive and will submit it to the County Attorney to file it.

VI. Next Board Meeting

The next OCWA Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 1:00 PM at 124 Main Street in Goshen.

VII. Adjournment

Wayne Vradenburgh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Louis Ingrassia seconded the motion. Hearing no comments, the meeting was adjourned at 9:46 AM.