

Regular Meeting

Water Authority of North Shore

November 27, 2023 at 7:00PM

Meeting held at Suffolk County Water Authority's Administration Building – 4060 Sunrise Highway, Oakdale, New York

Present: George Pombar, Member
James Versocki, Member
John Vasilakis, Member
Sandeep Kapoor, Member
James Greenberg, Member
Richard Arena, Member

The meeting was also attended by John Milazzo, Bilal Malik, Jacquelyn Pfeuffer, Christopher Byrnes and Joe Lopes via Zoom.

Packets containing detailed information for all Agenda items were distributed to each Board Member.

At approximately 7:10PM, Mr. Versocki called the meeting to order.

Mr. Versocki then opened the meeting to public comment which none was received.

Mr. Versocki then presented the minutes from the regular meeting of October 24, 2023 for approval.

(31-11-2023) On motion made by Mr. Versocki, duly seconded by Mr. Greenberg and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting held on October 24, 2023 were approved with revising Mr. Vasilakis' name on page 3.

(32-11-2023) At 7:15PM Mr. Pombar then, on motion made by him, duly seconded by Mr. Kapoor and unanimously carried, went into Executive Session to discuss the responses to the legal counsel RFP. The Board Members subsequently returned to public session at 9:18PM.

On motion made by Mr. Versocki, seconded by Mr. Kapoor and carried by Mr. Vasilakis, Mr. Arena, and Mr. Pombar with Mr. Greenberg abstaining, it was:

(33-11-2023) RESOLVED, the Board Members authorizes the retention of McLaughlin & Stern to provide legal services to WANS subject to execution of agreement acceptable to WANS' counsel.

Mr. Milazzo then discussed RFP #1617 for Auditor Services where WANS was seeking to request proposals from independent certified public accountants or accounting firms to perform an audit of the statement of revenue and expenditures of WANS for the three-year period ending December 31, 2026. The deadline to respond to the RFP is December 1, 2023 at 11:00AM. Mr. Milazzo stated some questions were received but no bids as of today.

Mr. Milazzo then discussed the job posting for the Administrator and that it is currently on the website. On Mr. Pombar's previous recommendation, the job posting was also distributed to other water-specific entities such as the New York section of the American Water Works Association. So far only one candidate has applied for the position. Mr. Versocki recommended that upon hiring of new counsel, we should get their legal advice on the hiring of a new WANS' employee and any recommendation for additional candidates.

Mr. Vasilakis then provided an update on the Finance Committee. As of today, there is \$1,449,119.58 in the WANS' account. SCWA's invoice was paid in the amount of \$81,880.42. In addition, \$237,000 is in a CD for 12 months at a 5.3% rate at First Central Savings Bank while \$232,000 is in a CD for 6 months at a 4.5% rate at Valley National Bank. Mr. Vasilakis then proposed amending Resolution 15-09-23 as follows: To keep \$500,000 in the operating account in First National Bank of Long Island and authorize the Finance Committee to invest the balance of the Water Authority money as per the adopted October 2022 Investment Policy. The purpose of this change is because there are many options to invest WANS' money such as in money markets or checking accounts that would be more liquid than a CD. Also, the Finance Committee has to wait for the next WANS' meeting to pass a resolution to invest the money whereas this amendment would allow the Committee to participate in any program that would earn interest on the WANS' funds. Mr. Versocki stated the Investment Policy does not allow WANS to invest in stocks or any high-risk program.

(34-11-2023) On motion made by Mr. Vasilakis, seconded by Mr. Versocki and unanimously carried, Resolution 15-09-23 was amended to have WANS' invest its money based on the adopted October 2022 Investment Policy.

For the Governance Committee, there was no update as there was no meeting held.

For the Personnel Committee, there was no update as there was no meeting held.

Mr. Milazzo then provided an update on the Public Outreach since Dan Dubois couldn't make the Board meeting. The press release regarding WANS' hiring of Rafetlis was sent out. Will Sheeline of the Hearld published the press release while Mark Harrington of Newsday spoke to CEO Jeffrey W. Szabo and Chairman Charles Lekowitz but nothing was published. Dan Dubois will put together another press release for the retention of McLaughlin & Stern.

For the Website Committee, Mr. Milazzo provided an update that WANS' website will continue to be updated and tweaked.

Regarding WANS' mission statement, Mr. Kapoor had an issue with the last part of the mission statement discussing clean and affordable water. It was decided to remove that part of the statement as the current objective for WANS is to acquire the assets from Liberty Utilities.

(35-11-2023) On a motion made by Mr. Versocki, seconded by Mr. Kapoor and unanimously carried, the mission statement is as follows: *The mission of the Water Authority of North Shore is to explore the acquisition of the privately held water supply system in the North Shore community of Nassau County.*

Mr. Pombar then stated that details for an updated Fact Sheet will be provided to be added to the website.

Mr. Milazzo stated WANS has a post office box in the Glen Head Post Office that he believes hasn't been checked. Mr. Pombar stated he has a post office box there as well and will check WANS' box.

Mr. Milazzo then discussed the Cooperative Agreement expenses with SCWA.

(36-11-2023) On a motion made by Versocki, seconded by Mr. Greenberg and unanimously carried, it was recommended to pay the expenses subject to the review of the Finance Committee.

The Members tentatively scheduled their next regular meeting for Thursday, December 28, 2023 at 7:00PM with the location to be determined. Mr. Milazzo will bring a calendar at the next meeting so the 2024 dates for the Board Meeting can also be tentatively scheduled.

There was no public comment.

(37-11-2023) At approximately 9:50PM prior to going into Executive Session, it was decided, on motion made by Mr. Versocki, duly seconded by Mr. Greenberg and unanimously carried, the Board would conclude the meeting after the end of Executive Session without taking any further action.

, Secretary Pro Tem