

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WATER AUTHORITY OF NORTH SHORE
HELD ON November 25, 2024 at 7:00 PM
AT GOLD COAST LIBRARY ANNEX,
40 RAILROAD AVENUE, GLEN HEAD, NEW YORK**

Final Public Version

PRESENT:

James Greenberg, Esq. Director
George Pombar, Director
John Vasilakis, Director
James W. Versocki, Esq., Director
Sandeep Kapoor, M.D., MS_HPPL, Director

Appointed by:

City of Glen Cove
Town of Oyster Bay (Hamlet of Glen Head)
Village of Old Brookville
Village of Sea Cliff
Village of Roslyn Harbor

Absent:

Richard Arena, Director

Town of Oyster Bay (Hamlet of Glenwood Landing)

ALSO PRESENT:

Suzanne Danet, Acting Secretary
Tony Croce, CPA/Treasurer

Representing:

WANS Board of Directors
WANS Board of Directors

Director Versocki, as acting Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Five of the six Directors were present (Director Arena absent), constituting a quorum. All Directors and attendees joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On the motion of Director Versocki, seconded by Director Greenberg, by **Resolution #24-12-02**, the **Minutes** and Executive Session notes of the Board's October 15, 2024, meeting were unanimously (5-0) approved by all present. (A copy of the public meeting minutes will be posted on the Authority website and are on file.)

Finance Committee – Director Vasilakis reported the following invoices to be paid from the Operating account:

1. McLaughlin & Stern (Stephen Limmer) \$3,251.20 Legal Fees - October 2024
Director Versocki motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-03**, Director Greenberg 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved
2. Tony Croce (Treasurer) \$ 800.00 October Accounting
Director Versocki motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-04**, Director Vasilakis 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved
3. Director Richard Arena \$ 742.71 (\$702.72 and \$39.99)
reimburse for GoDaddy annual web site fees
Director Versocki motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-05**, Director Vasilakis 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved
4. Joseph Lopes (Secretary) \$ 364.00 10/24-11/22/24

Director Versocki motion to approve by **Resolution #24-10-06**, Director Vasilakis 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved

Bills paid since last meeting:

- Secretary Lopes \$562.00 for October 1 – 23, 2024
Director Kapoor motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-07**, Director Versocki 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved
- CPA Croce \$800.00 for September, dated Oct 1, 2024
Director Kapoor motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-08**, Director Vasilakis 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved
- Willis Tower Watson Northeast, Brokers for AIG, for Directors and Officers Insurance: \$5,000.00
Director Pombar motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-09**, Director Versocki 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved
- Kimley-Horn Engineering, for \$21,000 and \$7,000 (post-appraisal) to complete the original contract obligation
Director Versocki motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-10**, Director Kapoor 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved

Raftelis and Kimley-Horn have completed their deliverables for the original contract. WANS may engage Raftelis and Kimley-Horn at their quoted hourly rates, to assist further in support of negotiations with Liberty.

Director Versocki motion to approve by **Resolution #24-12-11**, Director Pombar 2nd, unanimously (5-0) approved to authorize the Negotiations Committee to utilize the services of Raftelis and Kimley-Horn for the purposes of negotiations with Liberty at their hourly rates established in their contracts with WANS.

Director Pombar requested that CPA Croce provide a brief update of the status of the \$2 million funding. It is important to address financial status in the public session.

CPA Croce has prepared a summary of funds:

- WANS has CD investments, T-Bills and Operating/checking account. WANS started with half million in checking and \$1.5 million in investments.
- Checking account balance as of October 31 is \$364,277. 4 checks were written since then, making total paid out of original \$500K operating account of about \$150K.
- CD investments total \$475,000, earned just over \$22,000 since start, which has been rolled over to the CD balances. We need to ensure that we don't exceed \$250K per bank (FDIC insurance limit), so starting point was about \$230K to allow for growth to remain under \$250K.
- Should we move some CD proceeds into the operating account? No, Director Vasilakis noted that we have over \$300K sitting in Checking without interest and should move some into investments.
- T-Bill investments (of about \$1 million) have earned about \$27K since start at a slightly higher rate (about 5.8%) than CDs. Rates have been going down.

Director Pombar suggested moving about \$200-\$250K out of Operating account (\$350K) and invest it into CDs soon since rates will only be going down. Director Vasilakis agreed. This could be existing banks or new banks. TD Bank offers Money Market accounts. Bethpage Federal Credit is offering 6 months at about 4.5% interest. Discussion about locking in vs. higher-yield savings options and whether additional CDs in existing banks push us over the \$250K FDIC limit. FDIC limit is becoming irrelevant for larger commercial banks vs. community banks, which have higher risk.

Directors and CPA agree that \$100K in operating account should be sufficient for bills that we expect to incur over the foreseeable future.

Consensus on investing \$200K from operating funds to money market or highest yield CDs that will provide liquid options. Director Versocki motion by **Resolution #24-12-12**, Director Pombar 2nd, to authorize Finance Committee to invest \$200K. Director Greenberg declined initially, noting that we should not incur withdrawal penalties, so motion was amended to invest only where no penalty would apply. Revision approved unanimously (5-0).

Director Greenberg requested future CPA Croce reports to include total balances, reflecting earned interest offsetting expenses. Specifically, \$150K was spent, but about \$50K interest earned so net balance only \$100K less than original funds, i.e. \$1.9 million.

Director Pombar requested that CPA Croce update an earlier spreadsheet with a single page of all investments, plus operating account balance, and including maturing dates.

Director Versocki mentioned an upcoming filing with the State Budget Office that is required. Director Arena and CPA Croce will be working on that and still need to confirm by getting copies from the bank of 5 transfers by Suffolk County Water where WANS reimbursed them with certified checks prior to WANS having a checkbook.

Director Vasilakis requested that CPA Croce provide a balance sheet and income statement each month, with applicable detail. CPA Croce will provide that this week.

State Budget will also require a 2024-2025 fiscal year budget. The ABO website has examples (both good and poor).

Negotiations Committee – WANS submitted the initial offer letter to Liberty (Nov 12) for acquisition. We have yet to get a response.

Governance Committee – Nothing to report.

Professional Services Update – Nothing to report.

Administrative Report – Acting Secretary Danet (provided by Secretary Lopes) provided a copy of the summary of the status of all required certifications and training to the Board members, noting missing elements.

Public Comment

- We received an inquiry from the Press - LI Herald. Director Versocki responded by asking them to submit any questions in writing and to refer them to the web site. WANS policy is that no-one talks to the press unless prior approval of the Board is provided.

Adjourn/Next Meeting

The **Meetings of the Board** are planned to be held on the fourth Monday of each month, with the next scheduled for Monday, January 27, 2025 at 7:00 pm, at Gold Coast Library Annex, 40 Railroad Avenue, Glen Head, New York. Unless there is an urgent reply from Liberty.

At 7:25 p.m., on the motion of Director Versocki, seconded by Director Greenberg, approved unanimously (5-0) by **Resolution #24-12-12**, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph S. Lopes, Administrative Secretary