

**VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES  
MUNICIPAL BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – May 22, 2013**

**Present:** Chairman Peter Moffa, Commissioner Hall. DMO Lotkowitz.

**Minutes:** On motion of Comm. Hall, seconded by Chairman Moffa, the minutes from the meeting of April 24, 2012 were approved unanimously by the members present as submitted.

Chairman Moffa called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm.

**AMR** – DMO Lotkowitz said he wanted to touch on AMR and water quality. One of the benefits of having AMR is that in preparing the Annual Water Quality Report we recap usage and wastage. He noted that AMR has given much improved monitoring capability, when combined with the new UV system and the SCADA monitoring that came with it. High single day usage was 849,000 gal. against an average day of 529,349 gal. This year the Village billed its residents 66 million gal. and billed the Town 93 million gal. The City of Syracuse has two connections. One has a Village meter on it and is billed, the other is not metered for billing, but does have flow meters on it, allowing it to be measured for the calculation of unaccounted-for water. DMO reported that unaccounted-for water usage -- including the Tallcot Lane losses, fire hydrants and flushing -- stands at 13 million gal. or 6.92% -- very near world-class performance levels of 5%, and a plus for sustainability. The average for most systems is 25 - 30% unaccounted-for usage. AMR helped identify a large leak on Jewett Road in the Town's District 4, now that all Town meters are on AMR. The Tallcot Lane project, with all easements in-hand, should start in June and be completed by end-summer. Even with the focus on the Village Hall construction, 1050 meters have been installed, with just 75 more to do! In response to a question, Chairman Moffa said that the City of Syracuse does not get 100% of its water from Skaneateles Lake. It has committed to take 5 million gal. per day from OCWA's Lake Ontario source.

**Community Center** – DMO had sent a letter to Charlie Wallace in which he shared the cost estimates, a model bill and a draft agreement with the Community Center. Village Attorney Byrne had suggested an interest rate of 1.5% per month as appropriate. The Community Center had some push-back on the interest rate, which may be negotiated down. Chairman Moffa said that there continues to be effort in having the Community Center look at its energy demand. He has been observing lighting use at that facility -- there are a considerable number of lighting fixtures. In the weight room alone, there are 24 fixtures operating at 160W each, and these are already compact fluorescent. There is great potential for energy saving by converting to dimmable LED lighting, and controlling the fixtures during bright days. Chairman Moffa has talked with Matt Major, who says that the Center has done what it can to tweak the programming as best they can. Motion-detecting switches could pay benefits in not lighting unused rooms. These suggestions will be passed on to the Center. The Board believes this is low-hanging fruit.

**URD Serv.-Fennell/Jordan Streets Design** - DMO Lotkowitz reported that there was no update on URD service except to note that work is in progress to install the new transformer and UG feed into the new Village Hall. That transformer will also serve the adjacent senior housing. The proposal to move utilities underground on Fennell Street is pending further review by the Board of Trustees. Chairman Moffa noted it is a very costly project; the Municipal Board has provided a conceptual design and cost estimates; further refinement is only prudent if the Trustees wish to pursue this project.

**Master Plan of Village Electric System** – Recognizing the importance of timely completion of this work, CHA has begun to assist in the push to final completion. One summer intern working at CHA, has begun work on the charts – putting in dates for the various pieces of equipment for inclusion in the Master Plan for the Village Electric System. DMO Lotkowitz suggested that – in the spirit of master planning and improving reliability -- it may be time for the Village to establish a third sub-station. Once the Community Center is being served by the Village Electric system, on a really hot day, we will be close to peak. Right now both transformers work fine and the load is split between the two. If one were to fail, however, some load shedding might be required to avoid maxing-out the remaining device. A new sub-station, perhaps adjacent to the DPW -- next to the 34.5 MW lines that feed the Village, would tie to both the Fennell and Jordan feeders to assist with the Community Center and serve the northern part of the Village. With the transformer alone costing \$250K, a rough estimate for materials is \$500K and some engineering additional costs would apply. Chairman Moffa would like input from the rest of the Board, but feels that it should be done if we are that vulnerable. Comm. Hall agrees from the standpoint of redundancy and fail-over, but notes that the Village is lining up a number of costly projects. Chairman Moffa noted that the electric utility is in pretty good financial shape.

**LED Street Lighting** – DMO Lotkowitz has commented that the LED streetlights have been demonstrated to work and use less energy. The current demonstration lighting has received little feedback, with one resident expressing a preference for the yellow sodium lighting. DMO has uncovered that the current vendor of street lighting for the Village, Spring City, makes LED conversion kits for the ornamental fixtures. They are willing to conduct a demonstration, perhaps in the older sections of Parkside. DMO has requested that the company provide more information. Ultimately, a conversion process would include bidding or multiple quotations. Wholesale replacement of existing lighting would be contemplated.

**Parkside Subdivision, Section 4** – On the new Section of Parkside Subdivision that is before the Planning Board, the MB has been asked to comment on water pressure impacts on service to 18 additional lots. DMO Lotkowitz feels that pressure should not be an issue there since the area is served by a loop that connects Fennell with Elizabeth – a brand-new 8 inch main. With regard to the proposed Section 4, GHD has determined that water pressures are more than adequate at 100 psi or above, and may even need to be stepped down. Regarding any other issues, DMO said that the existing utilities in the subdivision would be extended to the new section. Chairman Moffa noted that there have been trees down along the banks of the creek by the creek walk and that the City of Syracuse should probably be taking some action. DMO said he had called several times; Chairman Moffa suggested sending an email may prove more effective.

**Water System Asset Management Plan and Study** – On May 15, 2013 DMO sent a letter reply to County Health Department regarding their water pressure concerns. The letter stated what actions had been taken to date and posited the impact of changes recommended by GHD in their recent work. This reply included the possibility of reducing the required chlorine contact time based on the installation of the UV disinfection system and the chlorination being performed by the City of Syracuse at the intake. That would allow the valve to be opened, providing pumping pressure into the distribution system, with GHD's calculations showing an improvement in fire flow during a fire event. There will be a follow-up meeting on May 23, to discuss that and to further explore a reduction in required contact time based on these recent findings. On the water main replacement, with the design and identification of funding sources yet to be done, it seems unlikely that the improvement work will be done before next year.

**NYMPA Meeting (TCCs, Power Budget, Purchase Power Cost)** – Chairman Moffa and DMO Lotkowitz recapped the recent New York Municipal Power Agency annual meeting, at which the budget forecast for the next 12 months was revealed. NYMPA takes care of all the administrative issues necessary to secure power from the New York Power Authority and the purchase of additional power as our agent in dealing with NYISO, when necessary to meet system demands. Currently, our costs for power average \$26.63 per MW, or 2.6 cents per KW, based on a combination of hydropower and supplemental power. The 8% of supplemental power required by the Village constitutes 47% of our costs. Because of favorable hedging actions, it seems likely that costs for purchased power will be lower in the upcoming 12 months. This should help to mitigate the rate pressure to be experienced because of providing service to the Community Center. Even with transmission costs factored in, the savings should prove to be substantial. Additionally, Transmission Congestion Contracts continue to be beneficial to the Village, by limiting the Village's exposure to congestion charges. Whereas the northern region experiences negative congestion, Skaneateles will benefit from continued investment in these insurance contracts; history has shown that these agreements save us money over their \$47,000 cost. **On motion of Commissioner Hall, seconded by Chairman Moffa, the Municipal Board recommends that the Trustees continue the purchase of the TCCs.**

**Status of new Village Hall** - DMO Lotkowitz updated the Board on the progress at the new village hall. Planned moving dates are July 2 for planning & zoning; July 8 & 9 for the Village Hall. Ceiling grids are in place, LED light fixtures are being installed, additional and replacement windows have been installed, the roof has been replaced, structural steel for the new entry is in place, the geothermal system is being piped into the heat pumps, and the PV system will be complete by end-June. The building will be occupied by July 8, but there will likely still be exterior work being completed.

**Next meeting** – The Board agreed to hold its next meeting on Tuesday June 18, a change from the normal meeting date because of a conflict with the MUA regional meeting being held in Skaneateles. **On motion of Comm. Hall, seconded by Chairman Moffa, the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards

