

**VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES  
MUNICIPAL BOARD  
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING – April 27, 2016**

**Present:** Chairman Moffa, Commissioners Hall, McQuaid and Palmer, Advisor Dienst, DMO Harty, Trustee Stokes-Cawley.

**Absent:** Commissioner Blackler

Chairman Moffa called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**Approval of Minutes.** Upon motion of Comm. Hall, seconded by Comm. McQuaid, the minutes of the March 23, 2016 regular meeting were approved as submitted by a 4-0 vote in favor of the motion.

Chairman Moffa announced that he is moving to North Carolina and will be leaving the Board after the May meeting. He said that he had requested that Deputy Chair Hall chair that May meeting.

**SEWER SYSTEM/WWTP.** DMO Harty reported that in working with Operator Nofzell, that flow testing of the sewer system may need to wait for fall wet weather. Comm. McQuaid said that her husband has noted an increase in odor while walking near the plant. DMO Harty said that she is anticipating that the DPW will be able to televise the main trunk into the plant this year.

With regard to the DEC Asset Management Grant, there is nothing new to report now. A decision on awards is expected later in the year.

To address the emergency power supply situation, DMO reported that the Village will purchase a new generator in FYE 16. This will be a welding generator useful in thawing frozen pipes as well as power generation. The cost will be apportioned among the DPW, sewer and water funds.

Chairman Moffa asked if the sewer rate increase had become effective? DMO reported that the increase was adopted 2 weeks ago. The meter readings have just been completed for the 5/1/16 bill. The increase will take effect with usage after that reading, which will be billed on 6/1/16.

DMO was complimented on her budget presentations at the recent Public Hearing and she thanked the Board for its oversight of the financial and technical operation of the Village's utilities.

**Electric System Improvements and AMR.** DMO Harty explained that she plans to reengage on the Substation project and have it moving ahead. CHA has been working on the foundation and final design. Comm. McQuaid asked if DMO might need some assistance with the

management of this project? DMO said that she has to see how much is to be subcontracted and how much will be done by the Electric Dept.

DMO noted again that the Village traditionally has not adopted a budget for the Electric Fund, since it is an enterprise fund. DMO Harty reiterated her belief that future budgeting and tracking is important; it should be done the same way as the water and sewer funds. Knowledge of current levels of spending is imperative if the Village is ever to do a rate case for electric service. The Board encouraged this approach. The detail will be important should the Village decide to pursue a rate case.

Chairman Moffa asked that the NYMPA benchmarking assessment of electric system performance be reviewed in detail at the next meeting. DMO will forward the report to the Commissioners again.

Comm McQuaid has reviewed some historical board information. Chairman Moffa noted that the plan was mainly prepared by former Comm. Dolmatch, but included edits from himself, Comm. Hall and Advisor Dienst. He suggests that a cover sheet be added to the Electric System Master Plan. Comm. McQuaid suggested that certain documents might be gathered for access by board members, possibly on a secure server.

DMO Harty informed the Board that AMR data is a critical underpinning to rate design and rate levels in any application to change the Village's rate structure for electric services. The Village is proceeding with the Phase 2 electric meter deployment, having received approximate half of the required units. The part-time lineman will be doing those installations during May. At the conclusion, the Village will have approximately 1,100 units operating on the Landis & Gyr system and 700 units operating on the Sensus system. DMO anticipates that over some period of time, all of the Sensus units will need to be replaced for maintenance or operational reasons. Our cost is about \$120 per meter.

**NYMPA/MEUA/IEEP.** DMO Harty reported that there is an opening on NYMPA Board of Directors and she is pursuing becoming a board member. MEUA is holding its semi-annual meeting tomorrow. DMO will be the Village's delegate. DMO suggests that other systems are doing additional tracking and reporting regarding outages and system performance. Municipal electric company compliance with PSC regulations varies greatly from system to system.

Chairman Moffa stated that two years ago, the Board had taken a SWAG at priorities as part of the IEEP plan. Recently, 100% of IEEP funds expended have been focused on AMR deployment. AMR data can provide insight into load management.

DMO Harty showed the Board the IEEP Annual Report. Comm. McQuaid said that she had worked on using the Climate Action Plan report to back into some data on usages by major market segment. DMO verified that with Sensus AMR system, we were not able to capture demand data from the entire customer base. The new meters show that some residential customers have peak demands well in excess of commercial accounts. The objective is to avoid purchasing power in the spot market. Comm. McQuaid and Advisor Dienst will form a subcommittee to work with DMO to refine these directions.

Comm. Palmer noted that in the annual report is listed a percentage of IEEP funding seems to coordinate with residential services. DMO said she will have to research that point.

**Water System.** DMO Harty said that she had a meeting with City of Syracuse regarding turbidity. Intake 2, the further north intake, is in shallower water and supplies most of the water normally. In a south wind, this intake is subject to turbidity from the bottom shelving up to the intake. Intake 1 is further south in deeper water, though it sits adjacent to a shelf in the lake bottom. The City will be monitoring turbidity with a meter to be placed at a third location this summer. The City is studying whether moving Intake 2 or developing another location altogether (probably a \$10 MM project) might have a beneficial effect in the reduction of turbidity events. Chairman Moffa repeated that turbidity curtains can be effective; the City deployed one and it was shredded in the first storm.

On the matter of the Village's response to recent turbidity events, DMO Harty had previously reported that she has had discussion with GHD about preparing a turbidity event response plan, explaining that operating the system in parallel during such events provides us with expanded storage capacity, which could avoid a need to pump during turbid conditions.

**Village Hall/NYSERDA Grant.** DMO Harty reported that she is going through measurement and verification of the energy usage for each circuit with consultants retained by NYSERDA. There is work commencing again on the HVAC system commissioning.

**LED Street Lighting.** The prospective vendors have not yet delivered their promised lighting plan, as a result of difficulties evaluating our GIS data. Comm. Hall suggested that the Village's \$40,000 share of the National Grid rate of return refund settlement be used for acceleration of the LED replacements. DMO said that wasn't possible because the PSC had already ruled that the money must be returned to ratepayers; it would require a rate case to secure permission to retain it. Comm. Hall asked if we are currently replacing failed units with LEDs. DMO indicated that is pretty much what we are doing now.

**Utility Finances.** DMO Harty provided the board with a recent update.

<b>FYE 2016 - 9 MTD (3/31/16)</b>	<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Revenues</b>
Electric Fund	\$775,000	\$208,000*	\$246,000
Water Fund	\$627,000	\$ 54,100**	\$ 26,000
Sewer Fund	\$ 44,700	\$ 21,224***	\$ 27,600

Notes: \* Includes \$107,600 for purchased power

\*\* Includes \$25,000 debt service payment

\*\*\* Sludge truck went down; used some contract hauling

On the topic of sludge, DMO thinks we are running about 1% sludge. If there were a way to thicken the sludge to 3%, it would cut down on the weight and volume of water being transported, which might mean fewer runs but definitely would reduce processing costs from City of Auburn. Comm. Palmer was asked to look at the WWTP and offer suggestions for such improvements. He will also look at grit removal.

**Historic Fixed Price Transmission Congestion Contracts.** Chairman Moffa and DMO Harty suggested that this item be tabled to the next meeting.

**Next meeting.** The Board concurred with the scheduled date of the next meeting; Wednesday May 25, 2016 at 6:00 pm. The Board should consider selection of a new chairman, possible additional members and, if needed, selection of a deputy chair.

**Upon motion of Comm. Hall seconded by Comm. Palmer, the meeting was adjourned at 7:01 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards