



**Regular Session of the  
Niagara Falls Water Board  
June 26, 2017 5:00 PM at  
Michael C. O’Laughlin Municipal Water Plant**

**1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance**

**1. Roll Call:** *Chairman Dan O’Callaghan called meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.*

Larkin   P   Leffler   P   Kimble   P   Forster   P   O’Callaghan   P  

**2. Public Speakers, Presentations, Letters and Communications**

*Local Union President for the “Hourly Unit” and temporary Resource Planner/ Coordinator Vinny Virtuoso spoke in support of training initiatives. Mr. Porter said that the comments made by Vinny Virtuoso went along with the plans for professional development, some of which were before the Board today.*

*Nicholas Forster questioned if he was correct to understand there was a request for \$120,000 before the Board today which was to be spent on employee training.*

*Porter answered to the affirmative.*

**1. Item 2.1 - Community Garden Letter James Ciliberto (follow up)**

*Item tabled - to be discussed with ideas at a future meeting.*

**2. Approval of Minutes from May 22, 2017**

*Motion by Ms. Kimble and seconded by Ms. Leffler to amend the minutes per Chairman Dan O’Callaghan.*

*Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster   Y   Kimble   Y   Larkin   Y   Leffler   Y   O’Callaghan   Y*

#### **4. Reports From the Executive Director**

##### **1. Unaccounted for water/meter shop/leak detection**

##### **2. Overtime hours/reports**

*Chairman, Dan O'Callaghan states that most employees have already surpassed their base pay for the year and the overtime hours within the NFWB Water Treatment Plant as well as the NFWB Waste Water Treatment Plant have been out of control for the past 3 years.*

##### **3. Lucity, GPS, Vehicles**

##### **4. RFP Phase 4, RFP Mercury**

*RFP Phase 4 – Executive Director, Rolfe Porter explains that a priority list is needed and will be redefined and presented at the next board meeting. There is a Resolution to go along with the RFP for the Mercury before the board. No further questions from the board.*

##### **5. New World-document management**

*Kendra Walker explained there was nothing new to report, she is working to set up calendar time for late July or August.*

##### **6. Professional Development**

*Director Porter stated there were resolutions in front of the Board to be voted on for Professional Development.*

#### **5. Personnel Items**

##### **1. Review of Org Chart**

##### **2. Spreadsheet personnel moves**

*Jim Perry conducted a review of opened positions, personnel moves, hiring status, and the projected vacancies within the Water Board.*

*Mr. Forster noted that the hiring rate was \$11.98 in Outside Water. He stated that he was under the impression the hiring rate was going to be raised to \$15.00 during negotiations.*

*Perry explained this was discussed during the Bargain, however after both sides examined how an increase in the starting rate would affect those who were already hired and the ripple effect it would have on all other positions, the idea was decided against.*

*What was decided on was that the hiring rate would be increased by \$1.00 for 2018, 2019 and 2020 with an adjustment for those who were hired prior to those dates.*

*Mr. Foster asked if there was anything that could be done, for the rates now. Mr. Perry replied that he was examining options and had upgraded some positions. For a general wage increase he would look at how it affected the overall operations and have to ask the Board for permission.*

## **6. Financial Reports**

### **1. Budget Transfers**

*Approximately \$38,000 was transferred into any eligible employee's HSA accounts on 6/23/17. Approximately 28 employees enrolled.*

*Mr. Forster questioned if there were any updates with the certificate of deposit (\$6.7 million). He states his concern is regarding the low interest rate. Ms. Walker explains there is a scheduled meeting with M&T Bank in July and will report any findings.*

### **2. Billing Adjustments**

### **3. Bank Transfers**

### **4. Cash Disbursements**

### **5. Schedule of Investments**

### **6. Cash summary**

### **7. Capital Construction Activity**

## **7. Reports**

### **1. O&M Report**

*Mr. Forster requested that the most recent O&M Report be sent to all board members.*

### **3. Safety**

*Bob Drury reported that he and Jim Perry were preparing a new hire packet so when new employees are hired they will receive a new hire safety orientation check off sheet*

## **8. Attorney/Legal**

### **1. Claims**

### **2. Judgements**

*Mr. Sean Costello stated that he will discuss a legal matter in the Executive Session. (Due to the confidential nature and on-going negotiations)*

## **9. From the Chairman**

*Nothing new from the Chairman*

## **10. Resolutions**

### **1. RFP mercury**

*Ms. Kimble motion to move the resolution. Motion seconded by Ms. Leffler.*

*Mr. Forster requested a side by side comparison before they actually voted on the Resolution and suggested this be Tabled until that could be reviewed by the Board.*

*Colleen Larkin motioned to table the resolution.*

*Motion Seconded by Gretchen Leffler to TABLE the resolution*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*

### **Motion Tabled**

## **2. Grant-Bollier**

*Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Kimble to approve. Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*

## **3. Professional Development, Succession plan**

### **1. IT training**

*Mr. Forster discussed with approval the Board's emphasis on training.*

*Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve. Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*

### **2. Leadership**

*Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve. Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*

## **4. WWTP**

*Motion to table: Forster; seconded by Kimble.*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*

## *INSURANCE BROKERS*

*Mr. Forster questioned the absence of a resolution regarding insurance brokers, which was in the working session packet. Staff advised that resolution was transmitted by email; all Board members denied receipt. Additional copies made for Board. Discussion regarding why broker is changed, looking for best value, local business. Ms. Larkin said she was not in a position to vote on the resolution because there was not adequate time to compare the RFPs received, particularly because a side-by-side comparison requested at the work session was not provided.*

*Motion to table by Leffler no second recorded.*

*Motion to approve resolution regarding insurance brokers. Motion was carried 3-2*

*Forster\_ Y \_ Kimble\_ Y \_ Larkin\_ abstain \_ Leffler\_ abstain \_ O'Callaghan\_ Y \_*

## **Bid #W2017-02 Sludge Dewatering Polymer**

*Mr. Williamson explains we have received 3 bids with only 1 response, but the cost is 17 cents cheaper per pound.*

*Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve. Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster\_ Y \_ Kimble\_ Y \_ Larkin\_ Y \_ Leffler\_ Y \_ O'Callaghan\_ Y \_*

## **5. Resolution Ending ProNexus Contract.**

*Mr. Forster states this resolution entered into agreement long before he was a member of the board, is a bad contract, has cost the Niagara Falls Water Board a half of a million dollars, and should be ended.*

*Motion by Ms. Kimble and seconded by Mr. Forster to approve. Motion was carried n5-0.*

*Forster\_ Y \_ Kimble\_ Y \_ Larkin\_ Y \_ Leffler\_ Y \_ O'Callaghan\_ Y \_*

## *WALK ON RESOLUTION SUSPENDING THE SHUT OFF PROCESSING THRESHOLD*

*Mr. Forster states he would like to pull the three (3) walk on resolutions. Discussion regarding why further information is needed before proceeding with resolutions.*

## **11. Unfinished Business**

*Mr. Forster mentioned he would like changes to be made to the front door of the conference room. He states that the door currently swings in and should swing out.*

*Mr. Forster also mentions that he would like the general counsel to review the documentation provided regarding the cell towers and advise the board on this contract regarding annual revenue.*

*Mr. O'Callaghan asks if there are any updates regarding the Verizon Network Fleet RFP?*

*Mr. Drury explains that all information from fleet enterprise for fleet maintenance is at a government rating for government pricing on all repairs; 100 local vendors within 10 miles of Niagara Falls, NY.*

*Mr. Drury states the cost will be \$8 per vehicle per month; approximately a 15-20% over all savings from where we are currently.*

*No further questions from the board.*

## **12. New Business & Additional Items for Discussion**

### **1.**

## **13. Executive Session**

*Motion by Ms. Larkin and seconded by Mr. Forster to enter into an Executive Session at 6:33 p.m.*

*Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*

*Motion by Ms. Kimble and seconded by Ms. Leffler to end the Executive Session at 7:16 p.m.*

*Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*

## **14. Adjournment of Meeting**

*Motion by Dan O'Callaghan to adjourn the NFWB Meeting at 7:17 p.m.*

*Motion was carried 5-0.*

*Forster\_Y\_Kimble\_Y\_Larkin\_Y\_Leffler\_Y\_O'Callaghan\_Y\_*