



MINUTES

Special Budget Meeting of the Niagara Falls Water Board December 28, 2020 5:00 PM

Note: Meeting was held via conference call pursuant to Executive Orders 202.1 and 202.79.

1. Attendance and Preliminary Matters

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

- a. Brown P Forster P Larkin P Leffler P
Kimble A *[joined at 5:08 p.m.]*

Chairman Brown states if he had the opportunity to be involved in the budget process, we would not be reviewing the budget at such a late date. He would like to begin the process of implementing budget strategies and forward-thinking to ensure the operations of the NFWB were more efficient, fiscally responsible, and transparent. Transparency and accountability is paramount and providing our service at the lowest possible rate is a must. Poor, inaccurate, and incomplete financial information could mislead management and the Board members to make decisions regarding unnecessary rate increases. Chairman Brown outlines the budget amendments put forth as part of an overall, multi-year plan to stabilize rate increases long term. The amendments will reduce the 5.5 % rate increase proposed by management to 2.99% as a direct result of different ideas, approaches, budget strategies, in-depth analysis, digging for savings, and utilization of reserves where appropriate. There is close to \$900,000 in permanent expense reductions (3%). The proposed rate increase for 2021, if all the amendments as presented are approved, will result in a 2.99% increase versus the 5.5% increase that was previously proposed. The rate of 2.99% will appropriately satisfy the debt coverage margin. Chairman Brown states that the 2.99% proposed rate increase is a 54% reduction from the rate that was previously proposed by management. The 2.99% proposed rate increase would result in an annual increase of \$12.78/year versus an the original proposed annual increase of \$23.51/year (5.5% increase) on a minimum water bill.

2. Resolutions

a. Budget Amendments

No. 1

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __absent__

Motion carried, 4-0, with one absent.

No. 2

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.3

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.4

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.5

Motion by Ms. Larkin and seconded by Mr. Forster to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.6

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.7

Motion by Ms. Larkin and seconded by Mr. Forster to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.8

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.9

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.10

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.11

Motion by Ms. Larkin and seconded by Mr. Forster to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.12

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.13

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.14

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

No.15

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

**RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING RATES, FEES, AND OTHER CHARGES
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2021**

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Mr. Brown to approve.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.

3. Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Forster and seconded by Ms. Larkin to adjourn the meeting at 5:39 p.m.

Brown __Y__ Forster __Y__ Larkin __Y__ Leffler __Y__ Kimble __Y__

Motion carried, 5-0.