



MINUTES

Business Meeting of the Niagara Falls Water Board September 28, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

**Water Treatment Plant Conference Room
5815 Buffalo Avenue, Niagara Falls New York 14304**

Meeting could be attended in person or via videoconference. Minutes do not represent a complete summary of all matters discussed. Complete video recordings of meetings are posted online at: <https://tinyurl.com/nfwbMedia>.

1. Preliminary Matters

a. Call To Order

Chairman Sirianni called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

b. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

c. Attendance: Cole Present, Dean Present, Kimble Absent, Sirianni Present, Weiss Absent.

d. Public Comments: Speakers must register with the Secretary by 5:00 p.m. and are limited to three minutes per person – total time for all speakers may not exceed one hour.

Michael Gawel requested relief from a high bill at 1215 Roselle Ave., a rental property. The cause was a leaky toilet that his tenant fixed. He stated there was an issue with receipt of the bill and that NFWB records showed a leak at his property, but he was not notified. He provided a copy of his bills and payment plan, and staff will review.

Alissa Pucci discussed flooding on one side of the street on 16th Street, between Pine and Elmwood. During a recent rainstorm she had 6-8" of water in her basement. Her plumber informed her that her drain was clear. Mr. Eagler will visit the location to verify the sewer mains and catch basins are not obstructed.

Robert McKinney requested relief from a high bill from his rental property at 2655 Whirlpool St. A former tenant intentionally broke a mixing valve, and the water ran from the second story to the basement. He had difficulty removing the tenant. The total bill was \$4,680, and he was informed he was not eligible for an adjustment because the prior year unpaid amounts had been transferred to taxes. Mr. Eagler recommended the water be shut off at the street until he makes repairs to avoid a burst pipe. Staff will review the account and contact Mr. McKinney.

e. Correspondence

- i. 2026-08-06 - 2026 SECURE Cybersecurity Project Grant Award Letter**
- ii. 2026-09-21 - Engineering Planning Grant Award Letter - Hyde Park Trunk Sewer Improvements**

Mr. Costello noted that the SECURE grant in the amount of \$125,000 will be used for technology needed for the Board to comply with the new NYS DOH and DEC Cybersecurity Regulations, which have multiple requirements that must be met by 2027.

The Engineering Planning Grant, in the amount of \$50,000, will be used to investigate the largest-diameter part of the Hyde Park Trunk Sewer at the most critical potential failure point and to make recommendations for improvements if needed. This sewer is not easily inspected and has not been inspected for some time.

f. Presentations

g. Prior Meeting Minutes

- i. Draft July 20, 2026 Business Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Chairman Sirianni to accept the July 20, 2026 business meeting minutes.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

2. Executive Director & General Counsel – Sean Costello

Mr. Costello explained that the resolution noted on the agenda for the insurance renewal was prepared and distributed on Monday, including adding it to an updated copy of the online packet. He thanked the Board for their patience as the quotes received were carefully reviewed, and noted the recommended MunichRe program has coverage that is well tailored for a water utility. The Board's broker is USI, but other brokers also have their water authority clients in the MunichRe program, including Monroe County Water Authority

(broker AJ Gallagher), Onondaga County Water Authority (broker One Group Agency) and Erie County Water Authority (broker Lawley).

Mr. Costello displayed the color selected for the new coating to be applied to the Beech Avenue water storage tank, which is Sherwin Williams Hydro Blue. This is a close match for the existing color and had the highest Light Reflectance Value of the options presented, which means less temperature gain from the sun. This reduces stress on the tank's metal and keeps the water inside the tank cooler, which promotes quality. Mr. Costello also displayed a mock up of the "branding" to be applied to the tank. The Water Board logo would not translate well to the tank. The mock up uses the font from the logo, but makes Niagara Falls much larger, as tanks are a prominent marker of the community. It still includes "Water Board" as the entity that owns and maintains the tank, and the waterfall icon from the Board's logo is featured to the right.

To help explain the Resolution for Cured in Place Pipe Lining (CIPP) Mr. Costello displayed a diagram of the process and a photographic example of an installed liner. The liner is impregnated with a resin, cured with UV light, and then lateral connections are reinstated with a robotic cutter. The goal is to rehabilitate sewer mains with a lot of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) at a cost less than physical replacement, and next year an engineering study will examine how effective this and other measures to be taken this year have been in reducing I&I. The point of this work is to reduce Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs).

3. Finance – Deborah Ziolkowski

- a. Bank Account Balance Report**
- b. Invested Funds Balance Report**
- c. Wilmington Trust Account Report**
- d. Budget Performance Reports**
 - i. Revenue**
 - ii. Sewer**
 - iii. Water**
 - iv. Board**

Ms. Ziolkowski reviewed the year-to-date budget status reports, and offered the conclusion that most areas are trending as budgeted. When compared to last year at the same time, there has been a 25% increase in Light and Power costs, and health insurance costs also are higher.

The current plan is to present a draft 2027 budget at the October work session, with an eye toward holding the public hearing and passing the budget in November.

4. Administrative Services – Caleb Holman

a. September 28, 2026 Personnel Actions

Mr. Holman reviewed recent and scheduled training, with Fire Extinguisher and Fire Safety training delivered in July and Back Injury Prevention in August. September training includes Driving/Vehicle Safety, plus special training delivered by the Niagara County Sheriff's Office on Active Threat Preparedness and Response, with content on de-escalation to be emphasized for certain departments that interact in person the most with the public.

Mr. Holman explained the items in the Personnel Actions sheet, including anticipated promotional opportunities.

Motion by Chairman Sirianni and seconded by Board Member Dean to approve Items 1-7 on the September 28, 2026 Personnel Actions Sheet.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

5. Engineering – Douglas Williamson

Mr. Williamson noted that a Request for Qualifications for engineering services related to the WWTP Biological Conversion has been issued directly to engineering firms, posted to the Water Board website, posted to the NYS Contract Reporter, and advertised in the Niagara Gazette. He also described the work included in the bids that are the subject of Resolution 2026-09-005.

6. Outside Infrastructure Updates – Michael Eagler, Sr.

Mr. Eagler updated the Board on the W. Rivershore water main replacement project. The contractor currently is saw cutting pavement for restoration and replacing some damaged sidewalk sections. The City DPW will be paving three areas with many potholes that are not included in the Water Board's restoration of the street, which should result in a notable overall improvement in the street versus prior to beginning the work.

On the Laughlin/Witkop water main replacement, the contractor when working on the 85th Street side had to go up to 10' deep to avoid crossing utilities, and encountered a lot of water and unstable soil that made an unacceptable base for pipe. In the field, a determination was made to add 12" of undercut below the bedding called for in the specifications. The rest of the installation in shallower soil should not need the extra 12" except for at valves and fused connections, per the LaBella Engineering geotechnical engineer. The contractor is making good progress, installing up to 120' of pipe per day.

Mr. Eagler also discussed root foaming, which is the subject of a resolution, and will see 15,236' of sewer mains treated, as well as Collection and Distribution Team work to dig curb boxes that could not be shut off by the Meter Shop, which allowed service disconnection for properties owing a total of over \$12,000. Last, Truck 112 was damaged in a rear-end accident but has been repaired by the at-fault party's insurance.

7. Information & Operational Technology (IT & OT) – Jonathan Joyce or Elton Mensah-Selby

Mr. Mensah-Selby updated the Board on installation of switches and use of software to improve cybersecurity. IT also is using Open Text for backups, and updating the hypervisor at the WWTP. This will also lead to updating the SCADA Historian program, with new and improved ways to access data.

8. August 2026 Operations and Maintenance Report

a. 2026-09-23 - E3communications Government Affairs Activity Report

9. Resolutions

2026-09-001 - ANNUAL RENEWAL OF NEW WORLD SOFTWARE LICENSES

a. 2026-10-01 - Tyler Technologies License Renewal Invoice

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Chairman Sirianni to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

2026-09-002 - ANNUAL SEWER LINE CHEMICAL ROOT CONTROL

a. 2026-09-10 - Duke's Root Foaming Proposal

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Chairman Sirianni to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

2026-09-003 - AMENDMENT TO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

a. Draft Amendment 3 to Costello Employment Agreement

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Chairman Sirianni to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

2026-09-004 - 2026 SANITARY SEWER CURED IN PLACE PIPE LINING PROJECT

**a. Precision Trenchless Proposal for 2026 CIPP Per Onondaga County
Contract 0000005626**

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Chairman Sirianni to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

2026-09-005 - AWARDED GENERAL CONTRACT BID FOR WWTP CIP IMPROVEMENTS

**a. 2026-09-11 - AECOM Bid Tabulation and Award Recommendation for
WWTP CIP Projects**

Motion by Chairman Sirianni and seconded by Board Member Dean to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

2026-09-006 - AUTHORIZING TEMPORARY WIRELESS FACILITY RELOCATION AGREEMENT WITH AT&T

- a. Beech Avenue AT&T Temporary Relocation Agreement
- b. 2026-07-14 - InfraServices Quote to Relocate AT&T Equipment from Beech Ave Tank

Motion by Board Member Dean and seconded by Board Member Cole to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

2026-09-007 - RENEWAL OF PROPERTY, LIABILITY, AND UMBRELLA INSURANCE POLICIES

Motion by Board Member Cole and seconded by Board Member Dean to waive the agenda deadline policy in order to consider Resolution 2026-09-007.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

Motion by Board Member Cole and seconded by Board Member Dean to approve.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.

b. Unfinished/Old Business

c. New Business & Additional Items for Discussion

d. Executive Session (if needed)

e. Adjournment of Meeting

Motion by Board Member Cole and seconded by Board Member Dean to adjourn the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Cole Y Dean Y Kimble A Sirianni Y Weiss A

Motion carried, 3-0.