

# Northern Westchester Joint Water Works

## NWJWW Board of Trustees Meeting – July 18, 2025

Raymond A. Reber Catskill Water Treatment Facility 2065 East Main Street, Cortlandt Manor, NY

Convened at 10:02 A.M.

Adjourned at 10:21 A.M.

A.M. Present:

<b>Edward Lachterman, Chairperson</b>	<b>Matthew Geho, Operations Director, absent</b>
<b>Richard Becker, Vice Chairperson</b>	<b>Catherine Paget, Business Director</b>
<b>Craig Rodrigues, Treasurer, absent</b>	<b>Michael Cunningham, Attorney</b>
<b>Robert Scorrano, Trustee</b>	<b>Donna Albanese, Recording Sec’y</b>
<b>Charles Peterson, MID Representing Commissioner</b>	<b>Phil Walko, Chief Operator</b>
<b>Janet Stiller, Senior Office Assistant, Office Manager</b>	

A motion was made by Trustee Scorrano to adopt the June 13, 2025 minutes. A motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Scorrano at 10:02 A.M. to enter into Executive session. A motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker at 10:11 A.M. to exit Executive session. A motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Scorrano to appoint Janet Stiller, Senior Office Assistant Office Manager from list certification number 85-420 effective June 4, 2025, and place on unpaid administrative leave ending on July 3, 2025. Ms. Stiller’s annual salary will be \$79,500. A motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker for Matthew Geho, Operations Director, to return from his leave of absence effective June 12, 2025. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker for Patrick Murphy, Water Maintenance Foreperson, to

return to work without any restrictions from a leave of absence effective July 7, 2025. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker to authorize an unpaid leave of absence for Nicholas Hunt, Water Meter Repairer, effective July 1, 2025. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

#### **Extend Bid #2023.4 for HVAC Contractor Services**

Mrs. Paget mentioned that we bid the HVAC contractor services 2 years ago so we would be entering into the second renewal with them. According to our Maintenance Staff, Clean Air Quality Service, is the best matched company we have had in 13 years. Trustee Becker asked if the cost was similar. Mrs. Paget said that there is a slight increase in the hourly rate for regular service. We only spend about \$5,000 to \$6,000 a year so this is on an as needed basis to come in and handle electrical issues. She also reported that Clean Air did not adjust their rates on the last renewal.

A motion was made by Trustee Scorrano to authorize Mrs. Paget to sign a one-year extension for HVAC contractor services to Clean Air Quality Service. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.

#### **Receive and file of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Operations Director Report**

A motion was made by Trustee Becker to receive and file the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Operations Director's report. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

#### **Attorney's Report**

Mr. Cunningham mentioned that we are happy with the PFOS settlement. The settlement is about \$1.5 million. Trustee Becker asked where do we place those funds when it comes in and do we store it for PFOS restoration? Mrs. Paget said we are required to for that for for an alternate water source. As we currently have the engineering study in progress, we will have to examine what our options are. That money can go towards the cost we incur for that purpose not for operating costs.

Trustee Peterson asked how long out are we with deciding on an alternate water source? Mr. Walko mentioned that Woodard and Curran got back to them last week. They had a preliminary meeting with the Department of Health and Department of Transportation and they are looking to set up a meeting with us in the next few weeks. This is the connection on Route 35. We will have a viable source of water for the future with the report that came out about Amawalk potentially being unusable by 2050.

#### **Business Director's Report**

Mrs. Paget mentioned that New York City has adopted their raw water rates for the entities outside of New York City. The rate is down by 1.6% and anybody that would be in the excess consumption position that rate will increase by 3.7%. These are very conservative rates which is good for our members because from time to time a few of them are in that excess consumption position. She said that as an overall the rate being down 1.6% is probably going to be a budgetary flat experience because consumptions fluctuate all the time. We built this year's budget with a projected 5% increase.

Mrs. Paget informed the Board of Trustees that we do not have a Board of Trustees meeting scheduled in August and the next Board meeting is not until September 19th which is when we review the draft budget. Last year, it was a drawn-out budget process due to lack of information between our insurance policy, New York Power Authority rates and the retirement system rates which came in a little later than usual. She will do her best to put something viable together but some of those factors may still not be available until after September.

Trustee Lachterman asked about the LJ3 for Civil Service to create the Deputy Business Director position. Mrs. Paget said they had asked her for clarification as to what the responsibilities would be for the Deputy position versus the Business Director position. They wanted very specific examples. She wrote a dissertation and had Mr. Geho read it through. She put in her dissertation that the position is such a broad-based responsibility in a self-sustaining entity to have all of these areas covered. There is no way you can possibly list out every single example of what the responsibility is going to be and how they are different from one to another. She gave them some examples and reminded them that this entity is structured differently than the Westchester Water Works which has a Manager, Business Director and a Water Superintendent.

Mrs. Paget mentioned that we are structured where we have an Operations Director and a Business Director and both entities report to a Board of Trustees but there are differences in how they are handled. Mrs. Paget gave them that information as well. The Assistant Commissioner will be back on Monday so we will see where we will go with that.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker at 10:21 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

***Resolution #2025-58***

*A motion was made by Trustee Scorrano to adopt the June 13, 2025 minutes. A motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.*

***Resolution #2025-59****A motion was made by Trustee Scorrano to appoint Janet Stiller, Senior Office Assistant Office Manager from list certification number 85-420 effective June 4, 2025 and place on unpaid administrative leave ending on July 3, 2025. Ms. Stiller's annual salary will be \$79,500. A motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.*

***Resolution #2025-60***

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker for Matthew Geho, Operations Director, to return from his leave of absence effective June 12, 2025. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.*

***Resolution #2025-61***

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker for Patrick Murphy, Water Maintenance Foreperson, to return to work without any restrictions from a leave of absence effective July 7, 2025. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.*

***Resolution #2025-62***

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker to authorize an unpaid leave of absence for Nicholas Hunt, Water Meter Repairer, effective July 1, 2025. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion*

*approved 4-0.*

***Resolution #2025-63***

*A motion was made by Trustee Scorrano to authorize Mrs. Paget to sign a one-year extension for HVAC contractor services to Clean Air Quality Service. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.*

***Resolution #2025-64***

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker to receive and file the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter Operations Director's report. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.*