

# Northern Westchester Joint Water Works

NWJWW Board of Trustees Meeting – October 13, 2023

Convened at 10:09 A.M.

Adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

**Present:**

<b>Jeffrey Scott, Chairperson</b>	<b>Matthew Geho, Operations Director</b>
<b>Robert Scorrano, Vice Chairperson</b>	<b>Catherine Paget, Business Director</b>
<b>Thomas Diana, Treasurer</b>	<b>Michael Cunningham, Attorney</b>
<b>Richard Becker, Trustee, left at 11:39A.M</b>	<b>Donna Albanese, Recording Sec’y</b>
	<b>Ken Rundle, Yorktown Water Service Superintendent</b>

Trustee Scott mentioned that there is an amendment to the September 15, 2023 Board minutes. On page 6 it states that “last year we had proposed to have a rate increase of 11 cents which was passed on by the Board” and it should have read “which was rejected” by the Board. A motion was made by Trustee Becker to adopt the September 15, 2023 minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.

**Adopt Proclamation in honor of Raymond A. Reber**

Trustee Scott read a proclamation regarding the dedication for Mr. Raymond Reber who was first elected as Commissioner to the Montrose Improvement District in January 1971 and held that office for 52 years and reelected 17 times. Trustee Scott mentioned Mr. Reber’s dedication to the Joint Water Works and the many projects he initiated and worked on. Due to his decades worth of dedication to the Northern Westchester Joint Water Works, the Board stated that it is fitting to name a landmark to Mr. Reber. In honor of his service and devotion to the people of the Towns of Cortlandt, Somers, Yorktown and the Montrose Improvement District, the Catskill Water Treatment Facility will forever be known as the “Raymond A. Reber Catskill Water Treatment Facility.”

A motion was made by Trustee Becker to accept the proclamation for Mr. Raymond Reber and to acknowledge that the Catskill Water Treatment Facility will forever be known as the “Raymond A. Reber Catskill Water Treatment Facility.” A motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.

**Consider adjust policy for NWJWW 30% Excess Consumption fee structure**

Mr. Geho mentioned that it was discussed further and concluded that we are going to modify the surcharge pass through. The original intent was to recoup the cost of the 16” transmission main that we replaced on Route 6 in 2017 in which we recouped almost 70% of the cost. The major player

who was helping to offset the cost for the Joint Water Works is no longer in business so that burden was being put back on to the members to pay additional costs. In the future if we need to address transmission main capital projects, we may implement an additional percent per thousand gallons to offset those costs. If there is a major break on the 24” or 16” transmission mains, it will be very costly and may result in a bonding issue. He would suggest that the Board adopt the resolution to not have the 30% additional surcharge. Mrs. Paget suggested we eliminate this surcharge on a specific date, like October 1 Mr. Cunningham agreed October 1<sup>st</sup> because it would be the last quarter of the year.

A motion was made by Trustee Diana to eliminate the Joint Water Works 30% surcharge on top of New York City surcharge pass through. This occurred when the Nuclear Plant in Buchanan, NY was operating. The situation has now changed with the Plant’s closure. Any surcharge for excess usage will be charged to the appropriate member at the same rate as billed by New York City which will be effective October 1, 2023. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Review and request to adopt 2024 NWJWW Proposed budget**

Mrs. Paget mentioned that the budget reviewed last month would indicate our recommendation to do a proposed rate increase of 23 cents per thousand to bring the base rate to \$3.98. This would cover the \$522,169 of the \$535,087 deficit in the water treatment area. We would propose to leave the 20 cents per thousand in place for the capital plan bringing the overall base rate and capital revenue rate to \$4.18 per thousand for water purchases. In reviewing the capital plan last month, there is \$6 million available for decisions on capital items. Using the 20 cents per thousand will help offset costs that were on the 5-year capital plan and would help initiate a transmission line replacement at a potential cost of \$25million as previously indicated by Mr. Geho. This budget would not be able to pay for a full transmission line replacement. It will be able to start the project while the members get their bonding into place.

In the 2024 budget, there is a 10% increase in medical insurance and commercial insurance packages. Employee rates in this budget are at the 2023 annual salaries. The union agreement expires at the end of this year and we will start negotiations later this month. There are no new positions in this budget. There is the vacant position of water meter reader which we had discussed. If we chose to go forward with the bulk meter calibration program which was discussed last month, the Operations Director mentioned that the position of water meter reader would be helpful in coordination of services to accomplish that goal. The funding for that position is reflected in the 2024 budget.

Trustee Scott asked about the deficit of \$535,000 that is projected for 2024 in water sales and Mrs. Paget said yes. Mrs. Paget said that if the Board was to adopt the proposed 23 cent rate increase it would leave a small deficit of about \$12,000 which would come out of fund balance. The fund balance is almost \$10 million.

The raw water rate increased in July 6.7% which seems to be the average over the past 5 years. Trustee Becker asked how much in total does this rate increase affect the average homeowner? Mrs. Paget said that it depends on the tier rate the homeowner is in. It is a pass through on the Towns of Cortlandt and Yorktown’s bills meaning it is not built into your base rate so it is a smaller component. She said it would be about \$350 to \$400 over the course of the year and not the billing period. Trustee Becker feels that \$100 a quarter is a big increase. Trustee Scott said that you can fund the \$500,000 out of the reserve.

Mr. Rundle said that the 23 cents increase per thousand is that how we get to the \$4.18 or is that 23 cents going to be an addition to the \$4.18. Mrs. Paget said that this is how we get to the \$4.18 and this includes the 11 cents that we recommended as a rate increase last year which the Board rejected. If you were to isolate the 2 years, it would be one year 11 cents and one year 12 cents. Trustee Scott asked where are we on our 2023 projections? Are we looking at having a positive or negative balance? He feels that we need to consider this too if we are going to be \$250,000 in the black maybe we can cut that rate increase in half. Mrs. Paget said she is projecting as a whole in terms of water treatment expenses, we had budgeted \$9,356,000. As of now, we are looking at coming in at \$8.9 million so we would be in an operating surplus in terms of expenses. With revenue, we had budgeted \$8.7 million in water sales and are looking to bring in \$8.43 million so we have a \$219,000 deficit there as an offset.

In water sales, Mrs. Paget is looking into \$50,000 to \$100,000 potential surplus assuming that there are no other developments. With expenditures as projected and revenues as projected, the net effect would be a surplus between \$50,000 and \$100,000. We do not have the ability to generate fund balance from any of the other department budgets because if you spend it we bill it back to you and there is no markup on that. Trustee Becker said that the risk of not increasing the rate would be that down the road you would have to increase it a lot. He said maybe we can split it, increase the cost to 12 cents and then take the rest out of fund balance. Trustee Scott said that given that we did not raise the rate last year, 23 cents seem too much and 12 cents may not be enough. If we were to split the 23-cent pass through and halve it, you would take \$267,000 out of fund balance out of the \$10 million and 25% of that is on reserve for operational failures and the balance of that is for capital projects. She said keep in mind that the salaries at the time of negotiations would be from fund balance due to no provision in this budget for salary increase.

Trustee Scott said that the CPI for 2022 was about 7% and we did not raise anything and this year it is hovering around 4 1/2 % which would be 11% increase in prices. Mrs. Paget said that the residents pay between \$300 and \$400 every quarter for water. The increase would be about \$200 spread across the year. Trustee Scott said that a 5% increase in the base rate should not result in the 20% increase in the consumers' bill. Mrs. Paget said that the consumptions are all different. Mr. Geho mentioned that there are some parts of Yorktown where the residents have water bills totaling \$2,000 to \$3,000 so they are going to pay considerably more because Yorktown has a tier structure which was implemented and each town has a different rate structure. Mr. Geho said that the Towns can say the Joint Water Works raised our rate 6% because we are going to only raise it to 3% and absorb that cost. It is tied into the pass-through rate. Mrs. Paget said that it is shown separately on the bill so that you never have to entertain areas in your base rate if your own factors internally do not require that you do. If we raise the rate 23 cents you take that and put it into the production rate and that would pass through the rate per thousand on the bill separately from the majority of the cost. The city is a factor when we developed our rate.

Mr. Dave Paganelli, Town of Yorktown Highway Superintendent, joined the meeting at 10:39 A.M. He said that the Joint Water Works should not take the hit but let the City take the hit. Trustee Becker mentioned that he is not comfortable with the numbers and he feels he does not have a handle on what we need and what the increase should be. Trustee Scott said that if you raise the base rate that the Towns are paying by 5% then that is 23 cents on \$3.98. Mr. Geho said that it is roughly 3% of your base rate which will be the increase. Trustee Becker said that \$200 more a year per resident is a huge increase. He is worried about people with fixed incomes.

Mrs. Paget said that if we went in the middle around 17 cents that would be generating an additional \$385,000 and the remainder would come out of fund balance then we would deal with whatever contractual negotiations resulted in and have that discussion at that time. Mr. Geho said that because we are trying to continue to generate that capital money, the O and M would take the money that would be directly going into the capital fund balance. It is not like we are taking money out of the fund balance we are just not putting it in as fast as we thought we would be. Mrs. Paget said that budgetary wise what we would be showing in the budget is an appropriation of fund balance so it would be reflected that way whether it actually landed that way would be a result of operations this time next year. Mrs. Paget said that to regenerate the fund balance will depend upon the water sales. About \$435,000 annually is generated from the 20 cents per thousand based on member demand. This is what is coming in and what goes out will be privy to whatever the projects are. Trustee Becker said why don't we go for the 17 cents, track it and see how we are doing, what the fund balance is looking like then we can make sure we are not overcharging. If we have to adjust later on then we will.

Mrs. Paget said that the pass through would start January 1, 2024 but it would hit your residents based on your billing cycle.. Mrs. Paget stated that when we are referring to the base rate, we are increasing to \$3.92 from \$3.75. She reported that the overall expenditure budget is \$11,756,422. The 20 cents per thousand is added to the base rate to fund capital projects.

A motion was made by Trustee Diana to adopt the 2024 budget and the Board has agreed to an operating budget in the amount of \$11,756,422. The 2024 member base water rate is \$3.92 per thousand gallons. An additional 20 cents per thousand to be added to the base rate to fund capital projects with the budget to be forwarded to the Supervisors of the respective Towns and the Chairman of the Montrose Improvement District. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Request approval of change order #1 for Bid# 2023.8 Catskill Paving and Site Work**

Mr. Geho reported that the paving has been completed for the Catskill Water Treatment Plant with steps being installed and the driveway paved. Included in the paving was 74 Locust Avenue along with the drainage.

Our 16" or 24" pipe is sitting in item 4 and leaves have intermixed amongst the pipes so it is not in sanitary condition. We designated a site for additional blacktop and also get a loader in to work comfortably with keeping the pipe staged on the blacktop. He discussed with the contractor to give him a change order to do the work. We would do the site prep work in house and in the 2023 budget we budgeted to rent a machine. We would get the stone, build up the base so that the paver can come in and do the paving. The cost is \$9,000 which is \$10 per square foot and we feel it is reasonable. This will keep our pipes staged properly. The site work would cost about \$1,500 a stone and this would include a machine for a week. When we rent the machine, we are going to install a new lamppost at 74 Locust Avenue.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker to approve a change order for Bid #2023.8 in the amount of \$9,000 to Ben Cozzi Inc dba Northern Construction Paving. This is for paving a 900 square foot area currently used to store spare water piping so that it is more sanitary. A motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Request to provisionally appoint Brian Bradley and Harold Holmes to 1A Operator**

Mr. Geho mentioned that we pulled the Civil Service list for a 1A Water Treatment Plant Operator and there is no list currently available. We are recommending that the Board appoint Mr. Brian Bradley and Mr. Harry Holmes from a 2A Water Treatment Operator to a 1A Water Treatment Operator position. They have been with us long enough to get the ten years they need and have taken the appropriate course work. They are both excellent operators with a great opportunity for advancement. Both are great assets for the future of the Joint Water Works.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker to provisionally appoint Mr. Brian Bradley and Mr. Harry Holmes to a 1A Water Treatment Operator effective October 23, 2023. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

**Request to approve medical leave of absence of Frank Romeo**

Mrs. Paget reported that we were notified in advance of Mr. Frank Romeo's upcoming surgery. He sustained an injury which was not work related and needed to have surgery. It is our recommendation that we approve his leave of absence. He has nominal sick time left and the balance of the time would be unpaid. Mr. Romeo's projected return date pending his next evaluation is around November 10, 2023.

A motion was made by Trustee Diana to authorize a leave of absence for Mr. Frank Romeo due to a non-work-related injury beginning October 10, 2023 through October 15, 2023 and unpaid medical leave beginning October 16, 2023 and up until medical certification to return to work is received. He will be reevaluated around November 10, 2023. Motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

**Review policy and request adoption of NWJWW member bulk meter calibrations plan**

Mr. Geho said that we are responsible for generating the invoices and vouchers totaling about \$500,000 a month. We have no control over the meter we use now. This gives us the ability to go out, replace and calibrate as needed based on the data we get on the field to ensure that the data we are using to generate the vouchers is accurate. There is a meter that has not been addressed for some time and has been estimated for so long that we cannot even estimate it anymore. There is a question of older infrastructure that is in existence and still operational. There are 4 members but 2 will be impacted with the need to replace meters. The 2 members are the Town of Somers and Cortlandt. To help alleviate the stress on their departments and to make sure the work is being done, we would like to take it over and bill back the entity as needed based on the meter work being done. We have heads that can be inserted that are certified by the manufacturer and then move on to the next meter and send it out for certification. The program has been in place but we have not had the authority or funding to do it. The funding would be through the individual members' line.

One meter we are looking at is a 6" meter on Quarry Acres and the cost is about \$6,500 for the meter. The meter pit does not have a bypass so we would like to install a bypass so that in the future we have a means of keeping the community in water. It enables us to help and manage between the different members to get the work done. We need to take over and make sure the meters are calibrated and replaced in a timely manner. If we find a meter that needs to be replaced, we would discuss it with the entity and if they are in favor, we would do the work and bill the member back based on the work that has to be done.

A motion was made by Trustee Becker that the member entities have requested that the Joint Water Works be responsible for testing, repairing, and replacing meters used to monitor flows between the

members and for the members to pay for any expenses incurred for addressing a meter serving their system. A motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.

Mr. Geho informed Mr. Ken Rundle that once that meter is replaced, it would be calibrated every 18 months. Some of them have to be brought up to the Omni T2's because some are still Neptune meters.

### **Request to enter into IMA between NWJWW/Town of Cortlandt for demolition of 78 Locust Avenue**

Mr. Geho said that 78 Locust Avenue is in very bad shape and has been on the capital plan for several years and should be demolished. In 2019, we did an asbestos evaluation and it showed there was no asbestos. We had wanted to move to demolish it but then the pandemic set in and we did not have time to do it. It has come to our attention that our liability insurance carrier will not carry it anymore so we have to act on it. He asked the Town of Cortlandt's engineering department to help us put together a bid or they may have contractors they work with to make sure that the building comes down properly per the building code for Cortlandt. The intent would be to restore it back to a vacant plot. In the future we would have it at our disposal for when we have to add on for treatment purposes. We will act on the demolition in 2024 and we have the money in the budget. The cost could be about \$50,000.

Mr. Paganelli mentioned that an infrastructure repair like this that benefits only this building does this come out of fund balance which is money financed by all of our taxpayers. Would this come out of fund balance because as an entity you do not have a fund balance other than what is put in by the taxpayers? Mrs. Paget said in terms of other sources of revenue then no. What determines that we all have to chip in for this part of the infrastructure as opposed to other parts of the infrastructure that benefits various members. Mr. Geho stated that any assets of the Joint Water Works each member has to pay for their share.

A motion was made by Trustee Diana to demolish the 78 Locust Avenue house with the Town of Cortlandt to supervise the demolition. The cost of the demolition will be paid by the Joint Water Works with the Operations Director to facilitate the demolition. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.

### **Status of IMA for Fluoride Pump Station completion**

Mr. Geho sent an email after the last Board meeting and the reply both he and Mrs. Paget received from Yorktown was from the engineering department that he feels it is not the responsibility of Yorktown to generate the IMA. Mr. Geho reiterated that the Board wanted the IMA. Mr. Geho said that something had been circulated amongst the Yorktown residents to pass a resolution for an IMA for the fluoride. There is no formal agreement between the Town of Yorktown and the Joint Water Works to fund the cost of the fluoride. Mr. Rodriguez, Yorktown attorney did put together a draft resolution for the Town Board and should be voted upon at the next Town of Yorktown Board meeting.

Mr. Geho mentioned that ELQ Industries walked off and Arcadis is no longer involved. The water department has been doing the best they can to get the job complete. We still have programming issues that need to be resolved. Smith Controls is no longer involved and we have to get Optimum Controls involved to handle the Health Department required interlocks that have not been implemented. There is a cost in plumbing which we had to incur.

We needed to purchase about \$4,500 in masks for the fluoride project. There are additional costs in the amount of about \$11,000 that Mr. Geho sent to Mr. Dan Ciarcia, Town of Yorktown Engineer, to get this completed and there is an annual cost. He spoke to our integration team about resolving the issue and there would be a cost incurred there also. Mr. Paganelli asked if there was an estimated cost and Mr. Geho said about \$130 an hour to do the remote programming. Mr. Paganelli said that moving forward the maintenance of this particular plant is an infrastructure that benefits the entire Water Works. Mr. Geho said that the Town of Yorktown is the only member that wants fluoride and gets the fluoride. Unfortunately, the Town of Somers gets it through default because their interconnect is off of Windsor and Mahopac Avenue. We cannot put the onus on the Towns of Cortlandt and the Montrose Improvement District to fund something that residents only get in the Town of Yorktown. There are about 10 residents off of Lexington Avenue that get the fluoride that will be notified when we do the public notice.

The Department of Health is requiring the Town of Yorktown to do direct mailing which would cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000. We did a website and mailing notification and now the DOH wants a direct mailing to all of Yorktown's residents. Trustee Diana said that he was going to vote to not continue with this project and give the money back. He was deceived and told the money could be taken out of fund balance and finish which was not 100% true. This is getting more expensive for the Town of Yorktown where 50% of the residents do not want the fluoride in their water. This is a referendum from the 1950's. Mr. Paganelli was asked if they wanted to take it back to the Board to discuss it and decide what to do. He said that we are trapped in this situation because we took the money and built the Plant. He said we can't take the money back and all we could do is take the loss for \$1 million. Trustee Scott stated that it is probably cheaper to take the loss in the long term.

Trustee Diana said that there is a small cluster of residents who want the fluoride. Mr. Geho said it will probably cost another \$10,000 to complete the fluoride project. Mr. Geho mentioned that the only way to get rid of the fluoride is that you have to do a public referendum. He also stated that in 10 years, the chemical will eat out the plant and the building would have to be replaced. The maintenance would be a Yorktown issue. Trustee Scott mentioned that we should table this discussion because Trustee Becker will need to leave soon and there are other topics to cover.

Trustee Becker wanted to follow up with 1799 Lockwood. Mr. Rundle discovered that the homeowner is in the Yorktown water district. Trustee Becker stated that Mr. Ferreira sent him an email and he said that Yorktown would put in a new 1" copper pipe to a certain point, then the Town of Cortlandt would take it to the next point and put in a new meter right at the edge of the homeowner's property and she would end up with a new 1" water source not a full main. Mr. Rundle does not remember that being said so he will get together with Mr. Ferraina and figure it out. He said that the parcel does lie inside the district so we have to move forward with that. There is pipe there but it is a couple of hundred feet away. The Town of Cortlandt had pipe down the road and connected that. He is not sure if the homeowner has to absorb the cost so both he and Mr. Ferreira will discuss the situation. Trustee Becker stated that from Mr. Ferreira's email that both the Towns of Yorktown and Cortlandt will split the cost for the 1" copper line with the meter moving from where it is now to the front of her property.

At 11:39 a.m., Trustee Becker left the meeting.

Mr. Paganelli reported that the Town of Yorktown had a water main break on Route 35. Previously, we had another water main break on Route 35 and Greenwood Street. The Town of Yorktown

repaired the break which required a full depth road rebuild and took them 3 days to complete. This was a huge area 300 feet by 30 feet and we did not have the capability to do that. They filed an accident claim because then you have a problem with the state comptroller. The bill is \$616,000 to repair this. He met with Mr. Paul Kutsky from the Westchester Joint Waters and Mr. Kutsky said that there is no way that the Joint Water Works should not bear equal responsibility. Mr. Paganelli said that the Town of Yorktown does not need this line they can cut it. Mr. Geho said no it is in Yorktown's system. The 16" line from the Amawalk Water Treatment Plant to the Yorktown/Somers town line is now a joint venture. Mr. Geho said that because you tie back into the 24" main that is where the agreement was made.

Mr. Geho mentioned that the previous Board reached an agreement that the asset that was going to be deeded to the Joint Water Works which was from the Amawalk facility to the line of Somers and Yorktown because of the break we had during Christmas 2021. The agreement was the 12 to 13 homes that are on that line which goes from original water district #2 were out of district resident that were Somers residents being charged through Yorktown have been cleaned up for the consolidation of Somers Water District. Those members are Somers in district and the joint venture became ours because it served 2 members. We agreed that it was something that should have been picked up during the original transfer of assets back in 1996. The line that we drew was 3,500 feet. Mr. Rundle said that it is the length of the 16" main and the 24" main feeds all members. The 16" main feeds the Town of Somers and Yorktown. This is why it became a Joint Water Works asset. When it drops from a 16" to a 12" that 12" feeds Yorktown. Mr. Geho said that theoretically we can close a valve between Mahopac and the town line on the 16" and you just lose redundancy. Mr. Paganelli just wanted to go on record. He stated that based on discussions there was a resolution a few years back in Yorktown that we would incorporate that into the Joint Water Works.

Mrs. Paget mentioned that we had no transfer of ownership deed and there is no executed agreement between the two entities to transfer that over. Trustee Becker asked if the Joint Water Works did it but did the Town of Yorktown not execute it? She feels both the Town of Yorktown and the Joint Water Works may have authorized a resolution. but in terms of follow through that did not happen.

Trustee Diana said that we have to look at this moving forward of what we are going to do with this 12" main that we have in the ground. Trustee Scorrano said that we have 2 breaks at the same spot so when it was repaired did they put a 12" or was it a 16"? Trustee Diana said it was a 12" main. Mr. Rundle said that that 16" main that comes out of Amawalk crosses over and runs up and comes down Route 35 feeds Somers then reduces down to a 12" main, goes into Yorktown and feeds Yorktown. He is beginning to question the integrity of that pipe, along with the 16" main which he thought was part of the Joint Water Works. Mr. Geho said it is part of the Joint Water Works. Mr. Rundle said he would suggest not to replace that. They make a new pipe in a pipe so that you do not have to do the excavation and replacement and this would save money. Trustee Scott said that ultimately the jurisdiction will be settled and then everything will follow from that. Mrs. Paget stated that we will check our records and go from there.

### **Attorney's Report**

Mr. Cunningham mentioned that he along with Mrs. Paget, Mr. Geho and Mr. Wood are working with the outside attorneys on the PFOS litigation.

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



Mrs. Paget mentioned that as we are going into the year end, we are preparing for our GASB compliant statements. We will also continue to work with Civil Service to develop the title structure which was discussed at the last Executive session. Trustee Scott thanked Mrs. Paget for her effort in the preparation of the 2024 budget.

### **Operation's Director**

Mr. Geho showed the Board a piece of the Amawalk Water Treatment tank lining which we identified as a situation when we did the inspection. Last year on the capital budget, we had budgeted \$500,000 to paint the tank. We recognized that there were structural issues to inspect first before we painted it. Mr. Geho is waiting for a report and we will look to rebid this out.. The tank is around 50 years old.

A motion was made by Trustee Diana at 11:50 A.M. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 3-0.

### **Resolution # 2023-78**

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker to adopt the September 15, 2023 minutes as amended. Motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.*

### **Resolution # 2023-79**

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker to accept the proclamation for Mr. Raymond Reber and to acknowledge that the Catskill Water Treatment Facility will forever be known as the "Raymond A. Reber Catskill Water Treatment Facility." A motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.*

### **Resolution # 2023-80**

*A motion was made by Trustee Diana to eliminate the Joint Water Works 30% surcharge on top of New York City surcharge pass through. This occurred when the Nuclear Plant in Buchanan, NY was operating. The situation has now changed with the Plant's closure. Any surcharge for excess usage will be charged to the appropriate member at the same rate as billed by New York City which will be effective October 1, 2023. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker. Motion approved 4-0.*

### **Resolution # 2023-81**

*A motion was made by Trustee Diana to adopt the 2024 budget and the Board has agreed to an operating budget in the amount of \$11,756,422. The 2024 member base water rate is \$3.92 per thousand gallons. An additional 20 cents per thousand to be added to the base rate to fund capital projects with the budget to be forwarded to the Supervisors of the respective Towns and the Chairman of the Montrose Improvement District. Motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0*

### **Resolution # 2023-82**

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker to approve a change order for Bid #2023.8 in the amount of \$9,000 to Ben Cozzi Inc dba Northern Construction Paving. This is for paving a 900 square foot area currently used to store spare water piping so that it is more sanitary. Motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.*

**Resolution # 2023-83**

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker to provisionally appoint Mr. Brian Bradley and Mr. Harry Holmes to a 1A Water Treatment Operator effective October 23, 2023. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.*

**Resolution # 2023-84**

*A motion was made by Trustee Diana to authorize a leave of absence for Mr. Frank Romeo due to a non-work-related injury beginning October 10, 2023 through October 15, 2023 and unpaid medical leave beginning October 16, 2023 and up until medical certification to return to work is received. He will be reevaluated around November 10, 2023. Motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.*

**Resolution # 2023-85**

*A motion was made by Trustee Becker that the member entities have requested that the Joint Water Works be responsible for testing, repairing, and replacing meters used to monitor flows between the members and for the members to pay for any expenses incurred for addressing a meter serving their system. A motion was seconded by Trustee Diana. Motion approved 4-0.*

**Resolution # 2023-86**

*A motion was made by Trustee Diana to demolish the 78 Locust Avenue house with the Town of Cortlandt to supervise the demolition. The cost of the demolition will be paid by the Joint Water Works with the Operations Director to facilitate the demolition. A motion was seconded by Trustee Scorrano. Motion approved 4-0.*