

CLIFTON PARK WATER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 16, 2025

Those present were: Mr. Helmut Gerstenberger, Chairman; Mr. Peter Taubkin, Secretary; Mr. Kenneth Bowman, Board Member; Mr. Chris Wheland, Administrator; Mr. James Trainor, Attorney; and Mr. Brock Juusola, Engineer. Absent: Mr. John Ryan, Vice Chairman; and Mr. William Butler, Treasurer.

Mr. Gerstenberger called the meeting to order at 7pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approve Minutes of May 14, 2025 Meeting

Mr. Gerstenberger made a **motion** to approve the May 14, 2025 board meeting minutes; seconded by Mr. Bowman. The **motion** carried 3-0, 2 absent.

Privilege of the Floor

No members of the public present.

Old Business

The board meeting covered several key topics, including the installation of new audio-visual equipment in the meeting room and updates on ongoing projects.

Peacock Glen Property

Mr. Wheland had a realtor look at the Peacock Glen property and he requested a survey be done to determine if there are any wetlands on the property before any further action is taken.

New Business

Ruhle Road/Settlers Ridge Water Line Replacement

The board discussed the water line replacement project on Ruhle Road/Settlers Ridge that is currently facing challenges due to a National Grid gas line crossing. Mr. Wheland explained that they are pursuing an easement from National Grid to allow the water line to cross the gas line.

Transfers and Capital Plan Update

Mr. Wheland discussed the adjustments made to the budget line items. He presented the board with Exhibit A, Budget Transfer Spreadsheet, reallocating funds. He also stated the security gate at the Boyack Water Treatment plant has been installed.

RESOLUTION #16, 2025 – AMEND THE CPWA 2025 OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, the Clifton Park Water Authority wishes to amend the 2025 Operating Budget,

WHEREAS, the current budget is proposed and passed in the fall of the previous year based on best knowledge of upcoming expenses,

WHEREAS, the budget often requires adjustment based on changes in costs and needs for the Authority, **now, therefore be it**

RESOLVED, that the Clifton Park Water Authority Board of Directors hereby amends the 2025 Operating and Capital Budget as stated in Exhibit A.

Motion to Accept: Mr. Gerstenberger **Seconded:** Mr. Taubkin

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Gerstenberger	- Aye
Mr. Ryan	- Absent
Mr. Taubkin	- Aye
Mr. Butler	- Absent
Mr. Bowman	- Aye

Empire State Development Grant Resolution

Mr. Wheland asked the Board for approval to apply for a New York State Empire State Development Grant to fund a comprehensive water planning study for the northern portion of Clifton Park, Ballston, Malta and Global Foundries area. The Authority has an opportunity to collaborate with the Town of Ballston and the Saratoga Water Authority to apply for a planning grant to assist with future planning of water in these areas. There is no cost to apply. If awarded, Mr. Wheland will come back to the Board for approval to accept funds and the Town of Ballston and SCWA will have to pass resolutions where a cost share formula will be presented. As of now Mr. Wheland has support letters from Ballston (Joe Whalen and Eric Connolly) and SCWA. The grant maximum is \$100,000 with a 50% match to fund a project up to \$200,000. The grant would allow for a preliminary engineering report to guide future grant applications and infrastructure projects, with potential funding and implementation timelines extending into 2026.

**RESOLUTION #17, 2025 – AUTHORIZING DETERMINATION OF SIGNIFICANCE
UNDER STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW FOR A CONSOLIDATED
FUNDING APPLICATION OF AN EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

WHEREAS, the Clifton Park Water Authority (CPWA) owns and operates a water supply, treatment, and distribution system for the Town of Clifton Park, New York; and

WHEREAS, the CPWA purchases water from the Saratoga County Water Authority (SCWA); and

WHEREAS, the CPWA maintains an existing connection to the SCWA transmission main at 431 Eastline Road, Ballston Spa, New York; and

WHEREAS, the CPWA, Town of Ballston and SCWA wish to study the capacity of water supply in the area; and

WHEREAS, the CPWA has retained Delaware Engineering to prepare a Consolidated Funding Application for an Empire State Development Grant; and

WHEREAS, if the Grant is awarded will fund an engineering study to determine long term supply and capacity needs of the CPWA, Malta, Ballston, and SCWA; and

WHEREAS, the entire project scope satisfies the exempt action criteria listed under NYCRR 617.5(c)(2) and (5) as not having a significant adverse impact on the environment.

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS 16th day of July, 2025 be it

RESOLVED, that the Clifton Park Water Authority Board of Directors declare this project to be a Type II action according to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act regulations and not subject to any further review.

Motion to Accept: Mr. Gerstenberger **Seconded:** Mr. Taubkin

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Gerstenberger	- Aye
Mr. Ryan	- Absent
Mr. Butler	- Absent
Mr. Taubkin	- Aye
Mr. Bowman	- Aye

RESOLUTION #18, 2025 – AUTHORIZING CHRIS WHELAND TO APPLY FOR AN EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT GRANT TO DETERMINE LONG TERM WATER SUPPLY/CAPACITY IN THE CPWA, BALLSTON, & MALTA REGION

WHEREAS, the Town of Ballston and Malta are expanding to meet increasing housing demands and

WHEREAS, Clifton Park Water Authority services Malta west of I-87 and

WHEREAS, the Clifton Park Water Authority and Town of Ballston purchase water from Saratoga County Water Authority at Eastline Road and

WHEREAS, the Clifton Park Water Authority has a shared water line with the Town of Ballston and along Eastline Road, and

WHEREAS, the Clifton Park Water Authority and Ballston area requiring water in excess of what the SCWA can comfortably provide during irrigation timeframes,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Clifton Park Water Authority Board of Directors hereby agrees to apply for an Empire State Development Grant to determine future needs of the potable water source in the Ballston, Malta, and northern Clifton Park region as supplied from Saratoga County Water Authority. If awarded, a resolution will be required to accept any and all grant funds and resolution will include cost sharing calculations between all entities included.

Motion to Accept: Mr. Taubkin **Seconded:** Mr. Gerstenberger

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Gerstenberger	- Aye
Mr. Ryan	- Absent
Mr. Butler	- Absent
Mr. Taubkin	- Aye
Mr. Bowman	- Aye

New Water Tank Construction Update

Mr. Wheland discussed the construction of a new water tank near Curtis, which will hold 5 million gallons. He noted that there has been significant water flow to Ballston, up to 1,800 gallons per minute, which has led to water restrictions being implemented in Ballston. Mr. Wheland emphasized the importance of having data to support their claims about water usage, as it has helped to open a constructive dialogue with the Town of Ballston.

AWWA VP Position

Mr. Wheland shared his involvement with the American Water Works Association (AWWA) as Section Director and his potential candidacy for Vice President, outlining the responsibilities and travel commitments involved. He noted that while the role would require some travel, it would not significantly impact his ability to perform his duties due to remote work capabilities. As Section Director he is the liaison between the NYSAWWA and the AWWA National Board. This also puts him on the AWWA National Board of Directors (there is one representative per state). Within AWWA National there are 6 Vice Presidents. The Vice President is a Section Director that is also elected by the AWWA National Board. To be a VP you have to be a Section Director. At the annual meeting that was held in Denver, Mr. Wheland was asked to run for VP, and NYS AWWA has endorsed him. VP's in the past are of large utilities or manufactures. New York has not had a VP on the AWWA Board in over 20 years. If elected, the difference is the VP is a traveling representative of the AWWA and is required to attend a limited number of conferences (other state conferences) per year in addition to the NYS level conferences. Mr. Wheland would like to run and asked for the support of the CPWA Board. There is no cost, all travel is paid by AWWA. The Board gave their support for Mr. Wheland to run for the VP position. The conversation concluded with Chris expressing gratitude for the support and the Board wishing him well in his new role.

PFOA/PFOS Settlement

The Authority received their first settlement check from 3M, which was significantly less than Saratoga County's payment due to different water source contamination levels. The settlement involves a 10-year payment plan where 72% of the total amount will be paid in the first three years, with the full amount to be received over the decade. The board discussed the need to create a separate account to manage these settlement funds, with a suggestion to consult auditors about the best way to handle the money, though they agreed it should ultimately be used for PFOA treatment if needed.

Synergy Rt 9 Pipeline Funding

The Town of Clifton Park has confirmed that it received the approval grant funds for the construction of the water line on Route 9 to feed Synergy. Rekucki has also provided a \$1 million bond to ensure completion of the waterline connection on Route 9, with the Town committing to complete the \$1.8 million project regardless of grant funding. The Town has requested the CPWA allow for 3 buildings at Synergy to have meters installed and therefore obtain CO's. The past letters to Synergy from the CPWA have stated that meters will not be installed until such time as a contract with a contractor is executed for the installation of a

secondary line. Mr. Wheland feels the Town, State (grant funds), and Synergy (bond) are all committed; therefore, the line will be constructed and will allow for the meters to be installed.

Exempt Employees Salary Pay Dates

The Authority is changing payroll providers and is implementing a new payroll software system. The new system can't account for different pay period ends dates in one payroll run. Checks for all employees are issued on the same date. Hourly worker pay period dates are different than salary (exempt) employees. Mr. Wheland asked to transition salaried employees to the same pay period as hourly employees to align the schedules. The Board was agreeable to this change.

Other Business

Vertical Bridge Plans to Sublease

Mr. Gerstenberger made a **motion** at 8:03pm to move into executive session to discuss potential litigation with Vertical Bridge; seconded by Mr. Taubkin. The **motion** carried 3-0, 2 absent.

Mr. Gerstenberger made a **motion** at 8:15pm to move out of executive session; seconded by Mr. Taubkin. The **motion** carried 3-0, 2 absent.

Water and Traffic Planning Review

The board discussed water usage patterns, noting higher consumption on even days compared to odd days, with tank levels dropping to 8-12 feet. They reviewed traffic improvements planned for Route 146, including a new northbound lane and traffic flow adjustments near the Bass Pro Shop area.

The CPWA's next board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 7pm.

Mr. Gerstenberger made a **motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:232pm; seconded by Mr. Bowman. The **motion** carried 3-0, 2 absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Collins

Recording Secretary

Cc: CPWA Board of Directors

Trainor, Pezzullo & DeSanto PLLC