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 2 BOARD MEETING OF THE WATER AUTHORITY  
 3 OF GREAT NECK NORTH  
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 6 50 Watermill Lane  
 7 Great Neck, New York  
 8 Held via Microsoft Teams  
 9 October 19, 2020  
 10 6:00 P.M.

11  
 12 **TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS**

13 **A P P E A R A N C E S :**

- 14 Michael C. Kalnick, Chairperson, Director, Village of Kings Point
- 15 Jean Celender, Director, Village of Great Neck Plaza
- 16 Carol Frank, Director, Town of North Hempstead
- 17 Jay Johneas, Director, Village of Great Neck
- 18 Dan Levy, Director, Village of Saddle Rock
- 19 Susan Lopatkin, Director, Village of Kensington
- 20 Michael Smiley, Director, Village of Great Neck Estates
- 21 Steven Weinberg, Director, Village of Thomaston

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
 23 <sup>1</sup> A Public Hearing was held by the Board of Directors of the Water Authority of Great Neck  
 24 North on October 19, 2020, at 6:00 P.M. in accordance with Governor Cuomo's March 13, 2020  
 25 Executive Order No. 202.1, extended by Executive Order No. 202.55, which permitted public  
 meetings to be held remotely by conference call. The agenda for the meeting was posted on the  
 Authority's website. In accordance with said Order, the public was given the ability to listen  
 to such proceeding at the Authority's office and this transcript was made of the public portion  
 of the meeting.

1 ALSO PRESENT:

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3 From the **Water Authority of Great Neck North:**

4 Ralph J. Kreitzman, Vice-Chairperson

5 Robert Graziano, Deputy Chairperson

6 Michael Rispoli, Assistant Superintendent

7 Adam Solow, Supervisor of Water Plant Operations

8 Judith Flynn, Treasurer

9 Debra Ray, Secretary

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11 Stephen, Limmer, Counsel, McLaughlin & Stern, LLP

12 Gerald Schneiderman, Deputy Mayor, Great Neck Plaza

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14 NOT PRESENT:

15 Sue Huang, Civil Engineer

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1                   CHAIRPERSON KALNICK:       Good evening and  
2                   welcome. I am Michael Kalnick and I have the  
3                   honor of serving the public as Mayor of the  
4                   Village of Kings Point and as Chairperson of the  
5                   Board of Directors for the Water Authority of  
6                   Great Neck North. I am joined by some of my  
7                   colleagues on the Board and thank you for  
8                   attending as I officially open the public  
9                   hearing. If you have not done so already, anyone  
10                  wishing to speak can call in to the following  
11                  conference call number 1-929-229-5501 and use  
12                  Conference ID code 887472145 followed by the  
13                  pound sign.

14                  The purpose of this meeting is to discuss  
15                  proposed changes to water rates and a proposed  
16                  new treatment fee, as a result of New York State  
17                  mandates, as the Authority faces rising expenses  
18                  associated with new water quality regulations  
19                  recently established by the state Health  
20                  Department. New York has become the first in  
21                  the nation to adopt rigorous new drinking water  
22                  standards that require public water suppliers to  
23                  develop costly treatment plants to remove  
24                  1,4-dioxane, PFOS and PFAS from the water, prior  
25                  to distribution.

1           In its pledge to provide customers with an  
2           uninterrupted supply of top-quality drinking  
3           water, the Authority will address any need for  
4           water treatment and invest whatever is necessary  
5           to ensure that it continues to meet or exceed  
6           all quality mandates set by the government. As  
7           of now, the Authority expects that, to comply  
8           with these new regulations, expenditures could  
9           be in the range of \$20 to \$30 million.

10           We believe it is prudent at this time to  
11           increase the rates to raise the revenue needed  
12           to meet the financial requirements placed upon  
13           us by law and to implement the necessary capital  
14           improvements to the water system.

15           Although the Authority is currently in full  
16           compliance with all government drinking water  
17           regulations, construction is underway to develop  
18           a treatment facility at Well 6 for the removal  
19           of 1,4-dioxane to prevent exceedances of the  
20           allowable maximum level of 1-part-per billion.  
21           One part per billion is like finding a shiny  
22           copper penny among 1 billion dimes.

23           Grant money from the state, in the amount of  
24           \$3 million, will be used to help offset expenses  
25           for that project, which are expected to exceed

1           \$7.4 million in capital costs alone.

2           The Authority anticipates that three  
3 additional 1,4-dioxane, PFOS and PFAS treatment  
4 plants may be needed at its Watermill Lane  
5 facility. Three wells at the Community Drive  
6 site are also being monitored closely to  
7 determine if it will be necessary to introduce  
8 treatment at that location for 1,4-dioxane, as  
9 well as PFOS and PFAS, for which the state has  
10 set maximum contaminant levels of  
11 10-parts-per-trillion. That standard is even  
12 more rigorous - it's like finding 10 pennies in  
13 a pile of 1 trillion dimes.

14           These chemicals entered water supplies as a  
15 result of industrial manufacturing on Long  
16 Island, primarily from the 1950s through the  
17 1990s. The companies knew or should have known  
18 the hazards posed by their products, but  
19 nevertheless failed to take steps to prevent the  
20 contamination. The Authority has joined local  
21 public water purveyors in actions against those  
22 manufacturers in an attempt to hold them  
23 responsible for the construction and maintenance  
24 costs of treatment plants needed to meet the new  
25 standard.

1           The Authority recently issued \$19.8 million  
2 low-interest Water System Revenue Bonds, of  
3 which monies will be drawn as needed to cover  
4 costs associated with 1,4-dioxane treatment  
5 plants as well as water main replacement  
6 projects and other components of the Authority's  
7 long-term capital improvements plan. Additional  
8 revenue will also be needed to develop  
9 infrastructure that may be required to remove  
10 PFOS and PFAS and to maintain and modernize the  
11 Authority's aging water distribution system,  
12 some of which dates back more than 100 years.

13           Currently, customers of the Authority are  
14 charged \$4.74 per CCF, which is 100 cubic feet  
15 or 750 gallons of water. The average residential  
16 customer of the Authority pays \$58.46 a month  
17 for water use. Excellent customer service,  
18 distribution system reliability and optimum  
19 quality control provide added value.

20           The Authority's \$9.7 million operating budget  
21 for 2021 is used to serve a population of 32,400  
22 people. More than 1.5 billion gallons of water  
23 are provided annually to 9,553 service  
24 connections via 117 miles of water mains  
25 situated throughout 7.5 square miles on the

1 Great Neck Peninsula. The Authority maintains 11  
2 active drinking wells, 2.5 million gallons of  
3 water storage capacity and 827 fire hydrants.

4 Since the Great Neck community purchased the  
5 assets of the Citizens Water Supply Company in  
6 1989, the Authority has been challenged with:  
7 \*maintaining & upgrading an aging infrastructure that dates back more  
8 than 100 years  
9 \*addressing the threat of salt-water intrusion  
10 \*meeting Homeland Security requirements, a  
growing demand for water, conservation mandates  
11 and stricter federal & state quality standards  
12 \*hardening the infrastructure to protect against flooding; and  
13 \*planning for future infrastructure needs

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15 During the past 12 years, the Authority  
16 completed a long list of major capital  
17 improvement projects to maintain the existing  
18 infrastructure, improve the distribution system,  
19 meet drinking water quality standards and  
20 provide excellent customer service.

21 Here are just a few examples:  
22 \*8.5 miles (which equals  
23 44,880 linear feet) of water mains replaced  
24 \*2 new wells and 3 modern water treatment  
25 plants developed.

1                   \*A sophisticated Supervisory Control & Data  
2 Acquisition system introduced.

3                   \*Meter change-out program completed.

4                   \*3 new backup generators installed.

5                   \*Water storage tank replaced.

6

7                   Future planning also includes replacing and  
8 improving more than 35 miles (which equals  
9 184,800 linear feet) of old water main,  
10 protecting 3 well sites against flooding and  
11 re-painting 2 water storage tanks.

12                   After careful analysis and consideration, in  
13 an effort to raise capital needed to ensure that  
14 it can continue to honor its commitment to only  
15 deliver water that meets or exceeds all federal,  
16 state and county standards, the Board of Directors  
17 of the Water Authority proposes a 2% increase in  
18 water rates to \$4.83 per CCF, as well as a new  
19 treatment fee, as a result of New York State  
20 mandates, of \$23.37 per quarter, which would  
21 together increase the average residential bill by  
22 \$8.90 per month or 30 cents per day. The  
23 proposed effective date is January 1, 2021.

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25                   In addition, a 2% rate increase to \$4.93 per



1 CCF is proposed, effective January 1, 2022,  
2 resulting in an average monthly increase of  
3 \$1.23, and on January 1, 2023 to \$5.03 per CCF,  
4 which would amount to a \$1.23 monthly increase  
5 for the average residential customer.

6 The proposed \$23.37 quarterly new treatment  
7 fee, as a result of New York State mandates,  
8 would remain in effect until it is no longer  
9 needed to meet budgetary requirements.

10 Details of the proposed changes are available  
11 on the Authority's website.

12 In closing, customers are encouraged to help  
13 reduce costs by taking steps to conserve water  
14 whenever possible. With irrigation accounting  
15 for about 50% of our residential water use, an  
16 annual survey of the sprinkling system is  
17 advised. Repairs and updates to the system, as  
18 well as the introduction of modern smart  
19 technology, may result in a significant  
20 reduction in water use.

21 Indoor leaks should be addressed and  
22 water-saving appliances purchased when possible.  
23 The Authority's newly designed household water  
24 conservation kit is available free to the  
25 public. Please log onto the Authority's website

1 for more information about conservation tips and  
 2 initiatives.

3 Thank you for your attention. The hearing is  
 4 now open to public comment.

5 Is there any public comment?

6 (No response.)

7 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: Let the record show  
 8 that there is no public comment.

9 I will now entertain a resolution to adopt  
 10 the proposed increases.

11 Can I have a motion?

12 DIRECTOR WEINBERG: Motion to accept. [Res. #20-10-18]

13 DIRECTOR LOPATKIN: Second.

14 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: All in favor?

15 (Whereupon all board members responded in the  
 16 affirmative.)

17 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: Any opposed?

18 (No response.)

19 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: None opposed. The  
 20 motion is passed.

21 I will now entertain a motion to adjourn the  
 22 public hearing.

23 DIRECTOR SMILEY: So moved.

24 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: Seconded?

25 DIRECTOR JOHNEAS: Second.

1 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: All in favor?  
2 (Whereupon all board members responded in the  
3 affirmative.)

4 VICE CHAIRPERSON KREITZMAN: May I  
5 suggest your statement be posted on the website?

6 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: It shall be, right  
7 after the meeting.

8 VICE CHAIRPERSON KREITZMAN: Correct. Thank you.

9 CHAIRPERSON KALNICK: Any further comments?  
10 (No response.)

11 Well thank you all for joining and have a pleasant evening.

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