

- TIME** Chairman Mannone convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.
- ROLL CALL** Commissioners Beckman, Samoles, Mannone
- VISITORS** Oceanside Residents
- MOTION PREVIOUS MINUTES** On Motion by Commissioner Samoles and seconded by Commissioner Mannone to Table the reading and approval of the minutes for the General Board meeting on February 2, 2023, Meeting #3450 Approved, 3-0. Motion passed
- CORRESPONDENCE** None
- MOTION DISTRICT EXPENSES** On Motion by Commissioner Beckman and seconded by Commissioner Samoles to approve payment of District operating expenses, including payroll, for the period from February 3,2023 through March 2, 2023. Approved, 3-0. Motion passed.
- MOTION DISTRICT CLAIMS** On Motion by Commissioner Beckman and seconded by Commissioner Samoles to approve payment to each claimant in the abstract of claims provided by the District Treasurer and audited by the Board for the period from February 3,2023 through March 2, 2023 Approved, 3-0. Motion passed.

**REPORTS**

**Reports:**

- Treasurer’s Report: Subject to Audit
- Supervisors’ Report: Nothing new to report
- Commissioner/Committee Reports Nothing new to report
- Chairman’s Report: Nothing new to report
- Budget Committee Report: Nothing new to report
- Commercial Pick-Up Committee: Nothing new to report
- Public Relations Committee: Nothing new to report
- Insurance Committee: Nothing new to report
- Personnel Committee: Nothing new to report
- Ethics Committee: Nothing new to report
- IT Committee: Nothing new to report

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**PERB Filing:**

Mr. Ciampoli has the letter ready to go, however, he is missing the last bit of information from CSEA. Mr. Ciampoli is asking for The Board for authorization to sign the PERB application on behalf Oceanside Sanitation. On Motion by Commissioner Samoles and seconded by Commissioner Beckman , Approved, 3-0. Motion passed.

**Stevens Court Investigation Status:**

On Motion by Commissioner Mannone and seconded by Commissioner Samoles to approve to move Steven Court issue off agenda Approved, 3-0. Motion passed.

**Solar Panel RFP**

Mr. Ciampoli suggests to not send out the previous RFP's we did in the past. The Solar Panel recommendation from the Solar Institute is to send RFP's with specific requirements and compare all RFP's apples to apples. Commissioner Beckman reiterates her concern of no cash outlay. Secretary Kornbluth suggested to use the New York State vendor list as they provide tax benefits. A callout from one of the residents is to make sure the panels will not affect the roof warranty.

## NEW BUSINESS

### MOTION

On motion by Chairman Mannone to restore the proposed hiring guideline draft that was tabled on 10/6/22. Suggestion is made that all Commissioners and our legal adviser Mr. Ciampoli review these documents. The document contains a list of civil service titles, job responsibilities, and qualifications. Seconded by Commissioner Beckman, Approved, 3-0. Motion passed.

On motion by Chairman Mannone to Seconded by Commissioner Beckman to review and submit accountant policy and procedure that we received from the Accountant. Approved, 3-0. Motion passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident at 289 Pearl St in East Rockaway raised the issue of the 13% tax increase. Questioned why there needs to be 3 times a week pick up, the budget accuracy and she felt her service hasn't changed to suggest this increase was needed. Treasurer suggested looking on Oceanside Sanitation website for a detailed itemized listing. Legal advisor adds we are contractually obligated on certain salary increases. Commissioner Samoles added fuel cost, and COLA (cost of living adjustment) added to this increase. In addition, Oceanside Sanitation is cheaper than TOH. Commissioner Mannone adds she can request a FOIL if she would like more information. The resident suggests incremental increases vs one large increase and add that the sanitation workers should not be paid more than Social workers or Teachers, "they only pick up garbage."

Mr. Cibellis questioned why meetings are no longer posted online? Co Chairman Mannone responded the board agreed to put on hold temporarily during litigation and to diminish the chaos it was causing. The original reason to post was during covid.

Mr. Cibellis questioned the status of the oath of office. Legal advisor Mr. Ciampolis advised the lawsuit was dismissed. Mr. Graff's appeal was denied as well. By law the officers of the board are as is. Mr. Cibellis asked if there was a refile, and was told by Ciampoli not allowed at this time as this is past the 30 days.

Mr. Cibellis questioned the if there needs to be a motion to reinstate an employee? Mr. Ciampoli replied it's based on the circumstance. No motion is needed after an arbitrator or a court order settlement under a contract that already exists.

Mr. Cibellis questioned if there was a \$6M surplus when Commissioner Mannone began his term. Commissioner Mannone said he always felt the surplus was too high, Mr. Ciampoli added fund balance counts as a surplus as well. Mr. Cibellis adds LY was a 4% tax increase, and this year was a 13% increase. his concern is it hit 18% over 24 months. Commissioner Mannone added this year we had contractual obligations, and inflation. Commissioner Samoles adds when Mr. Cibellis was on the board the workers were paid poverty level. The top salary was \$50,000. Cibellis said he questioned why no taxes were raised on an election year.

Mr. Faust would like to discuss management. Has a pie chart or donut chart been done while doing the budget? He suggests a committee to start now, and look for ways to save money. The CPI during 3rd qtr. was at 8.7% for social security. What percentage does salary and benefits represent to the total? Mr. Faust said he calculated is at 84%, and 56% is salary. He shared while he worked his employees that were the most valuable were the ones that disagreed with him. Mr. Faust suggests that Supervisors don't want to step up as they don't want to get their heads chopped off. Once again, Mr. Faust brought attention to Ms. Urli's sexual harassment case. Chairman Mannone and Commissioner Beckman both say we can not discuss this matter as it's in litigation.

Commissioner Mannone, we received the draft from Nassau County, they specifically asked we not share, and not make public yet. Mr. Cibellis asked didn't we get this a year ago? Didn't this board ask for the audit 2 years ago? Commissioner Mannone said there must be a mis communication. The Auditors changed the procedure about 3 months ago. We got the draft this week in the new format. The draft gives us a pretty good idea of what they are looking for. It will be online once it is final.

Mr. Pearsall - this is his first meeting he has attended. He asked if this is the first audit. Mr. Ciampoli says no. Mr. Pearsall asked if they are involved in the budget process? Commissioner Mannone adds the Treasurer is very involved, and there is feedback from the Supervisors. Commissioner Mannone shares health insurance and cost of living drove the cost up as well. The contracts were all written well before the inflation increase. The budget is posted, as well as the minutes online on the Sanitation website. Commissioner Beckman added the actual meeting was online. There were lots of debates, and differences of opinions. Of the \$10M budget vs a \$9M budget, how much was attributed to the settlement of lawsuits? Mr. Mannone asked what time period? Pearsall asked about the recent one under Mr. Brewington. Legal counsel cautions Commissioners to not discuss, as there are ongoing litigations. He adds the cost to the district was extensively mitigated by having insurance. Mr. Pearsall asked if the liability insurance increased, the Treasurer responded yes. Pearsall adds we are all paying for this. We see that mis management has reared its ugly head.

Mr. Pearsall questioned the Treasurer, are you an accountant or civil service? Treasurer is a civil service employee. Commissioner Mannone adds 14% was a bad idea, no one likes to see a number like that. There is a responsibility on the board with some decision that were made. As an individual commissioner, I can say decisions were made that I disapprove of. Again, Mr. Pearsall says something went wrong in order to have to raise taxes that much. Treasurer adds the numbers are factual, Commissioner Mannone said it was not a processing error. Mr. Cibellis added, you decisions are made as a board, you can't have it both ways. Commissioner Beckman agrees that taxes should have been raised over the past 5 years in small increments. Cibellis says it's Beckman's budget year, and Beckman says she will take under advisement. The budget meeting was on the table and it was transparent. The next budget meeting is in July. Mr. Faust suggests to have the budget meeting start earlier. Mr. Pearsall shares his admiration for the service and the good work the gentleman do with sanitation.

Commissioner Mannone - how he would like to bring down the budget, with a little luck with the current inflation, possibly a 2% tax ink every year. Municipalities sometimes don't need the tax increase and take anyway. We made the mistake. We would have been ok without the 8.9% inflation. I am not a government guy, just trying to keep taxes down. Mr. Pearsall asked how long our accountants have been with Oceanside Sanitation. The Treasurer adds 4-5 years. The Secretary adds, we discussed putting out RFP after 4 years as recommended by the Town Comptrollers Office. Mr. Pearsall hopes they are looking out for the districts best interest, and they are upholding their fiduciary responsibility. Commissioner Beckman assures the residents they are looking out for the tax payers, and our workers.

Mr. Cibellis asked if the budget meeting will be posted. Commissioner Beckman says we did last time. Cibellis asked are you posting this years budget meeting? Commissioner Mannone says when it gets to the point we will make a decision. Mr. Faust shares 2021/2022 budget meetings have been taken down and adds he gets emotional because he strong about doing the right thing. The January 5, 2023 minutes are not online, as they need to be signed.

Eva and Bruce Etson ask for a private meeting with the Board to discuss a way to help the community with a water system. They shared a catalog. Mr. Ciampoli said if the meeting is with 3 or more commissioners in one room it would need to be in a public forum. If you want to speak with 1 or 2 at a time that is ok.

**MOTION EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On Motion by Commissioner Beckman , seconded by Commissioner Samoles to go into executive session. Motion approved, 3-0

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**MOTION**

On Motion by Commissioner Samoles , seconded by Commissioner Beckman to approve the buybacks. Let the minutes reflect the details. Motion approved, 3-0

**MOTION**

On Motion by Commissioner Mannone , seconded by Commissioner Beckman to increase John Corso's salary as the 6th month probation has concluded. Motion approved, 3-0

**MOTION**

Buy Backs:

Employee Number 116

32535.23

Employee Number 114

14631.05

Employee Number 8742

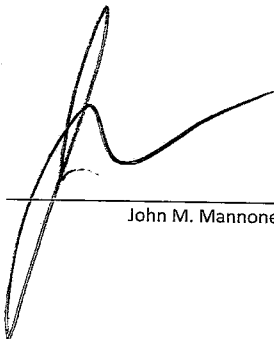
8214.15

Employee Number 9780

11731.2

Employee Number 138

11290.08



John M. Mannone, Chairman

Austin R. Graff, Co-Chairman

Patrick Doherty

Joseph Samoles



Sheryl Beckman

