



MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Thursday, February 26, 2026 – 10:30 AM
Warneck Pump Station
James W. Wright Conference Room
23557 NYS Rt. 37, Watertown, New York

The Development Authority of the North Country Board of Directors met in regular session in person and via Zoom Videoconference at the Warneck Pump Station, 23557 NYS Rt. 37, Watertown, New York on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:30 AM.

Members Present

Voting

Margaret Murray, Chairperson
Mary Doheny
Alex MacKinnon
Dennis Mastascusa*
Kenneth Bibbins*
Mark Hall
Thomas Hefferon
Eric Virkler

Non-Voting

Travis Flint
Nancy Henry
Steve Hunt
Brian McGrath*

Members Absent

*Attended via videoconferencing

+Attended using audio only, unable to vote

Staff Present:

Carl Farone, Executive Director
Jennifer Staples, Chief Financial Officer
Carrie Tuttle, Chief Operating Officer
Stephen Bohmer, Director of Information Technology
Michelle Capone, Director of Regional Development
Thomas Haynes, Director of Engineering
Dawn Loudon, Comptroller
Laurie Marr, Director of Public Affairs and Communications
Brian Nutting, Director of Water Quality
Regina Rybka-Lagattuta, Director of Human Resources
Shawn Thornton, Director of Materials Management
David Wolf, Telecommunications Strategic Advisor
Brian Zuris, Director of Telecommunications
Angela Marra, Executive Assistant
Tonya Watson, Administrative Associate

Guests:

Jennifer Granzow, Counsel, Wladis Law Firm
Ben Cruz, NEXT MOVE NY, Program Administrator

1. Chairperson Murray called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM.
2. Chairperson Murray requested a roll call.
 - A quorum of voting and non-voting members was established.
3. Privilege of the Floor -

A. MacKinnon shared regarding the recent St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators meeting attended by C. Farone, M. Hall and A. MacKinnon. The purpose of attending was to deliver a presentation regarding what the Development Authority is doing in general, but more specifically in St. Lawrence County. A. MacKinnon felt the meeting went well and was a good opportunity for questions, which mainly focused on cost increases and gave C. Farone a good opportunity to explain why costs have increased. The chairman of the committee had a specific question regarding turning trash into electricity. A. MacKinnon stated that he reminded the chairman that St. Lawrence County had initially decided to go with an incinerator that was to be located at the Ogdensburg port and was planned to be the garbage destination of the Great Lakes. At the last minute, this decision was changed by one vote bringing them to where they are today. The meeting was a good opportunity for discussion.

4. Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by M. Hall, the minutes from the December 18, 2025 Board Meeting, were unanimously approved.

5. Chairperson's Report

a. M. Murray welcomed Travis Flint to the Board. T. Flint met several Board members by attending the recent Finance and Budget Committee meeting. He is serving on the Authority Board of Directors as he was appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul.

b. M. Murray appointed a Nominating Committee for our upcoming officers as follows:

- Tom Hefferon, as committee chair
- Mark Hall
- Eric Virkler
- Ken Bibbins
- Brian McGrath

They will present their selections at the March Board meeting.

c. The next scheduled Board Meeting is the Annual Meeting and will be held Thursday, March 26, 2026 at 10:30 AM, in the James W. Wright Conference Room at Warneck.

M. Murray noted that the Executive Director's report and finance report will be moved to the end of the meeting.

6. Governance –

C. Farone explained that a number of resolutions being presented are for required policies of the Authority, and are annually required by state law to be reviewed and approved by the Authority Board of Directors.

- a. Resolution No. 2026-02-01, approves the Disposition of Real Property Policy as attached and incorporated in this resolution.

M. Doheny asked if this resolution is to be reviewed annually.

C. Farone confirmed that it is.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by E. Virkler, Resolution No. 2026-02-01, Approving Disposition of Real Property Policy, was unanimously approved.

- b. Resolution No. 2026-02-02, approves the Investment Policy as attached and incorporated in this resolution.

C. Farone noted this policy resolution is approved by the Board annually. He additionally noted the modification is a title change from Accountant II to Senior Accountant.

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-02, Approving Investment Policy, was unanimously approved.

- c. Resolution No. 2026-02-03, approves the Procurement Policy as attached and incorporated in this resolution.

C. Farone noted this policy resolution is approved by the Board annually. He additionally noted the modification is noted under discretionary purchases which states the Authority may purchase commodities or services costing less than \$15,000 in aggregate per vendor. This is pursuant to Section 163 of State Finance Law.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-03, Approving Procurement Policy, was unanimously approved.

- d. Resolution No. 2026-02-04, approves modifications to the Purchase Card Policy as attached and incorporated in this resolution.

C. Farone noted this policy resolution is not required to be reviewed and approved annually, however all of our policies are reviewed by Authority staff annually with any changes being brought before the Board for approval. He continued by noting the modification as a change in title from Accountant II to Senior Accountant. C. Farone further explained the reasoning and use of purchase cards within the Authority, to include no members of senior management having one. The use of purchase cards is very limited, typically being used for administrative purchases where a purchase card is required or when the vendor is only being used one time.

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-04, Purchase Card Policy, Approving Modifications, was unanimously approved.

B. McGrath left the meeting at 10:39 AM.

- e. Resolution No. 2026-02-05, approves modifications to the Travel and Miscellaneous Expense Policy as attached and incorporated in this resolution.

C. Farone noted this policy resolution is not required to be reviewed and approved annually, but has been reviewed by executive management with a few modifications. He noted the modifications as the following; a change to language regarding reimbursable expenses, changing frequent flyer miles to read costs associated with joining a loyalty program offered by airlines, and a title was updated from the Administrative Coordinator to Executive Assistant.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-05, Travel and Miscellaneous Expense Policy, Approving Modifications, was unanimously approved.

- f. Resolution No. 2026-02-06, authorizes the Executive Director to approve compensation adjustments, effective for the Fiscal Year 2027, commencing April 1, 2026 within the budgetary authorizations and consistent with Authority personnel policies authorized by the Board.

C. Farone stated that this year, included in the budget is a 4.25% wage pool. He explained this does not mean everyone receives an increase of 4.25%, but instead creates a pool to be utilized throughout the year when looking for adjustments for staff. In 2021 the Authority completed a wage study for all Authority positions to ensure we were paying our staff fairly. This study was updated this year to ensure we are still where we need to be. The proposed 4.25% is sufficient to provide for cost-of-living adjustments and other appropriate adjustments.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2026-02-06, Authorizing Executive Director of Implement Compensation Plan, was unanimously approved.

7. Finance –

C. Farone stated that the Finance and Budget Committee met on February 9th to review and recommend the full budget package, resolutions 07 through 12, to the full Board for their approval today.

- a. Resolution No. 2026-02-07, approves and adopts the Administrative Budget Fiscal Year 2027 and line items contained therein, as proposed. This resolution also approves the Administrative Capital Projects for the Fiscal Year 2027 and authorizes the Executive Director to undertake and pay for such projects, including contracting. Further, capital funds that were previously approved, but not fully executed, are carried forward for use in Fiscal Year 2027. The Schedule of Restricted / Board Designated Reserves are also approved in this resolution, as well as the ability to manage reserves delegated to the Executive Director who shall report such actions to the Board of Directors on a timely basis. The Fiscal Year 2027 Administrative Allocations are approved and adopted, as well as the Audit Committee Budget. This resolution authorizes the Executive Director to execute grant agreements and related documents with grant recipients as appropriate.

M. Hall asked if National Grid was paying us up front, or will it be a reimbursement.

C. Farone and C. Tuttle confirmed they are paying the majority (85%) up front.

E. Virkler asked if C. Farone could review the Board Designated Tip Fee Reserve.

C. Farone explained that within the Board designated reserve for Materials Management, we have a Tip Fee Stabilization Reserve with about \$3.4 million. This reserve can be utilized to stabilize rates when there isn't enough funding through actual tip fees.

A. MacKinnon commented in regard to the Authority's large reserve amounts or fund balances. He referenced a recent incident in Washington DC where a major pipe broke letting raw sewage into the Potomac River, and continued with stating the Authority is in this business too. When we have a problem such as this, we are ready in minutes to begin the repair because of these reserves. In these instances, there isn't time to apply for a grant or shop for the proper equipment, there are minutes to begin taking care of the problem. This requires cash on hand and that is the purpose of these reserves so the Authority is able to take care of the unforeseen.

C. Farone added that this was part of the presentation recently given in St. Lawrence County. Authority fund balances were reviewed and compared to upcoming construction schedules to explain our rates. This is an expensive business, and sharing this information helps others understand the process.

M. Hall commented that the Authority is very responsible to operate with these reserves in this way.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2026-02-07, Approving Fiscal Year 2027 Administrative Budget, Capital Projects, Administrative Allocations and Audit Committee Budget, was unanimously approved.

b. Resolution No. 2026-02-08, approves and adopts the Fiscal Year 2027 Engineering Budget and line items contained therein, as proposed. This resolution further delegates the Executive Director to negotiate contracts and report such actions to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-08, Approving Fiscal Year 2027 Engineering Division Operating Budget, was unanimously approved.

c. Resolution No. 2026-02-09, approves and adopts the Fiscal Year 2027 Materials Management Division Budget and line items contained therein, as proposed. This resolution also approves the Materials Management capital projects for the Fiscal Year 2027 and authorizes the Executive Director to undertake and pay for such projects, including contracting. Further, capital funds, that were previously approved but not fully expended, are carried forward for use in Fiscal Year 2027. This resolution also approves the tipping fees as follows:

Municipal solid waste, construction and demolition waste, and ash

April 1, 2026	\$61.00 per ton
January 1, 2027	\$65.00 per ton

Non-beneficial use sludge, industrial waste and sewage sludge

April 1, 2026	\$50.00 per ton
January 1, 2027	\$57.00 per ton

Non-hazardous petroleum contaminated soil and beneficial use sludge

April 1, 2026	\$31.00 per ton
January 1, 2027	\$36.00 per ton

Friable asbestos (one-ton minimum)

April 1, 2026	\$200 per ton (no change)
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Asbestos-containing material or other waste that requires special handling protocol during disposal

April 1, 2026	\$91.00 per ton
January 1, 2027	\$96.00 per ton

This resolution extends the Community Improvement Program and the Residential Cleanup Program for Fiscal Year 2027 at a discount of 25% off the published gate rate. Reserve requirements per ton as included in the tipping fees shall be \$12.00 for Closure, \$8.50 for Replacement, and \$8.00 for Liner. Pursuant to the Host Community Agreement with the Town of Rodman, the estimated host benefit fees of \$1,008,586 will be paid for the Fiscal Year 2027. The resolution further delegates the authority to establish tipping fees, special condition fees, manage reserves, establish host community agreements and negotiate hauler contracts to the Executive Director, who shall report such actions to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.

C. Farone explained that Finance and Budget Committee reviewed the Fiscal Year 2027 Operating Budget, Capital Projects, Reserve Requirements, and Tipping Fees. They unanimously voted to recommend budgets to the full Board, provided that staff review the recommended tip fee increase for municipal solid waste, C&D, and ash. This review was done and it was agreed that we could reduce the increase from \$5 to \$4, or \$65 per ton. This rate results in an estimated \$173,000 less coming in through customer billings, which requires the Tip Fee Reserve to be utilized to offset this difference.

M. Hall asked how much is currently in the Tip Fee Reserve. C. Farone replied there is \$3.4 million

C. Farone further explained this resolution will approve the rate increase as just discussed, and if approved the Authority will notify the partners of the increase to go into effect January 1 to allow them time to budget for that increase.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2026-02-09, Approving Fiscal Year 2027 Materials Management Division Operating Budget, Capital Projects, Reserve Requirements, and Tipping Fees, was unanimously approved.

- c. Resolution No. 2026-02-10, approves and adopts the Regional Development Budget and line items contained therein, as proposed for Fiscal Year 2027. This resolution also delegates the authority to negotiate contracts to the Executive Director who will report to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-10, Approving Fiscal Year 2027 Regional Development Budget, was unanimously approved.

- d. Resolution No. 2026-02-11, approves and adopts the Telecommunications Division Budget and line items contained therein, as proposed. This resolution also approves the Telecommunications Division capital projects for the Fiscal Year 2027 and authorizes the Executive Director to undertake and pay for such projects, including contracting, on such terms and conditions, as he shall determine. Further, capital funds that were previously approved but not fully expended are carried forward for use in Fiscal Year 2027. Based on anticipated circuit volume, a tariff was filed with and accepted by the Public Service Commission on May 1, 2004 will remain in effect for Fiscal Year 2027. This resolution also approves that the reserves will be maintained on an on-going basis for the Fiscal Year 2027. Previously authorized reserves have been created and capitalized as of December 31, 2025 in the following amounts, Operating \$1,177,109 and Repair and Upgrade \$3,924,570. The following reserves will be maintained on an on-going basis for Fiscal Year 2027, Operating 16.7% of Revenue, Repair & Upgrade 11% of OSP Replacement Cost. To enhance the Authority's ability to respond promptly to changing conditions in the competitive telecommunications market, the authority to create and manage reserves, establish agreements and negotiate contracts, this resolution also delegates the Executive Director who shall report such actions to the Board of Directors on a timely basis.

M. Doheny asked for an explanation regarding the tariff being filed and accepted.

C. Farone responded that we filed a tariff with the PSC for the operation of the telecommunication system and it is a very high-level document that does not reference pricing, but only the types of service that are offered.

M. Doheny confirmed this is an operational guideline.

C. Farone replied yes, and it explains we do not provide various services such as internet.

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-11, Approving Fiscal Year 2027 Telecommunications Division Operating Budget, Capital Projects, Reserve Requirements, and Tariff, was unanimously approved.

- e. Resolution No. 2026-02-12, approves and adopts the Water Quality Management Budgets and line items contained therein, as proposed. This resolution also approves the Water Quality Management's capital projects for the Fiscal Year 2027 and authorizes the Executive Director to undertake and pay for such projects, including contracting, on such terms and conditions, as he shall

determine. Capital funds that were previously approved but not fully expended are carried forward for use in Fiscal Year 2027. This resolution approves and adopts user charges for Water Quality Management for Fiscal Year 2027 as proposed. This resolution authorizes and directs the Executive Director to manage reserves for the Army Waterline and Sewer Line, and Regional Waterline projects consistent with contractual requirements. To enhance the Authority's ability to respond promptly to customer requirements, the authority to negotiate contracts is delegated to the Executive Director who will report such actions to the Board of Directors in a timely manner.

C. Farone noted that Authority staff have met with the Army regarding the Army Water Line budget and the Army Sewer Line budget, and they are in agreement with the budgets and the charges. We have also met with the partners of the Regional Water Line to review the budget, and they are in agreement with what is being presented.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2026-02-12, Approving Fiscal Year 2027 Water Quality Management Division Operating Budget, Capital Projects, and User Charges, was approved. M. Hall abstained from this vote.

f. Resolution No. 2025-02-13, approves and adopts the Fiscal Year 2026 North County Economic Development Fund Budget and line items contained therein, as proposed. The North Country Economic Development Fund Board ratified the FY 2027 Budget at its meeting on February 20, 2026.

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by E. Virkler, Resolution No. 2026-02-13, Approving Fiscal Year 2027 North Country Economic Development Fund Budget, was unanimously approved.

M. Murray expressed her appreciation to C. Farone and all Authority staff for their hard work in assembling this year's budget, and helping to make this process seamless.

8. Technical Services Summary Report –

a. Non-Lewis County Contracts –

- I. St. Lawrence County, SUB, 2025 CDBG Program, Total Agreement Amount of \$110,000.00, 2/01/26 – 12/31/28, St. Lawrence County
- II. Town of Gouverneur, SUB, 2025 CDBG Program, Total Agreement Amount of \$47,000.00, 2/01/26 – 12/31/28, St. Lawrence County
- III. North Country Alliance, TSA, NBRC Grant Administration (AP-NBRC-421) North Country Alliance, Total Agreement Amount of \$10,000.00, 1/26/26 – 12/31/27, St. Lawrence County
- IV. Paul Smith's College, TSA, NBRC Grant Administration (AP-NBRC-471) Forest Economy Program, Total Agreement Amount of \$19,999.00, 3/01/26 – 12/31/28, Franklin County

- V. St. Lawrence County IDA, TSA, NBRC Grant Administration (AP-NBRC-403) Graphite Mining Facility Gouverneur, Total Agreement Amount of \$10,000.00, 3/01/26 – 12/31/27, St. Lawrence County
- VI. Adirondack Economic Development Corporation, TSA, NBRC Grant Administration (AP-NBRC-403) Small Business Acceleration Program, Total Agreement Amount of \$8,000.00, 1/12/26 – 12/31/27, Franklin County
- VII. Adirondack Recreational Trail Association, TSA, NBRC Grant Administration (AP-NBRC-372) Small Business Acceleration Program, Total Agreement Amount of \$8,000.00, 1/12/26 – 12/31/27, Franklin County
- VIII. Village of Turin, TSA, Turin Municipal Sewer Study (No Cost to Village – will be paid for with NBRC funds awarded to the Authority for planning), Total Agreement Amount \$7,500.00, 1/01/2026 – 8/31/2026, Lewis County
- IX. Village of Theresa, TSA, Theresa Wastewater Disinfection System Improvements Amendment 4 (no cost amendment to add NYSEFC terms and conditions), Total Agreement Amount \$68,000.00, 5/06/2019 – 12/31/2027, Jefferson County
- X. Town of Gouverneur, GIS, GIS Hosting Services 5-Year Agreement, Total Agreement Amount \$4,650.00, 1/01/2026 – 12/31/2030, St. Lawrence County
- XI. Town of Parishville, GIS, GIS Hosting Services 5-Year Agreement, Total Agreement Amount \$4,650.00, 1/01/2026 – 12/31/2030, St. Lawrence County
- XII. Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, GIS, GIS Hosting Services 5-Year Agreement, Total Agreement Amount \$8,800.00, 1/01/2026 – 12/31/2030, Warren County
- XIII. Town of Cape Vincent, SSA, Cape Vincent Pump Stations VFD Replacement, Total Agreement Amount \$9,875.00, 1/01/2026 – 12/31/2030, Jefferson County
- XIV. Village of Sackets Harbor, O&M, Operations and Maintenance Service Agreement, Total Agreement Amount \$605,500.00, 6/01/2026 – 5/31/2031, Jefferson County

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon, and seconded by E. Virkler, Board Contract Summary Table items numbered I through XIV for the month of February were unanimously approved.

9. Materials Management –

- a. Resolution No. 2026-02-14, authorizes and directs the Executive Director to amend the Materials Management Facility budget outlined in the table within the resolution due to changes made within Total Customer Billings and Host Community Benefits (6006). The Total Change in Expenditures will be \$121,128 and the Total Impact on Change in Net Position will be \$1,595,523.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by E. Virkler, Resolution No. 2026-02-14, Fiscal Year 2026 Operating Budget Amendment, Materials Management Division, was unanimously approved.

- b. Resolution No. 2026-02-15, authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and execute the Easement Agreement, by and between the Development Authority of the North Country and National Grid, as attached to the resolution.

Upon a motion by A. MacKinnon and seconded by M. Doheny, Resolution No. 2026-02-15, Easement Agreement, National Grid, Tax Parcel 114.00-1-20.2, Jefferson County, was unanimously approved.

B. McGrath returned to the meeting at 11:19 AM.

10. Telecommunications –

- a. Resolution No. 2026-02-16, authorizes the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an amendment to the existing agreement with Franklin County to reflect changes in the project scope, schedule and Authority labor costs during design and construction.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by M. Doheny, Resolution No. 2026-02-16, Franklin County Telecommunications Project Amendment, Telecommunications Division, was unanimously approved.

11. Water Quality –

- a. Resolution No. 2026-02-17, authorizes the standardization for purchases of certain classes of equipment for use in the Water Quality Management Division, as defined in Schedule A, as necessary for construction or operational activities and will provide economic and efficiency benefits, and is therefore in the best interests of the Authority. Furthermore, this resolution shall take effect immediately.

C. Farone commented that by virtue of standardization, this does not mean we will not be getting quotes or bids, but standardizes a specific piece of equipment and we will go out and find the best price for that.

M. Murray asked what the lead time would be on this piece of equipment.

T. Haynes responded the lead time could be 10 to 12 weeks.

C. Tuttle explained that we do have other pumps, but they are much larger than is needed for normal day to day operation and running them generates greater utility costs. The pump being replaced runs the majority of the time and has much less horsepower, resulting in lower energy costs.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by M. Doheny, Resolution No. 2026-02-17, Standardizing Upon Certain Equipment, Water Quality Division, was unanimously approved.

12. Regional Development –

- a. Loan Report – M. Capone reported there was nothing new on the loan portfolio outside of those already reported that have been past due.
- b. Resolution No. 2026-02-18, extends the term of the Tug Hill Artisan Roasters LLC Community Development Loan Fund for an additional 6 months to mature October 1, 2026, subject to the term sheet attached to the resolution.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-18, Community Development Loan Fund, Tug Hill Artisan Roasters LLC, Loan Extension, was unanimously approved.

- c. Resolution No. 2026-02-19, extends the term of the Clayton Improvement Association Economic Development Fund loan for an additional 6 months to mature September 1, 2026, subject to the term sheet attached to the resolution.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by M. Hall, Resolution No. 2026-02-19, Economic Development Fund, Clayton Improvement Association, Loan Extension, was approved. K. Bibbins abstained from this vote.

- d. Resolution No. 2026-02-20, authorizes an application be submitted to the Department of War for participation in the DoW SkillBridge Program and authorizes the Executive Director to execute all required documentation to implement this program.

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2026-02-20, Next Move NY, Department of War – SkillBridge Program, Authorization, was unanimously approved.

13. Executive Session – for the purpose of discussion regarding proposed, pending, or current litigation; and discussion regarding employment history of a particular person, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by A. MacKinnon, the Board moved into Executive Session at 11:28 AM.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded A. MacKinnon, the Board moved out of Executive Session at 11:52 PM.

No action was taken.

14. Additional Resolution –

- a. Resolution No. 2026-02-21, authorizes the Executive Director to enter into an agreement to amend the Facilities and Services Agreement dated May 31, 2024 with Hamilton County to increase project expenditures for reimbursement from Hamilton County from \$550,000 to \$1,084,800, and extend the term of the agreement from 20 to 30 years. Furthermore, it is resolved that upon execution of said amendment, the Development Authority of the North Country Board of

Directors authorizes the Chief Financial Officer to increase the Hamilton County Public Emergency Capital Project budget from \$550,000 to \$1,082,800.

Upon a motion by T. Hefferon and seconded by A. MacKinnon, Resolution No. 2026-02-21, Hamilton County Telecommunication Project, Capital Project Amendment, Telecommunications Division, was approved. M. Hall abstained from this vote.

- K. Bibbins left the meeting at 11:57 AM.
- T. Hefferon left the meeting at 11:59 AM.
- B. McGrath left the meeting at 12:00 PM.

15. Executive Director's Report –

- a. Welcome – Travis Flint:
C. Farone introduced and welcomed Travis Flint as the newly appointed Board member. T. Flint is the business manager and financial secretary of the IBEW 910. He has quickly completed his orientation for new board members, required training through the state, and has had his Authority photo taken so he has been officially onboarded.
- b. St. Lawrence County – Legislature Update:
C. Farone shared that A. MacKinnon, M. Hall, and himself gave a presentation in St. Lawrence County, as Mr. MacKinnon shared earlier in the meeting. Topics discussed covered everything from the landfill to economic developments. This was a very good meeting and seemed to be appreciated by the people in St. Lawrence County.
- c. Leachate Management:
C. Farone reported on a recent leachate concern that was brought up during the budget meeting. There is no Board action currently needed, but this information is being shared because it is something staff are paying attention to. Based on information recently shared during a webinar that was attended by Authority staff, we anticipate things are going to change quite a bit. C. Farone continued with a review of the current leachate process, and explained that based on information shared in the recent webinar we are anticipating a 99.9% removal requirement of all contaminants from leachate. This requirement will significantly change the way we process leachate, but we are informed and aware, putting us ahead of the curve. The Authority has received \$1 million grant to study leachate, but would like to wait for the requirements to be updated before we attempt to create a solution.

M. Doheny asked if the 99.9% contaminant removal is the new threshold, and further asked what the current threshold is.

C. Tuttle responded there is currently no threshold for leachate. We currently take leachate to water treatment plants and they dictate their limits based on the Clean Water Act. This change will make this a new Part 360 Permit requirement before it goes to be processed, and additionally means the wastewater treatment plants would need to get a Part 360 Permit in addition to their SPDES permit, completely changing the way leachate would be handled.

d. Next Move NY:

C. Farone shared that Next Move NY (NMNY) is going very well. This first year was a great deal of set up, hiring, and getting the job matching portal operational. This past week NMNY staff presented to ESD at their weekly lunch and learn program and that went very well. C. Farone recently provided an update to the Regional Council regarding this initiative. In January, 12 new employers were enrolled in the job matching portal and a press release was issued sharing that the job matching portal is operational. Companies, such as Cives Steel and Empire Mines, have contacted staff to extend their appreciation and share they are receiving resumes from Fort Drum soldiers. Three transitioning service members and one veteran were placed in meaningful employment, and we anticipate these number to only increase as more people begin using the job matching portal.

A. MacKinnon commented that he didn't realize this portal was not for just for Fort Drum, but all across the country.

C. Farone replied that it is going very well and people seem pleased with the momentum.

16. Finance –

a. J. Staples reviewed the December financials, beginning with the Statement of Net Position which reflects the changes from fiscal year-end 2025 against the December fiscal year 2026 year to date. The change between Assets and Total Liabilities, Deferred Outflows, and Net Position is an increase of \$6.3 million, or 2.4%. There are a couple notable changes to assets; Restricted Assets decreased by \$7 million as funds moved from Restricted to Loans Receivable due to Regional Development loans funds, and several capital projects spends at the Materials Management facility, such as cell 14 construction, the landfill gas tie-in and main flare project, and the wheeled loader and articulated hauler. As the capital funds are spent, Capital Assets increased from \$94.8 million at the end of Fiscal Year 25 to \$108 million at the end of December.

Under Liabilities, Unearned Income saw an increase of \$6 million in Fiscal Year 26 to \$15.3 million due to all the pre-paid funds from National Grid coming into Telecom associated with the expansion project which is \$4.4 million to date and the NTIA project as make-ready gets completed by National Grid bringing in \$2.7 million. Under Net Position, the liner reserve and the replacement reserve have been reduced as these funds are spent on Materials Management projects.

J. Staples moved on to the Change in Net Position for All Units. Total Operating Revenue is running lower than the year-to-date budget by \$833,000 as associated with Grant Revenue for Telecom. Overall, Grant Revenue is expected to be under budget for all of fiscal year 26 due to the NTIA project as the construction is pushed out waiting for the make ready to be completed. Within Operating Revenue, Customer Billings is over budget mainly associated with Materials Management. MMF Tonnage at the end of December was over budget by 39,993 tons, mainly due to asbestos from a number of special waste projects

in fiscal year 26. The increased tons will, as seen in a previous resolution, increase the host community benefits expense.

Operating Expenses are under budget by \$998,000. This is due to a few reasons; Office and Administration and Professional Fees are both under budget, largely associated with Next Move NY funds not being spent. Additionally, Closure and Post Closure costs and Host Community Benefits are over budget year-to-date and are both driven by the additional tons received.

Under Non-Operating Revenue, Total Non-Operating Revenue and Expense is over budget by \$1.4 million, mainly associated with Interest Income. Interest Income is over budget by \$1.2 million year-to-date, Actual Interest Income year-to-date is \$2.5 million and the Market Adjustment is a positive \$563,000, adding up to the December year-to-date Interest Income of \$3 million. Market Adjustments are not a realized gain or loss unless we pull the money out of the investment early. The gain on Trade-In of Fixed Assets is \$231,000 year-to-date for funds received for the equipment trade-ins made at Materials Management facility for the articulated hauler, mini excavator, and the loader.

To summarize, the Change in Net Position shows a gain of \$4 million versus a year-to-date budgeted gain of \$2.5 million.

Upon a motion by E. Virkler, and seconded by M. Hall, financials ending December 31, 2025, were unanimously approved.

17. The next Board Meeting will take place on March 26, 2026.

M. Murray shared that she will be out of town for the March meeting. She will Zoom in, but M. Doheny will chair the meeting. Today is her last official meeting as chairperson and she wanted to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support and their trust in her over the last few years.

18. Adjourn -

Upon a motion by M. Hall and seconded by E. Virkler, the meeting was adjourned at 12:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Dennis Mastascusa
Board Secretary