

**Minutes of a Meeting
of the**

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

DuPage Water Commission
600 E. Butterfield Road, Elmhurst, Illinois

February 19, 2026

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Zay at 6:08 P.M.

Commissioners in attendance: N. Cuzzone, A. Honig, D. Novotny, K Romano, D. Russo, F. Saverino, P. Suess, J. Zay

Commissioners Absent: J. Fennell, S. Greaney, T. Noonan, J. Pruyn, D. Van Vooren

Also in attendance: P. May, C. Bostick, C. Peterson, M. Weed, D. Cuvalo, D. Panaszek, J. Loster, D. Mundall, P. Luetkehans of Luetkehans, Brady, Garner and Armstrong, LLC.

TENTATIVE DRAFT BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027

General Manager Paul May provided a presentation of the draft proposed FYE 2026 Budget. Mr. May noted that the Commission holds no outstanding debt. The reserve fund policy had previously been revised from 180 days to 120 days of operating expenses and is currently adequately funded.

Commissioner Suess asked what the current reserve numbers are. General Manager May pointed out the slide showing the reserve numbers in detail, including target numbers for FY 2026-27, as well as existing balances. He went on to inform the Board that a new investment consultant will be brought on this fiscal year with the intention of evaluating the performance and making recommendations regarding the balancing of investments.

Revenues are conservatively forecast at \$152M, resulting in a cash-neutral budget after accounting for \$10M of budgeted depreciation.

The City of Chicago has indicated a 1.85% increase in their rate that equals \$0.09 per 1,000 gallons. DWC will pass along the \$0.09 to its customers. We expect a 4.98 rate from the City of Chicago which will result in a rate of \$5.89 to our customers.

Over 85% of DWC costs are water purchase from the City of Chicago, followed by Depreciation at 6.6%. Expenses for FY2026-27 are expected to be \$162M. There are two (2) headcount positions being added, one in Finance and one in Operations. Health Insurance costs have gone up considerably, 14%; while liability and property insurance costs are expected to remain stable. WaterLink construction has begun, the project is funded through escrow deposits made by the beneficiary communities. SCADA project is in year 4 of 5. Commissioner Suess asked what costs

the SCADA project will look like this upcoming year. General Manager May pointed out \$3M this year and \$1M for the final year.

General Manager May thanked staff for their work during the budget process and then opened the floor to additional questions.

In response to a question regarding revenues, General Manger May noted that revenue from the pending sale of property and awarded Federal grants are not included in the revenue computations.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Russo moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 P.M. Seconded by Commissioner Honig and unanimously approved by a Voice Vote.

All voted aye. Motion carried.