

Agenda Date: 11/13/19

Agenda Item: 5A

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities 44 South Clinton Avenue, 9th Floor Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0350 www.nj.gov/bpu/

		WATER
IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF GORDON'S CORNER WATER COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO MAKE, EXECUTE AND DELIVER A PROMISSORY NOTE, TERM LOAN AGREEMENT AND SUCH OTHER INSTRUMENTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY COBANK, ACB, IN CONNECTION WITH SAID LOAN, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 48:3-7, N.J.S.A. 48:3-9 AND N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.9 (2019))	ORDER DOCKET NO. WF19091004

Parties of Record:

Stephen B. Genzer, Esq., Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr LLP, for Gordon's Corner Water Company **Stefanie A. Brand, Esq., Director,** New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel

BY THE BOARD:

Petitioner, Gordon's Corner Water Company ("Company" or "Petitioner"), a public utility of the State of New Jersey, with offices located at 27 Vanderburg Road, Marlboro, New Jersey 07746, filed a Petition with the Board of Public Utilities dated September 3, 2019 seeking authority to make, execute and deliver a Promissory Note, Term Loan Agreement and such other instruments as may be required by the lender, CoBank, ACB ("CoBank"), in connection with a certain multiple advance senior secured term loan, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:3-7, N.J.S.A. 48:3-9, and N.J.A.C. 14:1-5.9.

Petitioner has received a commitment from CoBank for a multiple advance senior secured term loan in an amount up to \$2,000,000, upon the terms and conditions set forth in CoBank's commitment letter dated July 17, 2019. The loan will be for a term of 21 years with a fixed rate of interest to be established in accordance with the aforesaid loan commitment at the time the loan proceeds are advanced. In accordance with the loan commitment, CoBank will receive a first priority lien on, and security interest in, all real and personal, tangible and intangible, present and future assets of the Company.

The proceeds of the \$2,000,000 multiple advance senior secured term loan will be used by Petitioner to finance the construction of Well #14, and for certain upgrades to Water Treatment Plant #1 in Manalapan Township.

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Staff has reviewed the capital improvements proposed by Petitioner, and it appears that the anticipated expenditures detailed above are reasonable and necessary to enable Petitioner to continue to provide safe, adequate and proper service to its customers.

In addition, Staff is of the opinion that the terms of the multiple advance senior secured term loan appear to be reasonable considering the sources of financing available to Petitioner, its size, financial condition, current monetary markets, and prevailing economic conditions.

By letter dated October 28, 2019, the New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel stated that after careful review of the Petition and discovery responses, "it does not object to the approval of this matter." Id.

The Board, after investigation, <u>FINDS</u> that the loan transaction described herein is not contrary to the public interest, and approving the purposes thereof, <u>HEREBY AUTHORIZES</u> Gordon's Corner Water Company to enter into subject loan with CoBank in accordance with the terms set forth in the commitment letter, and to make, execute and deliver a Promissory Note, applicable loan and security documents, and such other instruments as are necessary to effectuate the loan transaction described therein.

This Order is issued subject to the following provisions:

- 1) This Board's approval is expressly limited to the Loan described herein and as more fully described in the Petition and supporting documents. In the event the loan transaction with CoBank is not consummated, for any reason, the Company may not obtain financing from any other lender until the approval of this Board has been obtained with respect to the action proposed to be taken.
- 2) No franchise rights will be capitalized directly or indirectly by the issuance of the Bonds.
- 3) This Order shall not be construed as directly or indirectly fixing, for any purpose whatsoever, any value of the tangible or intangible assets now owned or hereafter to be owned by Petitioner; nor as certifying that the securities authorized to be issued and sold will be represented by tangible or intangible assets of commensurate value or investment cost.
- 4) This Board's approval shall not indicate authorization to include in rate base the specific assets that will be constructed or acquired as a result of this Petition. The determination of any assets to be included in rate base and the rate making impact thereof shall be addressed in a future rate base proceeding.
- 5) This Order shall not affect or in any way limit the exercise of the authority of this Board or of the State of New Jersey in any future petition or in any proceeding with respect to rates, franchises, services, financing, accounting, capitalization, depreciation or in any other matters affecting the Petitioner.
- 6) Petitioner shall submit a schedule indicating complete details of the issuance costs no later than sixty (60) days following the closing date for this transaction.
- 7) Petitioner shall furnish the Board with copies of the executed Supplemental Indentures.

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8) The authority granted in this Order shall become null and void and of no effect with respect to any portion thereof which is not exercised by March 30, 2020.

This Order will be effective November 23, 2019.

DATED: 11/13/19

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

PRESIDENT

MARY-ANNA HOLDEN

COMMISSIONER

DIANNE SOLOMON COMMISSIONER

UPENDRA J. CHIVUKULA

COMMISSIONER

ROBERT M. GORDON

COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

AIDA CAMACHO-WELCH

SECRETARY

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public Utilities

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DOCKET NO. WF19091004

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