

ERIE COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WILLIAMSVILLE CONSOLIDATES WATER SYSTEM WITH ECWA *More than \$3 million in completed infrastructure upgrades will result in long-term savings for ratepayers*

BUFFALO, NY – Williamsville Mayor Brian J. Kulpa passed a large golden valve key to ECWA officials at a ceremony today at Glen Park marking the official consolidation of the village water system with the ECWA.

As part of the consolidation, more than \$3 million was invested over the last two years to upgrade the village water system in order to meet the ECWA's system standards. Among the infrastructure upgrades made to the village's system include the installation of higher capacity water mains, replacement of all existing water meters with technologically advanced remote radio read meters, replacement of outdated fire hydrants, and completion of new interconnections between the two systems to improve fire service flows in and around the village.

Kulpa said the village will save about \$315,000 annually on system maintenance, infrastructure upgrades and personnel costs and the new rate for village ratepayers will be \$4.87 per 1,000 gallons, 94 cents less than the village's former rate of \$5.81 per 1,000 gallons.

"The water system has been a strain on village finances for decades," Williamsville Mayor Brian J. Kulpa said. "The fact that we are getting out of the water business speaks to the level of commitment our trustees have to improving the village's financial outlook. This consolidation will lower water rates and save village ratepayers money over the long-term."

"Thank you to Trustee Chris Duquin for his hard work on this issue," Kulpa added. "He deserves a lot of the credit for making this happen."

In its effort to get out of the increasingly expensive municipal water business the village has discussed consolidating its system with ECWA for several years.

"Over the past several years, the Village of Williamsville has performed its due diligence and concluded that the ECWA will provide the best, most affordable water service to its ratepayers," ECWA Chairman Francis G. Warthling said. "As the region's largest and most well equipped public water utility, the ECWA has the second lowest water rate in Western New York and provides a very high level of service delivery. Mayor Kulpa and village officials should be commended for their work on this initiative, which is a smart and important investment in the future of the village."

During recent years, several municipalities throughout Erie County have achieved significant savings by consolidating their water systems with the ECWA, including the Towns of Evans, Hamburg and Alden and the Village of Blasdell.

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295 Main Street
350 Ellicott Square Building
Buffalo, New York 14203
(716) 849-8484
www.ecwa.org