



Robert E. Antonacci II, CPA  
Comptroller

COUNTY OF ONONDAGA

Office of the  
*County Comptroller*

*John H. Mulroy Civic Center, 14th Floor  
421 Montgomery Street  
Syracuse, New York 13202-2998  
(315) 435-2130 • Fax (315) 435-2250  
www.ongov.net*

James V. Maturo  
Deputy Comptroller/Accounting

Thomas R. Schepp II  
Deputy Comptroller/Audit

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: April 19, 2017

## **Onondaga County Comptroller Robert E. Antonacci II Welcomes Onondaga County Executive Joanne Mahoney to the Consolidation Discussion**

Syracuse, NY – “Since I began working for the taxpayers of Onondaga County, shared services has been a priority of my Office. We have worked with many local governments through our Consolidation, Shared Services, Integration program (CSI Task Force) to examine ways in which local governments can save money,”<sup>1</sup> said Antonacci. “Shortly after the Consensus preliminary report was released, we set up an FAQ page<sup>2</sup> to answer taxpayers’ questions on consolidation efforts.<sup>3</sup> I’m glad over a year later the County Executive has decided to join the discussion,” said Antonacci.

In a press release, County Executive Joanne Mahoney announced her Office’s website where taxpayers may seek her perspective on consolidation. Mahoney also alleged Comptroller Antonacci’s statement “There is no savings of OCWA and MWB right now” was “inaccurate”. Yet in a media report last September, Mahoney is credited as saying “The merger won’t necessarily result in immediate savings on residents’ water bills”.<sup>4</sup> Antonacci replied by saying, “I think the easiest way to get Mahoney to change her mind is for me to agree with her.”

“It is hard to debate the County Executive as it seems she takes every side of the issue,” continued Antonacci. “Last September she seemed to agree with me, now she doesn’t. I suppose the more interesting debate would be to see Mahoney debate herself,” said Antonacci.

“I absolutely stand by my statement at the debate,” said Antonacci. “There are no savings! Just look at the budget book, as the County Executive suggests. The water district levy stayed the same.<sup>5</sup> The MWB generated income for the County over the last few years.<sup>6</sup> Where is that money going to

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/CSIONondaga.html>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/ConsensusFAQ\\_000.html](http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/ConsensusFAQ_000.html)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/documents/Consensus-ConsolidationFAQ2-29-16PR.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/onondaga\\_county\\_is\\_getting\\_out\\_of\\_the\\_water\\_business.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2016/09/onondaga_county_is_getting_out_of_the_water_business.html)

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.ongov.net/finance/documents/2017AdoptedFinal.pdf> §2, p.20

<sup>6</sup> See <http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/documents/CAFR2010Final.pdf> p. 48, Water Fund balance \$1,046,672 versus <http://www.ongov.net/comptroller/documents/2015AuditedFinancialStatements.pdf> p. 55, Water Fund Balance \$5,508,986 for an increase of \$4,462,314. Draft financials anticipate an additional one million dollars to be added for a Water Fund balance in excess of \$6.5 million effective 12/31/16 for an overall growth of over \$5.5 million since 2010.

be made up? Look at OCWA water rates for 2017, they went up.<sup>7</sup> Go further, look at the Ways and Means Budget minutes where the former MWB Executive Director said she ‘assured MWB employees they would make as much or more, and jobs would be secure’.<sup>8</sup> So again, where are these savings? To paraphrase my debate partner, Mayor Stephanie Miner, let me audit it.” said Antonacci.

Comptroller Antonacci has reached out to OCWA about auditing the water authority, however no decision is expected before OCWA’s next board meeting.

“If we don’t have an honest debate with the facts, all we will do is raise expectations to an unreachable point. If the goal is to cut taxes, we need to identify where the cost-drivers are. Simply blaming local government will get us nowhere,” concluded Antonacci.

For further information regarding this announcement, contact Robert Antonacci II, CPA at (315) 435-2130.

---

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.ocwa.org/pay-your-bill/water-rates-2014/> [sic]

<sup>8</sup> <http://ongov.net/legislature/minutes/meetmins/documents/9.23.16WMSREVOFENVPRODEPTSMIN.pdf> p.31