

DRAFT COPY

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BINGHAMTON - JOHNSON CITY JOINT SEWAGE BOARD

Tuesday, August 12, 2025

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: George Kolba
Chris Papastrat
Ron Lake
Bruce King
John Paddock
Stephen Andrew

Also Present: Ronald Warwick Jr., Interim Superintendent
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel (arrived 4:27pm)
Billie Goodson, Business Manager
Larry Travis, E.E., Electrical Engineer (arrived 3:45pm)
Chuck Robinson, JSB Fiscal Officer/City of Binghamton Comptroller
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary
Adam Afify, Interim Assistant Superintendent (exited 4:20pm)
Deron Biechele, Interim Senior Operator (exited 4:30pm)

Chairman Kolba called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM. Sign in sheet was passed. Full board of Six (6) members were present. Chairman confirmed all signed in, identified fire exits and requested cell phones be turned off or silenced during the meeting. All stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Kolba asked if anyone would like the privilege of the Floor. The Chairman closed the floor.

Meeting Minutes Approval

Bruce King made an amended motion that the Board approves the amended June 10, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as follows:

The Salary Management Staff salaries for Interim Superintendent will be \$103,000.00/salary, Interim Assistant Superintendent will be \$92,000.22/salary & Interim Senior Operator will be \$79,116.18/salary.

The amended motion was seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion was carried. 6/0

Bruce King made a motion that the Board approves the submitted July 8, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.

The motion was seconded by Chris Papastrat.

Motion was carried. 6/0

Fiscal Officer Report

Mr. Robinson presented his report to the board and overviewed the Fiscal Officer's Report, copies of which were distributed in each of the Board folders and then opened the floor for any questions or comments pertaining to the report.

Mr. Robinson has 3 topics to discuss.

1. Audit- Mr. Robinson has had conversations with the EFPR auditors and they are ahead of schedule. A draft report will be completed within 10 days. Mr. Robinson was asked to forward the draft to the Business Manager Goodson & Chairman of the Finance Committee.
2. Financials-Mr. Robinson noted that we are on track for the year.
3. 2026 Budget-Mr. Robinson would like to come to the next budget committee meeting.

Interim Superintendent Report

Interim Superintendent Warwick overviewed the report below which included graphs, charts, and copies of which were distributed in the Board's folders.

July Interim Superintendent Report 08/12/2025

July numbers:

Average Flow=12.67 MGD

Rainfall=3.81 inches

CBOD=8 mg/L and 94% removal

TSS=7.3 mg/L with 96% removal

Fecals=8 MPN

Final effluent average turbidity of 1.57 NTU

49 Trucks to landfill for a total of 818.70 tons and 31.75 tons screenings

Solar production was 9,709 KWH.

Micro-turbine production was 55,775 KWH.

We are meeting all the requirements of our SPDES permit.

We have taken down and inspected all 4 DN cells and all Primary tanks. Repairs as needed. Also, a couple of Flygt were repaired during this time.

We have taken the Actiflo system down for inspection and found the coagulation tank mixing impeller had sheared a pin and fell off. Contact Josh Holland from Village of Johnson City DPW and ask them to use their vacuum truck to remove excess sand to retrieve the impeller. All parts and units are working properly. I would like to thank Josh, Evan and crew for all their help in taking care of this problem.

I would also like to thank Adam, Deron and the crew they put together to get this issue taken care of so quickly.

*****end of report*****

Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Goodson went over the report.

2025 Budget Modification/Amendment

Bruce King made a motion that the Board approves as follows:

**Increase ES.8130.54621 Equipment & Pump Repairs-MECH by \$30,000.00
Increase ES.8130.54621A Equipment & Pump Repairs-ELEC by \$30,000.00
Decrease ES8130.55000 Contingency by \$60,000.00.**

and that the corresponding requests for legislation be submitted to the Owners' legislative bodies.

**Motion seconded by Chris Papastrat.
Motion carried. 6/0**

Permission to Advertise

Ms. Goodson is requesting Board approval to advertise for Methanol (Expires 9/13/2025)

Bruce King made a motion that the Board authorizes the Business Manager to advertise for Methanol.

**Motion was seconded by Steve Andrew.
Motion carried. 6/0**

*****end of report*****

Board Committee Reports

Construction-TPS project

Board member Lake stated that there is nothing new to report this month.

Personnel

Board member Andrew stated that there is nothing new to report this month.

Board Committee Reports-cont.

Finance-Budget 2026

Board member King noted the 2026 JSB Operating Budget is a 3.6626% increase from 2025 budget. Thank you to the plant staff, JSB Board members and City of Binghamton comptroller for all the feedback and help collecting the data for this budget.

Bruce King made a motion that the Board adopts the August 12, 2025, Joint Sewer Operating Fund Proposed Budget for the year 2026 in the total amount of \$36,019,540.00 and that the same be submitted to the Owners' Budget Officers and Legislative Body members by August 14, 2025, deadline per the Intermunicipal Agreement.

Motion seconded by Chris Papastrat.

Motion carried. 6/0

Co-Counsel Paniccia Rate Increase 2026

Co-Counsel Paniccia would like the Joint Sewage Board to consider a rate increase for its services effective January 1, 2026. The proposed rate increase is \$200.00/hr. to \$220.00/hr. for all services except JSB meetings, and \$175.00/hr. to \$190.00/hr. just for JSB board meetings.

Steve Andrew made a motion that the Board accepts Co-Counsel Paniccia rate increase effective January 1, 2026, as follows \$220.00/ per hour for all services except the JSB meetings which will be \$190.00 per hour and will submit invoices monthly.

Motion seconded by Bruce King.

Motion carried. 6/0

Flow Management & Ad Hoc Rules and Regulations Update

Board member King stated that the Joint Sewage Board would need to hold a public hearing about any changes in the Rules and Regulations. Changes to remove the three options only have Note #1 of method to be used. It was decided to have the public hearing on September 9th at 3PM.

Motion by Bruce King to hold a public hearing on the changes to the Rules & Regulations specifically chart 12.5.1 and directs the confidential secretary to publish this ASAP.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried. 6/0

333 Grand Avenue Apartments JC

Board member Lake stated that the application that was submitted is incomplete.

Motion by Steve Andrew to reject the application for 333 Grand Avenue.

Seconded by Bruce King.

Motion carried 6/0

Old Business: Health Benefit-HF&C

Motion by Bruce King to direct chairman to sign the agreement with Haylor, Freyer & Coon for professional services as broker/agent for health benefits insurance for eligible employees, retirees and their families and/or dependents effective January 1, 2026 with a 2 year extension.

Seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried 6/0

Lifetime Benefit Services

Motion by Bruce King to direct the chairman to sign the service agreement with Lifetime Benefit Solutions.

Seconded by John Paddock.

Motion carried 6/0

NFP Corporate Services (NY) LLC.

Motion by Bruce King to direct the chairman to sign the agreement with NFP-Tom Surowka for professional services as an independent consulting service with respect to the JSB Boards health Benefit Plans and related Employee benefit plan. The Board accepts two proposals for calendar year 2026 and 2027. The price for 2026 is \$14,000. The price for 2027 is \$14,500.

Seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried 6/0

Personnel-Taxes-2024-Interest

Board member Andrew stated that there were between 7 to 8 employees that on their W-2 2024 tax returns there were interest charges.

Motion by Steve Andrew to reimburse 8 employees not to exceed \$160.00. The list of names will be given to the Business Manager.

Motion seconded by Bruce King.

Motion carried 4/0/2 nay (RL, GK)

Executive Session: Personnel Matters

Stephen Andrew made a motion to enter the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 5:24pm

**The motion was seconded by Bruce King.
Motion carried. 6/0**

Exit Executive Session:

Bruce King made a motion to exit Executive Session.

**The motion was seconded by Steve Andrew.
Motion carried. 6/0**

No action taken.

The Board exited the Executive Session at 5:28pm.

The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 3:30pm.

Adjournment:

**Steve Andrew made a motion to adjourn.
The motion was seconded by Chris Papastrat.
Motion carried. 6/0**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Michele Cuevas
Confidential Secretary

cc: Board Members
Mayor Kraham, City of Binghamton
Mayor Meaney, Village of Johnson City
City Clerk, City of Binghamton
Village Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Johnson City
Alfred Paniccia, Esq.
Chuck Robinson, Fiscal Officer
Elliott Wagner, Superintendent
Brown & Brown Empire State
Haylor, Freyer & Coon
Joshua Holland, Village of Johnson City Director of Public Services
Ronald B. Lake, P.E., City of Binghamton Engineer
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