

FINAL COPY

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

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

Plant Administration Building

- Members Present: George Kolba, Jr., Chairman *Pro Tem*
Edward Crumb
Stephen Andrew VIA SKYPE
Ray Standish
Ronald Davis
Chris Papastrat
- Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Ronald Warwick, Acting Assistant Superintendent
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Counsel
Chuck Shager, City of Binghamton Comptroller (exited at: 5:37 PM)
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist
- Guests: Kristen Tocheny, Acting Laboratory Director (exited at 5:40PM)
Ron Lake, P.E., City Project Manager (exited at 6:15 PM)
Jason Greene, P.E., GHD (exited at 5:10 PM)
Adam Afify, Acting Head Operator
Deron Biechele, Plant Operator I (exited at 5:50PM)
Carolyn A. Saskoski, Johnson City Resident
Howard Weaver-Simmons, FEMA Consultant (exited at 5:15 PM)
Howard Reeve, Facilities Engineer (exited at 5:40 PM)

George Kolba called the meeting to order at 3:34 PM. Six (6) Board Members were present. It is noted that Chris Papastrat has been appointed as the third representative from the City of Binghamton and was introduced. Attendance sheet was passed for signatures. Fire exits were identified.

Elliott Wagner presented the Superintendent’s Report, a copy of which appears below.

**Superintendent’s Report
March 12, 2020**

Violations and Significant Issues:

Fines: \$5000 for Phase 2 construction.

Compliance:

Date: February 2020 Average Flow 21.02 MGD	Influent	Effluent	Average % Removal	Effluent Limit
CBOD mg/l	150mg/l	15.59mg/l 2770lbs/d	90% last month 90%	No Fine Monitor until Jan 1, 2018 then 18mg/l 5,254lbs/day. \$5K Fine
Suspended Solids mg/l	127mg/l	12.1 mg/l 2058 lbs/day	90% Last Month 92%	No Fine Monitor until Jan 1, 2018 then 20mg/l 5,828lbs/day. \$5K Fine
Other: Settleable Solids Max ml/l	10.8ml/l	0.21ml/l	98%	Monitor
Total Nitrogen mg/l	Jan 2020 21.43mg/l	Jan. 2020 8.13mg/l	62% Last month 64%	Monitor
Chlorine mg/l	NA	0.39 Max.	NA	0.5Max.
Avg. Temperature	13.6	12.1		

Solids Removed	Nov2019	Dec 2019	Jan 2020	Feb 2020
Digested	558.06	505.89	608.24	564.52
Lime Stabilized	0	0	0	116.67
Total	558.06	505.89	608.24	681.19
Grit		19.92		
Grit/Screenings Combined			16.65 Tons	Tons
Grease	0			

Construction Topics

- **Expansion Joint at the intersecting joint between C/N cell 1-8 and 9-14 influent/effluent channels will need repair.**
- **We have successfully cleaned the original Chlorine contact chamber in one day saving us \$6500.**
- **Waiting for Thickener D-Box and Yard piping to be completed; this will allow us to feed Digesters and thickeners as well as Blended sludge tanks.**
- **Awaiting Gas burn-off so we can utilize digester #1 and #2**

- Actiflo is producing sludge at 700 GPM; It is holding sand better after partial piping improvements but is creating a mess all over the floor of the building. Unfortunately there are no floor drains which creates a problem during clean up.
- We await completion of Scum collection system equipment to allow us to remove scum from primaries.

Other Issues:

- We are sending flow from 3,4, and 5, 7-10 to the CN cells.
- We have started Lime stabilizing again to remove excess solids temporarily until the Yard piping, thickener distribution box and digester 1 gas flare equipment is completed.
- The plant has designed a temporary Seeding routine to allow us to seed Digester #1 from digester #3. We have received quotes for Nitrogen to displace O2 in the digester during that time.
- Biosytr Start Up: Biostyr continues to run 1-8 C/N cells plus Cells 9-14 and 1-4 DN cells in Automatic including backwashes.
- UV continues to operate, transmittance is OK at approx. 60 NTU, Wedecco has completed its 30 day test, we await results.
- Our digester #3 continues to run well with a volatile reduction avg over 3 months of 57.25%
- We have again met our permit for CBOD5 and TSS.
- We have hired a lab tech, Mary Schofield, she started on March 2, 2020.
- On February 8th Plant staff had to replace PLC 7A control module due to failure. We used one of the spare controllers turned over to us. We need clarification as to whether this is a warranty issue or not.
- Operators continue performing process testing for the BioStyr.
- Operators continue to try to capture grease and move it through the existing infrastructure with limited success, permanent solution should be completed shortly. In the meantime we skim grease by hand at the C/N influent channel and behind the skimmers.
- Due to extensive wet weather preparation by operators and mechanics in the fine screen and compactor area, we have been able to avoid major system failures.
- Can we adopt the Employee Health and Safety coordinator position?
- Struvite was brought up by Jacobs as a potential reason for the clogging issue with the solids processing floor drains. They took pics without cleaning the centrate and solids from manhole 31. We have taken pics after cleaning. We had an appointment scheduled with Polydyne to look at centrifuge polymer, while they are here on Wednesday they will look at the suspected Struvite.

Referring to photos passed around for the Board Members to review with regard to Struvite. Superintendent Wagner spoke about their investigation into a clogging issue which is now temporarily resolved with further testing and investigation including Jacobs and GHD for a solution. He is considering making a request to purchase an inline camera for use on plant infrastructure due to the amount of buried lines.

Superintendent Wagner advised that Valerie Ellis, P.E. has replaced Tara Blum, P.E. as Region 7 DEC representative.

He also wanted to note an incident that occurred on Thursday, March 5, 2020 at approximately 4:30PM. That a contractor employee was closing an alcove gate valve without necessary notifications to have plant staff present. The contractor employee had trouble closing the valve causing a 15 minute 208,000 gallon spill. Superintendent Wagner was notified and on the way to the plant he made the appropriate protocol notifications to NYS-DEC. It is noted that because the spillage was 100% treated and UV-disinfected that NYS notifications were not required but for transparency he decided to make the notification.

Superintendent Wagner advised that the contractor employee causing the spill issue has been removed from the project and directed not to come on the sewage treatment plant property.

Edward Crumb asked about and strongly recommends designating one person and a backup person to receive daily briefings from the Broome County Health Department on all Coronavirus COVID 19 reports and updates for the safety and welfare of the plant employees.

Superintendent Wagner spoke on the electric usage chart and noted that once the previously requested microturbines are in place and running, the amount of electric usage could be reduced with an approximate savings of \$175,000 per year. Ron Lake advised the microturbine issue is currently in testing phase and the City will attempt to expedite ASAP.

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George Kolba asked about the compactors. Ron Lake, P.E. noted that the City is working with vendor Hydrodyne on the fine screens, and a further discussion took place regarding standardization of the specifications for the compactor equipment for procurement, uniform operation and maintenance, as well as interchangability. Mr. Kolba suggested working to solve this problem and then calling a special meeting to pursue procurement. Superintendent Wagner spoke on the treatment 'line' that needs tending to in order to minimize issues with solids, grease, and sludge dewatering. He felt that this line needs prompt attention as conditions change based on changes in influent flow in order to avoid incurring fines.

**Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted January 14, 2020
Draft Minutes with the suggested changes.
Ray Standish seconded the motion
Motion carried, 6/0**

**Edward Crumb made motion to approve the submitted February 11, 2020
Draft Minutes with the suggested changes.
Ronald Davis seconded the motion
Motion carried, 6/0**

Chuck Shager spoke on Fiscal matters; that monies for the first quarter of the year were received. He submitted the Fiscal Officer's Report including a preliminary estimate of rough numbers for the 2019 Final Bill. He is working to have this completed by May 1, 2020 in order to meet the State's deadline for filing the annual AUD report with the NYS Comptroller.

Mr. Shager is requesting Board approval for a transfer of funds to reimburse the City of Binghamton in the amount of \$29,979.87 for additional 2019 Local Systems Costs. This should update and firm the numbers for 2019.

He reported that he attended the meeting with the Mayors along with some Plant Personnel and George Kolba. He agrees that the City and the Plant do need GHD back onsite on a regular basis and will meet again to get the details worked out.

Compensated absences information will be needed from the Confidential Secretary to complete the financial reporting by May 1st. Started a brief conversation to mention that with the current health situation (Coronavirus) it is important to have a plan for payroll, etc. should the Plant's Administration Building need to be closed down.

**Edward Crumb made motion to approve a transfer in the 2019 Budget to increase the 2019 City Local Systems cost line J8130.54000.JZ in the amount of \$29, 979.87 by transfer from 2019 City Debt Service Line J8130.54001.JZ. Ronald Davis seconded the motion
Motion carried, 6/0**

Edward Crumb presented the Lead Agency Capital Project financial Chart Report and Graph Report, and he explained how to review the Chart Report, the color-coding system and the scaling of the graphs in the Graph Report.

Jason Greene, P.E. joined the meeting and spoke on GHD's monthly IWPP Report. He is currently working on updating end of year reports and the annual pretreatment report. He is also cleaning up final permit applications and- past due payments. Edward Crumb inquired about access to reports by Board Members to review numbers. Mr. Greene will work on getting that access to them. Mr. Crumb also asked about late notices and Michele Cuevas advised that the late notices were in fact mailed out. Mr. Greene reported that he is also looking into the proper application of late fees on past due notices and will follow-up on that issue after he consults with Board Attorney Al Paniccia.

Charlie Pearsall advised that the GHD contract will be expiring at the end of March and that GHD has no problem simply extending an additional 12 months with no change in terms or conditions.

Mr. Greene also reported that GHD is looking into the need for a permit/fee for Beer Tree, a local business relocating to the Oakdale Mall in Johnson City. After they review the business' beer brewing and production process as well as certain data, GHD will determine whether the permit is required/needed.

Howard Weaver, of Simmons Recovery Consulting, the Board's FEMA Recovery Consultant, introduced himself and spoke on the issues and New York State updates about the on-going emergency in New York State regarding Coronavirus. He expressed the continued need for everyone's precautions with personal health care and safety.

Mr. Weaver also reported that Ron Simmons, owner of Simmons Recovery Consulting, is not

doing well due to a chronic health condition. He advised that Ron Simmons is interested in being released from the contract by June 30th rather than December due to his health. Mr. Weaver stated that he will offer the recovery services needed by the Board with a continuity of data, including “cloud” infrastructure that will be maintained. That all processes will remain the same and Mr. Weaver would submit a proposal for a new contract and will be using the same database; that all processes could certainly remain the same without major disruptions. Members should email or call him with any questions or concerns to determine whether or not the Board wishes to continue the engagement with him as the consultant.

(Messrs. Greene and Weaver exited the meeting)

Mr. Shager continued with his report, speaking about lab report numbers that appear to be inconsistent or inaccurate as between the Plant laboratory and Pace, the Board’s contract laboratory; that after the meeting with the Mayors it was suggested that the Board find a third party with no relationship with any current vendor for an audit of wastewater analysis testing results. Mr. Shager introduced a Proposal for Laboratory Audit that the City had obtained on a non-competitive basis from Environmental Business Specialists, LLC (EBS), of Mandeville, Louisiana, based on a recommendation by JSTP vendor Hach. The Board reviewed the presented information, discussed it further, and a motion was articulated.

Ray Standish made a motion to procure EBS Environmental, a third party laboratory testing vendor, in accordance with its 03/06/2020 proposal letter, to be paid from the Laboratory Services Budget Line (J8130.54436) in the amount of \$4,750.00.

Chris Papastrat second the motion

Edward Crumb made a motion to amend the previously proposed motion to read as a laboratory testing *audit for the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board.*

Ron Davis seconded the motion to amend.

Motion to amend carried 6/0

Motion carried as amended 6/0

Charles Pearsall presented the Business Manager’s Report, stating that the payment for the February DEC penalty for the delayed Phase II Construction in the amount of \$5,000.00 was processed.

2019 Flow Reports and forms have been received from the Municipal Users, and Mr. Pearsall will be doing his visits, auditing, and updating the information.

Methanol Bids were received with SPS submitting the lowest bid for \$1.38 per gallon for a 3 month time frame.

Edward Crumb made a motion to award the bid for the supply of Methanol to SPS at a price of \$1.38 per gallon delivered for a 3-month supply period

**beginning March 7, 2020 to be paid from Budget Line J8130.54150 (Chemicals).
Ronald Davis seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6/0**

Mr. Pearsall is requesting the approval to accept Amrex Chemical's request to withdraw their previous bid for supply of Phosphoric Acid which contained a clerical error in the amount and to reject all recently received bids for Phosphoric Acid and allow to post for rebidding by all interested vendors.

**Edward Crumb made a motion to accept the request for Amrex Chemical Company Inc. to withdraw their bid for Phosphoric Acid submitted February 7, 2020 due to a clerical error based on February 12, 2020 letter from William F. Rexer, Jr, President of Amrex Chemical Company, Inc.
Chris Papastrati seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6/0**

**Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board rejects all bids received on February 7, 2020 for Phosphoric Acid due to the irregularity that occurred in the bidding process.
Steven Andrew seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6/0**

**Edward Crumb made a motion to authorize and direct the Business Manager or his designee to issue a new bidding specification for the supply of Phosphoric Acid 75% solution changing the quantity based on observations of actual use and to advertise and proceed accordingly.
George Kolba seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6/0**

Mr. Pearsall reported that the contract with GHD expires on March 31, 2020 and advised that GHD is willing to extend the contract with changes only in the dates. Mr. Pearsall encourages the Board to renew the contract.

**Edward Crumb made a motion to approve a one year extension for GHD, as Industrial Pre-Treatment Program Consultant for the period of April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021 with the same terms and conditions as in the existing contract not to exceed \$80,000.00. Payments will be made from Budget Line J8130.54801 Industrial Pre-Treatment.
Ronald Davis seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6/0**

Mr. Pearsall received the professional services proposal from Broome County Division of Technology Services for Web Hosting for the level of services provided for the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board. This generated a conversation to discuss if the three domains - .com, .net and .org should be maintained by the contract instead of the two currently in use.

Broome IT is encouraging that the Board to reserve the currently unused .net domain to alleviate future use by anyone else which could cause unwanted problems/confusion. The amount for this is a one time fee of \$844.65 for 5 years.

Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the Broome County IT Service Agreement for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2024 in the form presented for three domain names with a cost of \$844.65 for the five-year period, plus \$591.98 for an SSL Certificate for the three domains for two years, plus \$275.00 per year for Web Hosting, all to be paid for from Budget Line J8130.54410 Professional Services.

**Ronald Davis seconded the Motion
Motion carried 6/0**

Mr. Pearsall spoke for the Board's information on his search for a labor relations negotiator. He would accept any input during his search.

He is compiling the 2020 pre treatment rate sheet which will be available for review by the Board by the next meeting.

Mr. Pearsall presented a letter submitted by the Town of Kirkwood regarding what it characterizes as an "Engineering Allowance Calculation Change". Kirkwood is appealing to recognize the allowances. Edward Crumb will look into this issue, discuss with the committee, and report back to the Board before this can be addressed with the Town.

Committee Reports

Construction – Steve Andrew and George Kolba – Steve Andrew presented an update on the WQIP. It was also noted that there is an ongoing discussion with the City regarding whether the "haul road" along the River outside the Flood Wall should be removed or remain.

Finance – Edward Crumb – presented the Finance Committee Report and noted that the books for 2019 are now closed with payments issued February 28, 2019. The books will be presented to the City's and the Board's auditors for their annual work. Regarding the Owners' Capital Projects, the New York State auditors have been provided with the documents they requested.

Flow Management – Edward Crumb – nothing new to report.

Personnel – Steve Andrew – A labor relations negotiator is needed, and Charlie Pearsall will send out a draft proposal for review/comment.

Ad Hoc – Ronald Davis – None

Executive Committee – None

Correspondence – As noted on the Agenda.

Old Business – None

New Business – None

The next regularly-scheduled meeting is April 14, 2020 at 3:30pm.

Chris Papastrat made a motion to adjourn.

Ray Standish seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Meeting adjourned at 6:21PM

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Smith
Transcriptionist

cc: Board Members
Mayor Rich David, City of Binghamton
Mayor Greg Deemie, Village of Johnson City
City Clerk, City of Binghamton
Village Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Johnson City
Alfred Paniccia, Esq.
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer
Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Brown & Brown Empire State
Haylor Freyer & Coon
Robert Bennett, P.E., Village of Johnson City, Engineer
Ray Standish, P.E., City of Binghamton, City Engineer
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