

FINAL COPY

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

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: George Kolba, Chairman
Chris Papastrat, Vice Chairman (Exited at 5:45PM)
Edward Crumb
Bruce T. King
Stephen Andrew
Ronald Lake (Exited at 5:22PM)

Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel
Chuck Robinson, Staff Accountant, City of Binghamton (Exited at 4:35PM)
Ronald Warwick, Acting Assistant Superintendent
Howard Reeve, Facility Engineer (Exited at 5:40PM)
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary
Larry Travis, Electrical Engineer – WWTP (Exited at 6:30PM)
Aviva Freidman, City of Binghamton, Council Member, 4th District
(Audio/Visual) (Entered at 4:10PM, Exited at 5:00PM. Entered at 5:10PM. Exited at 6:08PM.)
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist (Exited at 6:30PM)

Guests: Tina Chronopoulos, Resident, City of Binghamton (Exited at 6:30PM)
Vaughn Golden, Reporter, WSKG (Exited at 6:30PM)

Chairman George Kolba the meeting to order at 3:30PM. He welcomed the newly appointed Board Member Ronald Lake. Sign in sheet was passed and Confidential Secretary Michele Cuevas took attendance aloud. Six (6) Board Members were present. Fire exits were identified and Chairman Kolba requested cell phones be turned off or silenced during the meeting.

Privilege of the Floor

Chairman Kolba gave the floor to City of Binghamton Resident Tina Chronopolous who spoke to the Board regarding communications and transparencies between Binghamton City Council, the Village of Johnson City Trustees, and the Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board focusing that she felt it needs improvement. She also expressed her ill feelings with the City of Binghamton's resolution for the appointment of Veolia to conduct an audit of the JSTP's maintenance operations.

March 23, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes Approval

Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted March 23, 2021 Draft Special Meeting Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew

Motion carried. 4/0/2 Abstain (BK & RL)

April 13, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes Approval

Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted April 13, 2021 Draft Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew

Motion carried. 5/0/1 Abstain (RL)

Superintendent's Report

Elliott Wagner presented the Superintendent's Report and the Weekly Plant Status as of 5/11/21 (which appears below) both of which were distributed in the Board Folders along with the charts and graphs. Starting with an overview of the Weekly Plant Status 5/11/21: pointing out the voltage anomaly occurring on 5/10/21 which caused some VFDs to shut down due to low voltage lasting approximately 15-20 seconds and stated power was never lost therefore there was no call for the generators to start. He reported staff is continuing to input inventory data in CMMS. As far as staffing, he is actively seeking to fill the Electrician position and is currently in the process of hiring an Industrial Hygienist. Electrical Engineer – WWTP Larry Travis has been maintaining and updating information on the website for public review.

Superintendent Wagner continued with the Superintendent Report pointing out the Mercury Minimization Plan per the SPDES permit requirements that an introduction and informational letter for the dental offices will be forthcoming with assistance from Jason Greene, P.E. of GHD as well as working out the logistics to identify the dental offices within the collection system.

Edward Crumb brought up that pertaining to Rules and Regulations and the limits on certain metals, the Board previously passed an amendment for certain heavy metals and that he found no documentation that there was ever a follow-through to make the required submission to the Owners' legislative Bodies for consideration/action. Mr. Crumb felt this could be remedied by another amendment and stated he is simply seeking to tidy-up the paperwork. Superintendent Wagner will follow up with Mr. Crumb to get things prepared for a near future meeting and schedule a public hearing to proceed.

Superintendent Wagner is very pleased to report that the electrical output by microturbines is now at 16% of the total Main Plant electric consumption in April.

Superintendent Wagner expressed his appreciation to the Board, the Binghamton City Council, and the Village of Johnson City Board for doing their part to secure the new Electrical Engineer position.

Superintendent Wagner presented the purchase quote for the storage container from Abbey Services, a copy of which was distributed in the Board folders. He stated the amount is \$3,800.00 for the already-placed storage container which is currently full of some of the Plant's equipment. Mr. Paniccia advised that according to the Procurement Policy three quotes are required if the cost is over \$3,500.00. Superintendent Wagner will follow through and report back.

Steve Andrew expressed his appreciation to all those who assisted during the DN3 influent pump emergency that occurred. Mr. Crumb wished to mention that clear effluent to the river is vital and is the crux of what we are doing as a Board to make sure the Plant and the employees are able to produce it as such.

Weekly Plant Status 5/11/2021

Main Pumps:

Auto.

Headworks:

Auto. Wet weather operations.

Aerated Grit System:

Auto.

Primaries:

Auto. Primary tank 5 is down for annual maintenance, and measuring the weirs.

Sludge Handling Building:

Auto.

Thickeners:

Auto

Digesters:

Auto. We drew samples from the cone valves last week to monitor the condition of the digesters.

Micro-Turbines:

Auto from #2, Running 4 Micro-Turbines and burning off extra gas.

Centrifuges:

Auto. #2 air dryer still down. The existing dryer has been discontinued by the manufacturer. We are contacting Westfalia to find a replacement.

Scum system:

Semi-Auto.

Actiflo:

Auto. Continued adding at least 3 bags per day of maintenance sand. (Design is approx. 11 bags/week)

SIPS:

Auto. **Roof Leak.** Info regarding this has been sent to Ron Lake and John Lagorga.

BioStyr, CN Cells:

Auto, **CN4, off-line.** Kruger/Veolia has ordered new valve bodies that go inside of the positioners; we await their arrival. Instrumentation Dept. will install. I asked Rocky from Krueger if they planned on doing a failure analysis of the failed valve. He said in his opinion the

hardstop position sensors caused the valve to seat too far. As the valve had been replaced, he didn't think further action is needed.

Methanol:

Auto.

D/N Cells:

Auto. On Sunday 5/9/2021 at 1am DN 3 Influent Pump would not run due to not having a Run Enable signal. I came in with an electrician and the electrical engineer in the morning and found a Cooling Fan wired on the Run Enable circuit control fuse. One of the fans failed and caused the fuse to blow. We removed the offending fan and got the VFD running again. On Monday I had the electrician add another fuse block to feed the enclosure fans in each of the 4 VFD enclosures. I had the electrical engineer amend (Red-Line) the Panel drawings to reflect what we had done. I contacted Valarie Ellis at the DEC.

UV system:

Auto.

Plant Water System:

Auto.

Storm Water pump stations:

Auto.

Chemical Storage system:

Auto. J&K has finished up their work on the in-line fan. It is still loud but quieter than it was.

Scrubber system:

Offline.

HVAC Systems:

Auto.

Generator system:

Auto, Joe Kennedy from Cummins came out to service the apparent ground fault and did not find any issues. He replaced a bad relay and the Hand Off Auto switch on the Load bank for the southern most Generator. On Wednesday the Generator started in Auto as we have it set to run in auto once per week on Wednesdays for two months then will go to once every two weeks, based on communication with the Cummins representative.

Electrical System:

On Monday 5/10/2021, we experienced a voltage anomaly which caused some of our VFDs to shut down due to Low Voltage, over amperage condition. The condition (Fluctuating Voltage) lasted approximately 15-20 seconds. We never lost power so the time delays (30 seconds No Power) in place did not call for the generators to start. This is what we would expect to happen in this scenario.

Laboratory:

Second Quarter Wet testing has been delayed until next Tuesday by the sub that Microbac uses.

CMMS:

149 Work orders for this week. 105 Closed work orders last week. Qty of 18 Misc. open, non-critical work orders. Plant staff continues putting spare parts inventory in CMMS. We continue getting budgetary price quotes from vendors for unit costs. As of today there are 498 spare parts in CMMS. 14% of those have a unit cost associated with them for a total budgetary value of \$306,174.38

Staffing:

Looking for an electrician.

In the process of hiring an Industrial Hygienist.

Landfill:

9.5 Trucks this week.

Training:

Electrical department trained on the security system with Day Automation.

Covid:

4 Employees on quarantine.

Construction:

Still waiting for O&Ms from Matco, GHD and Kruger/Veolia.

Still waiting for Coordination Study, Arc-flash hazard analysis, baseline test reports for equipment and breakers, third party baseline test reports for equipment and breakers.

Still waiting for As-built drawings, Notification of warranty start dates for equipment that has had warranty extended due to installation date.

Cover installation on Primary 1-6.

Still waiting for 30 day performance test on Actiflo system.

SIPS pump room roof leaks. Jacobs has been notified. Installer notified.

Still waiting for DEC final sign-off and removal of Consent Order.

It was brought to our attention by Broome County (here performing road work) that a section of the guardrail has been removed and they would like it replaced. See pic below. This is where the West security shack and easement to build the Secant wall was located.

SIPS roof and Wall leaking has been observed, John Lagorga and Ron Lake notified. See pics.





Fiscal Officer's Report

Chuck Robinson presented Fiscal Officer Chuck Shager's report which was distributed in the Board Members' folders. He stated that the revenues and expenditures are in line and refunds to the municipalities based on the 2020 Final Bill will be completed soon. He stated that the report shows most current year budget lines are pretty much under budget so far; that the Annual Update Report (AUD) for 2020 was submitted on time and is now finished.

Mr. Crumb then presented the Lead Agency Capital Project Chart Report and Graph Report which were distributed in the Board Folders. He explained how to review the Chart Report, as well as the color-coding system and the scaling of the graphs in the Graph Report detailing the various lines in the financials.

Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Pearsall presented the Business Managers' report, copies of which were distributed in the Board Members' folders. Mr. Pearsall stated he received legislation approved by the Binghamton City Council for the Confined Space Rescue Agreement. On motion to hold-over by Edward Crumb, seconded by Steve Andrew, Board approval will be held over until the next regular meeting to allow Board Members time to review the proposed contract.

Mr. Pearsall is looking to move forward to advertise for payroll processing services. Also seeking approval for payment of an invoice received for 2021 City Accounting Services.

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board to direct the Business Manager in consultation with whomever else he wishes to work with to prepare a draft for Request for Proposals for payroll processing services/timeclock and monitoring.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

Motion carried. 6/0

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve paying a 50% installment of \$20,000.00 on invoice 26279 for the City Accounting Services for the first half of 2021.

Motion seconded by Bruce King.

Motion carried. 6/0

Mr. Pearsall wanted to mention to put on the Board's "radar" to consider in the near future the hiring of an industrial appraisal service to review and update the valuation for the Plant now that the Plant is being turned over.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve distribution of the \$375,000.00 FEMA partial proceeds for the federal share for Project Worksheet 2555 (BAF Complex) in the amount of \$205,500.00 to the City of Binghamton and \$169,500.00 to the Village of Johnson City.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

Motion carried. 6/0

The Board then had a discussion regarding the water-sewer bill submitted by the Town of Vestal via letter dated March 18, 2021, retroactive to October 11, 2018. Various issues and details were brought up for further research and review and will be scheduled for continued discussion at a Finance Committee meeting before placing it on a regular Board meeting.

(Ronald Lake exited the meeting at 5:22pm; a quorum of five Board Members remains present).

Plant Engineer Howard Reeve is requesting approval of the Hydro-Dyne Compactor, Flygt DN Spare invitation to bid, and rigging and repair to Head House pump #2 and repair to Flygt pumps #1 and #3.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to accept the bid submitted by Hydro-Dyne Engineering of Clearwater Florida for purchase and installation of one Hydro-Dyne WCP-12H-64-5S Washing Compactor and spare parts package in the amount of \$64,575.97 to be paid from Capital Fund line JH8130.559.502.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew

Edward Crumb further made a motion to amend the line number from JH8130.559502 to JH8130.554.075.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew

Motion to amend carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RL)

Motion carried as amended. 5/0/1 Absent (RL)

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board adopt the Invitation to Bid for the Flygt Model NP-3301.185, 14” volute submersible pump in the form presented and authorize the advertisement for bids.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew

Motion carried. 5/0/1 Absent (RL)

Mr. Reeve further presented the rigging and repairs bids. The Board then advised Mr. Reeve to submit additional paperwork to better comply with the Procurement Policy for Board review prior to a motion at the next regular meeting.

Committee Reports

Construction: George Kolba and Steve Andrew - Mr. Andrew had nothing to report at this time. Mr. Kolba expressed his concern on the retention of the older records received from Levene, Gouldin & Thompson, LLP . A short discussion on digitally maintaining among other ideas, Michele Cuevas will look into what options are available, and Co-Counsel Al Paniccia will look into retention time.

(Chris Papastrat exited the meeting at 5:45pm; a quorum of four Board Members remains present).

Finance: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb wanted to give kudos to Charlie Pearsall and Account Clerk Gina Paugh as well as those on the Finance Committee for the superior work in processing and reviewing the billings and claims during 2020 at an accuracy of 99.94%. Mr. Crumb stated he had been working on the review of the 2020 final billing computation and reviewed the billing

chart, copies which were provided in the Board Members' folders, in supplement to the full workbook documentation e-mailed last week. He further reviewed the Municipal User Wastewater Treatment Rates summary sheet he handed out at this meeting.

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board ratifies the 2020 Final Billing computation version 1.5 for the total amount of \$21,671,231.10 as presented in the handout and summary page from the workbook, with correspondence to be sent to the municipalities advising them of their option to elect to receive a refund or credit, or combination of both.

Seconded by Bruce King

Motion carried. 4/0/2 Absent (RL)(CP)

Mr. Crumb further discussed a request for information from FEMA submitted by Howard Weaver. TPS "Cradle to grave" construction debris disposal documentation to close out the FEMA worksheets is required to meet FEMA environmental standards.

Mr. Crumb brought up a class action settlement involving Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Fully insured participants between February 7, 2008 and October 16, 2016 may be eligible for a potential settlement, but "government accounts" themselves are excluded from the settlement class. Post cards will be sent out to participants by the court-appointed claims administrator, and the Board is not involved.

Personnel: Steve Andrew – Mr. Andrew has not heard from the Union as of yet, therefore nothing to report at this time.

Ad Hoc: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb stated that he will be working with Bruce King who will be chairman on this committee, succeeding former Member Ron Davis.

Flow Management: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb wanted to discuss his concerns which he expressed in his April 29, 2021 email to the Board Members, copies of which were provided in their folders regarding the Bunn Hill housing project in the Town of Vestal.

Correspondence: Confidential Secretary Cuevas distributed Jason Greene, P.E.'s April IWWPP status report in the Boards' folders for perusal along with a request for GHD rate modification letter and chart. Michele Cuevas stated the report shows outstanding fines and a new permit renewal. Superintendent Wagner mentioned that he received information from the Village of Johnson City Engineer regarding the installation of a potential salt therapy pool in the old Sears Building at the Oakdale Mall, and feels certain aspects of the pool hookups and discharge will need to be addressed due to higher than normal discharge volume. The business will be going through the normal procedures when applying for a permit. Michele Cuevas continued with the rate increase request from GHD. It prompted a brief discussion.

Edward Crumb made a motion to reaffirm Board approval extending the IWWPP agreement with GHD for the service period 4/1/2021 – 3/31/2022 with the same terms and conditions as detailed in the GHD cost table in its original outline in the 3/4/2015 proposal, not-to-exceed \$80,000.00 for General IWWPP Services and \$17,400.00 for Industrial Survey Services.

Seconded by Steve Andrew

Motion carried. 4/0/2 Absent (RL)(CP)

Michele Cuevas continued, pointing out the remaining correspondence and the letter from Mayor Rich David appointing Ronald Lake as the new Board Member.

Old Business:

Edward Crumb made a motion to rescind the motion made on page 3 of the March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes regarding a budget transfer in the amount of \$66,300.00.

Seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried. 4/0/2 Absent (RL)(CP)

New Business: Previously discussed

Executive Session:

Edward Crumb made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew

Motion carried. 4/0/2 absent (RL) (CP)

The Board entered Executive Session at 6:30pm.

Motion by Edward Crumb to come out of Executive Session.

Seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried. 4/0/2 absent (RL)(CP)

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:38pm. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bruce King.

Seconded by Edward Crumb.

Motion carried 4/0/2 absent (RL)(CP)

Meeting adjourned at 6:40PM.

Next meeting is June 8th at 3:30pm.

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
Joshua Holland, P.E., Village of Johnson City Engineer
Ronald B. Lake, P.E., City of Binghamton Acting Engineer
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