

FINAL COPY

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

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: Chris Papastrat, Chairman
George Kolba, Vice Chairman
Edward Crumb
Stephen Andrew
Ray Standish - AUDIO ATTENDANCE (Exited at 5:00PM)
Ronald Davis

Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer/City of Binghamton Comptroller (Exited at 4:30PM)
Howard Weaver, Weaver Recovery Consulting (Entered at 4:00pm, exited at 4:30PM)
Nicholas Powers (Entered at 4:00pm, exited at 4:30PM)
Jeffrey Hills, Sales Rep Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. - AUDIO ATTENDANCE
(Exited at 3:45PM)
Gary Edwards, Operator II, CSEA Unit President (Exited at 4:00PM)
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist

Chris Papastrat called the meeting to order at 3:33 PM. Five (5) Board Members were present, and one board member (1) was present via audio and attendance was noted aloud by Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary. Fire exits were identified.

Jeffrey Hills, Sales Representative from Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. spoke on audio regarding the proposed sales contract for Electricity Supply beginning November 17, 2020 under the

Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) which was provided in the Board folders. Mr. Hills spoke about the the substantial savings projected over time and that this contract would be effective with the November reading. There were a few informational questions from the Board that were asked and answered. The Board decided to defer further discussion during this portion of the meeting and discuss it more thoroughly later on the agenda.

Privilege of the Floor

No persons were present wishing to offer comments from the floor.

May 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes Approval

**Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted May 12, 2020 Draft Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.
Stephen Andrew seconded the motion.
Motion carried 6/0.**

Chief Fiscal Officer Chuck Shager spoke on current fiscal matters. Mr. Shager said that all monies due and owed have been collected and paid, respectively. On the expense side he wanted to update the Board in that he has been working on a system to populate the numbers for Owner Debt and Local Systems Costs at the same time for better efficiency as the system would be updated quarterly rather than annually. He reported his concern on line items that are over-budget at this time; one being the Lab Supplies, but after discussion it was determined that the new equipment brought new procedures using more supplies. The Lab Techs are taking precautionary steps to know where any budgetary changes would be needed for the upcoming year. There will be upcoming purchases for additional necessary equipment. Mr. Shager advised that the Legal Services line item has been corrected and that he had a concern on the Health Insurance line item, but it was not crucial.

Mr. Shager made a recommendation to the Board to consider forming a committee to work with Ron Lake and Jerry Nystrom to obtain the necessary items and documentation for a clean 'turnover' of the facility's prints, equipment list, etc. He felt the committee should be balanced; composed of those having particular interest, expertise and/or concerns of projects and tasks for a concise transition. This committee interested community leaders as well. There was a lengthy discussion regarding listing issues that would need attention on the construction side, life-span of equipment, documents, etc. to help determine the balance of said committee.

Board members agreed in the creation of this committee and Chairman Papastrat advised that he would appoint interested contributors for the committee within the next few days.

Also discussed at length was that hiring an appraiser would be advantageous to determine numbers to work with for insurance purposes.

Howard Weaver, Consultant from Weaver Recovery Consulting introduced his new employee Nicholas Powers. Among other duties, Mr. Powers will be researching for any available funding allowed. Mr. Weaver wanted to mention there are now strict internal financial restrictions in

force by New York State and that travel by NYS officials has been very restricted. He also wanted to let the Board know that there have been communication issues between New York State and FEMA due to many of the State's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services employees terminating for one reason or another during the pandemic; and that many of the remaining or new employees do not have knowledge of some of the files and procedures that were in place. Mr. Weaver stated that he will continue his diligence on these and any upcoming issues.

(Mr. Weaver and Mr. Powers exited the meeting at 4:30PM)

Edward Crumb presented the Lead Agency Capital Project Chart Report and Graph Report, copies of which are in the Board Folders, and explained how to review the Chart Report, as well as the color-coding system and the scaling of the graphs in the Graph Report.

Superintendent's Report

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

**Superintendent's Report for May 2020
June 9, 2020**

Violations and Significant Issues:

Fines: \$5000 for Phase 2 construction.

Compliance:

May 2020 Average Flow 19.40 MGD	Influent	Effluent	Average % Removal	Effluent Limit
CBOD mg/l	132mg/l	10.45mg/l 1691 lbs/d	92% last month 93%	18mg/l 5,300lbs/day
Suspended Solids mg/l	136mg/l	8.9 mg/l 1440 lbs/day	93% Last Month 94%	20mg/l 5800lbs/day
Other: Settleable Solids Max ml/l	19.4ml/l	0.04ml/l	100%	0.3
Total Nitrogen mg/l	May 2020 mg/l	May 2020 mg/l	% Last month 74%	6mg/l 639,261lbs/year
Phosphorus mg/l	2.70 mg/L	0.49mg/L	82%	1.0 Max. Monitor
Avg. Temperature	15.9	16.6		
Solids Removed		Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020 May 2020

Digested	564.52	573	571.4	754.53
Lime Stabilized	116.67	0	0	
Total	681.19	573	571.4	
Grit				
Grit/Screenings Combined			16.9	23.79 tons
Grease			3.2	2.45 tons

Construction Topics

- Expansion Joint at the intersecting joint between C/N cell 1-8 and 9-14 influent/effluent channels will need repair.
- Yard piping at Thickener D-Box is complete. We are running Thickener 2 and 3.
- Actiflo is producing sludge at 700 GPM. It is holding sand better after partial piping improvements.
- We await completion of Scum collection system equipment to allow us to remove scum from primaries.
- South Volute thickener Has been starting up. North Volute is waiting vendor setup or correction.
- We are still waiting for the Drain to be placed in the Scum screen room.
- We are still waiting for the re-work of the truck bay drain and cleanout.
- We received a final Certificate of Occupancy for what appears to be the entire project. No building or Buildings are defined on the certificate.
- We re-sent the outline of the Micro-Turbine agreement to Jacobs.

Other Issues;

- We are sending flow from Primary Settling Tanks 6, 1, 2, 5 and 7-10 to the CN cells.
- 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. We await final start-up of Mechanical thickeners and SCADA system to allow us to feed from the blend tank to the digesters as designed.
- Biosytr Start Up: Biostyr continues to run all 14 C/N cells and 1-4 DN cells in Automatic including backwashes.
- BioStyr was placed in volumetric control, then taken out because the Chemscan unit is not ready.
- UV continues to operate, transmittance is good at approx. 65-70 NTU, Wedecco has completed its 30 day test. It continues to operate at 100% no matter the flow.
- Our Digester # 3 continues to run OK, with a volatile reduction avg. of 50% for the month of May.
- We have again met our permit for SS, CBOD5, TSS, Phos, and TN barring any unforeseen issues.
- 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; a 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.
- With 5 data points missing, we are averaging 3.57 mg/L Total Nitrogen this month. We averaged 4.61 mg/L for the month of April.
- Phosphorus of 0.49 mg/l.
- The plant is back to regular work hours and is actively advertising for Computer Systems Engineer, Instrumentation Technician and Electrician.
- We are under the new SPEDES Discharge permit as of April 1, 2020 until March 31, 2025.
- Kristen Tocheny Has passed her class with an A. We are waiting for her transcripts and will get them processed with Civil service and DOH as soon as possible. Until then it will be necessary to keep Worth Environmental on until we satisfy the DOH.
- At this time the Micro-Turbine system is shut down. There is a water pressure and water volume issue that needs to be corrected.
- Deron Biechele's class has been postponed until August.

Superintendent Wagner reported that May was a pretty good month for the plant as well as the

community. That the CBOD, SS, TSS, Phosphorus and TN limits have been met and that the total nitrogen limit is at the lowest recorded milligrams per liters for the first time in the Plant's history. Mr. Wagner credited that to the newly installed microturbines.

Construction is heading towards the end. There are a couple of major repairs and projects that need to be completed which would involve major work before completion, such as the expansion joint between CN Cells 1-8 and CN Cells 9-14. There are issues between a subcontractor and DEC. Superintendent Wagner stated that it would be ideal if the recently discussed committee Chuck Shager recommended forming would take on this issue since nothing has resolved on his level.

Plant employees are back to regular work hours. The plant work staff decreased greatly after the pandemic work restrictions were imposed and he is actively advertising for Computer Systems Engineer, Instrumentation Technician and Electrician. The job description for the Safety Officer position has been approved and will also be advertised.

Superintendent Wagner wanted to bring to the Board's attention that the outstanding numbers for the effluent going into the river are the best he's seen and that he commends the Operators, Mechanics, and Electricians for going above and beyond to obtain that quality.

Steve Andrew asked the status of the Mechanic's Assistant position. Edward Crumb advised that the budget modification legislation did go to the City of Binghamton and is currently before Village of Johnson City. Mr. Crumb believes it should be ready to move forward for advertising within a week, subject to there being any interested candidates on the Civil Service Commission's currently valid list for this position.

Ray Standish exited the video conference link at 5:00PM

Charles Pearsall presented the Business Manager's Report. He has prepared a claim for the payment of the \$5,000.00 DEC penalty for Phase II construction deadline and is anticipating compliance for the May level. However, that is dependent on the Lead Agency's ability to procure repair of the CN expansion joint.

He received letters of interest, qualifications, and a proposal from agencies expressing interest in the Negotiator position. Just knowing there is an interest satisfied the Board but they do not wish to pursue hiring for this position at this time. They will pursue an alternate in-house solution for now.

The Board further discussed the MEGA vendor Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.'s proposal for electric supply.

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board accept proposal submitted by Constellation, Inc. through the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance to enter into a fixed-price electricity supply agreement beginning November 17, 2020 or the first meter reading thereafter for a three (3) year period through November 17, 2023 or the closest meter reading thereafter at the retail service price of 4.180 cents per

**kilowatt hour to be paid from the various electricity lines based on usage at the main plant, the main pumping station, and the Terminal Pumping Station.
George Kolba seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5/0/1 absent.**

Mr. Pearsall is requesting permission to advertise for outside lab services.

**Edward Crumb made a motion to authorize Business Manager to advertise for successor outside lab services with the appropriately updated request for proposal.
Steve Andrew seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5/0/1 absent.**

Mr. Pearsall wanted to move forward on the topic of hiring of an appraiser to appraise the Plant buildings, facilities, apparatus, and equipment.

**Edward Crumb made a motion to direct the Business Manager to develop for Board review and comment the qualifications and request for a proposal for appraisal services for the Joint Sewage Plant buildings, facilities, apparatus, and equipment and the Terminal Pump Station buildings, facilities, apparatus, and equipment.
Steve Andrew seconded the motion.
Motion carried 5/0/1 absent.**

Committee Reports

Construction: George Kolba and Steve Andrew – George Kolba brought up the issue of missing/failing curbing along Vestal Road and fencing to the East of the Admin. Building.

Finance: Edward Crumb – The 2019 Final Bill is still percolating in the City Finance Department and once it is finalized it should be sent out for consideration and approval.

Personnel: Steve Andrew is encouraging that personnel get COVID-19 testing for free at UHS (Occupational Medicine) under arrangements/facilities made available by the City of Binghamton.

Ad Hoc: Ronald Davis - Nothing new to report.

Flow Management: Edward Crumb - Nothing new to report.

Correspondence: Michele Cuevas spoke on the IWPP status report from Jason Greene of GHD which was distributed in the Board folders. That she spoke with Mr. Greene and that he wanted to report that Frito Lay has paid their penalty but the City of Binghamton Water Filtration Plant (WFP) has not. More than 100 tons of sludge was recently received from the WFP. It was determined that another past-due letter would be mailed out by GHD. Ms. Cuevas also reported that the annual Significant Non-Compliance (SNC) Public Notice was published in the paper and there was only one which was Binghamton University. The Workers Comp Alliance Workforce 10% funding reduction credit for the six-week period from March 16, 2020 through April 26, 2020 was received and posted.

Old Business: Michele Cuevas reported on the claim from Keystone Associates from 2016-2017 for structural services allegedly performed. They are being persistent on the monies they claim was owed. Mr. Crumb and Ms. Cuevas retrieved past records to review and could not ascertain any additional work actually performed nor invoices received (contemporaneously, or otherwise). Per the Board suggestion at this time, Michele should send a letter to Keystone requesting further documentation/details to clarify the alleged services.

New Business: A proposed schedule of 2021 Budget preparation dates and committee finance meetings were distributed by Edward Crumb. A discussion took place, and some date revisions/corrections were made.

Edward Crumb made a motion to adopt the corrected 2020-2021 Proposed Budget Preparation Schedule.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0/1 absent

Executive Session: None

George Kolba made a motion to adjourn.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 5/0/1 absent

Meeting adjourned at 6:45PM.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for July 14, 2020.

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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