

# FINAL COPY

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

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: George Kolba  
Edward Crumb  
Chris Papastrat  
Ron Lake  
Bruce King  
Stephen Andrew-Remote (Audio/Video)

Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Superintendent  
Ron Warwick, Asst. Superintendent  
Billie Goodson, Business Manager  
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel  
Howard Reeve, Facility Engineer  
Larry Travis, E.E., Electrical Engineer  
Chuck Robinson, JSB Fiscal Officer/City of Binghamton Comptroller  
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary  
Adam Afify, Head Operator  
Mary Jacyna, Village of Johnson City Trustee/JSB committee

Chairman Kolba called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Sign in sheet was passed.

Six (6) Board 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**

**Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board approves the submitted November 12, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.**

**Motion was seconded by Bruce King.**

**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 noted that councilwoman Bergman has resigned effective January 31, 2025, and Mr. Robert Kerry has taken over effective February 1, 2025.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wagner overviewed the Superintendent's Report below which included graphs, charts, copies of which were distributed in the Board's folders.

### **January Superintendents Report**

February 11, 2025

Amendment to the December Report.

The business manager finalized corrections to the NYS retirement start dates, implemented a vacation accrual code for employees hired post 2013, introduced a new EAP program, accurately processed two retroactive payments for the CSEA employees, provided management staff with an online compliance training platform enabling them to fulfill requirements flexibly. The HR contributions the Business Manager has made over the last two years have helped bring the plant up to date and are more transparent for employees and owners alike.

The account clerk continued to perform payroll duties under the supervision of the Business Manager and maintained our weekly budget report which has kept all departments on track and within budget all year long.

The laboratory department has been going above and beyond since October 18<sup>th</sup> when a lab tech left. The Lab Director, Ms. Tocheny, has come in to cover this and they have somehow been able to staff our lab seven days a week since. We have a new lab tech starting February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Confidential Secretary was very helpful in organizing our hard copy file and PCR's for the EPA audit of our IWPP program, processing the monthly surcharge billings for our two largest IWPP participants, processing payments from our municipal users.

### **Superintendent Report-cont.**

January 2025 started off with the following numbers:

Average Q=14.56 MGD, CBOD=8 mg/L, TSS=4.6 mg/L, Fecals=3 MPN, 1.06 inches of precipitation, NH<sub>3</sub>=0.25 mg/L, Phos=0.22 mg/L, TN=2.8 mg/L, Merc=0.588 ng/L, Chesapeake Bay numbers are 12 month rolling sum for TN=174,747 lbs. 12 Month rolling sum for Phos=18,302 lbs. The Chesapeake Bay limits are TN=639,261 lbs., and Phos=106,543 lbs.

Items of Note: The plant water pumps were installed and found to have the wrong thread-pitch on the top shafts. The manufacturer is making new top shafts to be installed on-site. Tentatively scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup>. Currently they are installed and have started up.

The Operations department took down and cleaned out all three centrifuges and snaked out the drains for each, as part of a process wide maintenance plan. This will include doing this once per year moving forward.

We need to ask for an advance and permission to send an operator to school. We will be asking the board to give permission as soon as possible from now on as we need to ask that the advance for this operator to be expedited. We want to eliminate the need to ask for expeditions moving forward.

Assistant Superintendent Ronald Warwick and Senior Operator Adam Afify attended the NYWEA conference in NYC and were recognized by the NYWEA for The Municipal Achievement Award.

I'm not aware of an award of this magnitude having been received by the Binghamton-Johnson City Wastewater Treatment Plant. The fact we were even recognized is evidence we are on the right trajectory. I would like to personally thank all the plant employees for rising to the occasion and making this happen. The plant has never had during my tenure the number of operators as qualified and engaged as it has now. I would also like to acknowledge the support and cooperation we have received from the Board, City of Binghamton and the Village of Johnson City.

Regarding the achievement award, head operator Adam Afify spoke to the general audience and said THANK YOU for approving him and Mr. Warwick to attend NYWEA Conference to accept the award. Overall, the NYWEA Conference provided valuable knowledge, connections, and recognition, further motivating our team to continue striving for excellence at our facility. Hopefully, pictures were taken of accepting this award. Superintendent Wagner will check with NYWEA for pictures or video.

**Superintendent report-cont.**

**Registration, Lodging, Advance for 1 Operator to Attend Morrisville Etc.  
Basic Operations 2-week course February 24-March 7, 2025.**

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board approve registration, lodging and advance for 1 Operator to attend the Morrisville Etc. 2-week course Basic Operations February 24-March7, 2025, in accordance with the Travel Policy, and to be paid from the Travel and Training budget line (ES8130.54701).

Motion was seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried. 6/0

**Registration, Lodging, Advance for 1 Operator to Attend Morrisville Etc.  
Grade 3 Supervision & Technical 5-day course April 21-25, 2025.**

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board approve registration, lodging and advance for 1 Operator to attend the Morrisville Etc. 5-day course Grade 3 Supervision & Technical April 21-25, 2025, in accordance with the Travel Policy, and to be paid from the Travel and Training budget line (ES8130.54701).

Motion was seconded by Bruce King.

Motion carried. 6/0

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

**Business Manager's Report**

Business Manager Goodson went over the report.

**2024 Flow Credit Bank**

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board ratifies the 2024 Flow Credit Bank as of December 31, 2024, and that annual flow credit statements be sent to the Municipal Users.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried. 6/0

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

## **Board Committee Reports**

Construction: Nothing new to report.

Finance: Final accounts payable transactions are being processed and will close on February 28<sup>th</sup>.  
The auditor's proposals submissions deadline is Thursday at 2pm.

Flow Management: A work group meeting tomorrow at 2pm with an applicant for the development housing on Lisle Street.

Personnel: Will need Executive Session.

Future Planning: Nothing new to report.

Ad Hoc: Nothing new to report.

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

## **Correspondence**

### **IWPP Report-Confidential Secretary**

Confidential Secretary Cuevas read the report.

Compliance letters for All Spec Finishing, Ametek Inc. & Bates Troy.  
Permit Termination Letter-Cryta-Lyn Chemical.

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

## **New Business**

### **Cancer Screenings NY Law**

Superintendent Wagner stated that there is NY Law in place that an employee can use 4hrs. per year for cancer screenings/appointments and will be paid at their regular hourly rate of pay. Our Business Manager has set up a code through our payroll service provided to keep track of this item. A letter needs to be on file just stating that they were at an appointment/screening.

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

## **Executive Session: Personnel Matters**

**Stephen Andrew made a motion to enter the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.**

**Motion seconded by Edward Crumb.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**No action was taken.**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 4:17pm.

**Adjournment:**

**Chris Papastrat made a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion seconded by Bruce King.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

The meeting adjourned at 4:55pm.

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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