



Binghamton-Johnson City  
**JOINT SEWAGE BOARD**



Ray L. Standish, P.E.  
Gary Holmes  
Edward Crumb

Stephen Andrew  
George Kolba, Jr.  
Ron C. Davis

**FINAL COPY**

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

**Tuesday, November 14, 2017**

Village of Johnson City Municipal Bldg.

**Members Present:** George Kolba, Jr., Chairman *Pro Tem*  
Edward Crumb  
Ronald Davis  
Steve Andrew  
Ray Standish  
Gary Holmes (arrived at 3:31 PM)

**Also Present:** Craig Matias, Head Operator  
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager  
Howard Reeve, Facility Engineer  
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary  
Chuck Shager, City of Binghamton Comptroller (exited at 4:00 PM)  
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel  
Bruce King, Village of Johnson City Trustee  
Conrad Taylor, City of Binghamton 4th District Councilman  
Laura Lee Perkins, Transcriptionist

**Guests:** Michael Lisson, CPA, Grossman St. Amour CPAs (exited at 3:33 PM)  
Ken DelBianco, P.E., Project Manager (exited meeting at 3:21 PM)  
Jeff Platsky, Press and Sun Bulletin  
Jason Greene, P.E., GHD (arrived at 3:55 PM/exited @ 4:13 PM)

Chairman George Kolba called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. A quorum of five (5) Board Members was present. Sign-in sheet was passed for signatures. Fire exits were identified.

Catherine P. Young, Superintendent  
Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Facilities  
4480 Vestal Road, Vestal, New York 13850  
Phone: 607-729-2975 Fax: 607-729-3041  
Email: [bjcwwtp@stny.rr.com](mailto:bjcwwtp@stny.rr.com)

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve the September 12, 2017 Minutes in the form found in the Board folder with the changes shown.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 5/0/1 (GH)

Ken DelBianco, P.E. provided an update on the Owners' construction projects at the Plant

- Going well
- Contract 2 with Blue Heron – cancelling-out remainder of work
- Contract 4 (MCC) done
- Contract 5 – in good shape, shotcrete at bottom of backwash tank completed
  - Application of shotcrete to Secant Pile walls has started
  - Concrete work in new Headworks Building has begun
  - Concrete has been poured in the Generator Building
- Digester 3 – completed with coating's; filling with water and putting in agitator to protect against freezing
- Digesters 1 and 2 – power-washing; stripped off lot of coating that will need to be renewed/replaced
- Digester 3 could be online in the Spring, with Digesters 1 and 2 possibly operational by Summer
- Contract 10 – excavated for new Solids Handling Facility
- Flood Wall – received an extension on milestone dates (probably will complete structure in January and manholes in May); the west and south portion of the Flood Wall which is included in Contract 5 should be completed by mid-Summer 2018
- Wet drywall was repaired in the new Administration/Maintenance Building
- A tour was held with DEC representatives, who seemed very well pleased
- In response to a question, Mr. DelBianco stated he has not heard from the Town of Vestal Engineer – a shut-off valve has been installed in the Town's Bunn Hill trunk sewer; the Town of Vestal needs to install emergency overflow piping (after obtaining a required DEC permit)

(Mr. DelBianco exited the meeting)

Chuck Shager presented the Fiscal Officer's Report:

1/1/2017 Beg. Balance		
Checking	\$ 888,759.69	
Savings	<u>\$9,575,403.32</u>	
Total		\$10,463,983.01
 10/31/2017		
Checking	\$ 530,819.08	
Money Market	<u>\$7,287,754.07</u>	
		\$7,818,573.15

Mr. Shager reported that the Board/Plant is \$1 to \$1.2 million under budget so far in 2017, mostly in labor and chemicals.

\$118 million has been spent on the Lead Agency's project to-date (since September 2011).

The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) —has awarded the Owners a \$10 million grant for the Solids Handling Improvements, but EFC will not begin payments under this grant until January. Regarding the 25% NYS matching share for the FEMA grant, Mr. Shager stated that he arranged for NYS Officials to tour the Plant, focusing on the Flood Wall Project. NYS has a shortfall in HUD from the "Superstorm Sandy" storm, which is coming in slowly (from the federal government), but he believes that NYS will pay its share eventually, so that the Owners can repay construction advances from NYS-EFC.

Board Secretary Cuevas noted that SUNY and Kirkwood have paid their Fourth Quarter Estimated Billings (post-October, so these payments are not reflected on Mr. Shager's report).

Mr. Shager noted that the City's Website has a lot of information and pictures regarding the Lead Agency's Projects.

(Board Member Gary Holmes joined the meeting; all Board Members are now present)

Michael Lisson from St. Amour presented an updated draft of the 2016 financial statement; The original audit was timely been sent to DHS and FEMA. None of the changes change the auditor's opinion.

Charles Pearsall – presented the Business Manager’s Report:

- The Town of Union has requested change to the 2012 approved flows. George Kolba, Jr. is not in favor of making any changes without more proof
- Edward Crumb reported that the Plant does not know where the water went but neither does the Town of Union; Johnson City has not filed amended report regarding the water it supplies the Town of Union for its Westover Water District
- Alfred Paniccia asked when do final flows become final? Does the Town of Union have backup for this request?
- Alfred Paniccia suggested sending a letter to Town of Union that the Rules and Regulations state it is not acceptable to give credit or make adjustments to the 2012 approved flows

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to accept and approve the low bid submitted by Univar USA of PA for High Calcium Hydrated Lime of \$0.1218/pound and award the supply contract to same for a one-year period beginning December 1, 2017, to be paid from the Chemical line in the budget (J8130.53150).

Ronald Davis seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Gary Holmes made a motion for the Board to transfer \$10,000.00 from Budget Line J8130.54203 (Electricity - Plant Pump Station) and \$4,000.00 from Budget Line J8130.54204 (Electricity - TPS) to the Electricity budget line (J8130.54202) and that the Business Manager prepare and submit Requests for Legislation to the Owners’ Legislative bodies in the form set forth below:

**REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION TO THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF BINGHAMTON**

Requested by: Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board  
Title & Department, if applicable: POC: Charlie Pearsall, Business Manager  
Address: 4480 Vestal Road  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Telephone: 765-6870 (cell)

**SUGGESTED TITLE:** Transfer of 2017 Budget Appropriations in the Electricity ledger sub-categories for The Binghamton-Johnson City Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION:** The Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board resolved to transfer \$14,000 from General Electricity to the more specific Plant Pumping and TPS sub-accounts.

**SUGGESTED CONTENT:** The Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board requests the Owners to enact legislation to transfer \$14,000.00 from Electricity (line J8130.54202) and increase Electricity – Plant Pumping (line J8130.54203) by \$10,000.00 and Electricity – TPS (line J8130.54204) by \$4,000.00

**REQUEST FOR LEGISLATION TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE  
VILLAGE OF JOHNSON CITY**

Requested by: Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board  
Title & Department, if applicable: POC: Charlie Pearsall, Business Manager  
Address: 4480 Vestal Road  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Telephone: 765-6870 (cell)

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Motion carried 6/0

Stephen Andrew made a motion to approve budget amendments corresponding to recent FEMA revenues received.

Gary Holmes seconded the motion

Edward Crumb made a motion to amend the motion to include approval for the Business Manager to finalize and submit Requests for Legislation to the Owners' Legislative bodies in the form set forth below:

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OF THE CITY OF BINGHAMTON**

Requested by: Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board  
Title & Department, if applicable: POC: Charlie Pearsall, Business Manager  
Address: 4480 Vestal Road  
Vestal, NY 13850  
Telephone: 765-6870 (cell)

**SUGGESTED TITLE:** Accepting FEMA settlements relating to 4031-PW2504v1 in the amount of \$1,063,416.75 and 4031-PW2550 in amount of \$684,165.38 and increasing 2017 Budget appropriations to allow payment of \$1,615,871.43 to the Owners.

**PURPOSE OF LEGISLATION:** The Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board requests that the 2017 Budget be increased to allow the receipt of a FEMA payment and subsequent payment to Owners for corrective work to be performed by the Owner's Lead Agency.

**SUGGESTED CONTENT:** The Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board received a FEMA check #05897022 for 4031-PW2504v1 in the amount of \$1,063,416.75 and check #05859968 for 4031-PW2550 in amount of \$684,165.38 and requests legislation increasing 2017 Budget revenue appropriations and to allow payment of \$1,615,871.43 to the Owners. On the revenue side: Federal Aid – Emergency (J.44960) should be increased by \$1,481,727.94, State Aid – Emergency (J.43960) and that JF.45031 (Flood Fund - Interfund Transfer) be credited/increased by \$131,710.70. On the expense apportionments that Reimburse Owners for Rec (J8130.54899) be increased by \$1,615,871.43, that Transfer to Capital (J9950.59000) be increased by \$131,710.70 and Flood Capital Fund – Professional Services (JF8130.559105) be increased by \$131,710.70. Payments made via claim to the City of Binghamton (54.8%) in the amount of \$885,497.54 and the Village of Johnson City (45.2%) of \$730,373.89 will then be processed.

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Requested by: Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board  
Title & Department, if applicable: POC: Charlie Pearsall, Business Manager  
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Ronald Davis seconded the motion to amend  
Motion to amend carried 6/0  
Motion carried as amended 6/0

Jason Greene, P.E. presented GHD's update on the Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program, a copy of which was included in Board Members' folders. A discussion was held regarding Local Limits. Further coordination and discussion is required at a future meeting with the Superintendent present. Mr. Greene noted that the Board would need to issue/advertise proper notice and hold a hearing in order to adopt the fine structure that was previously proposed. Craig Matias reported that there has been a periodic/cyclical "spike" in pH on weekends from the Binghamton Flow Side, jumping from around 7 to 9 on Saturdays beginning around 4:00pm, and returning to around 7 by around 7:30pm. Further investigation/monitoring is warranted.

Craig Matias presented the Superintendent's Report in Cathy Young's absence, a copy of which appears below:

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **Violations and Significant Issues**

Pretreatment Program-related Citizen's Complaint - Executive Session requested

### **Compliance**

<b>Date: October 2017</b> <b>Average Flow</b>	<b>Influent</b> <b>11.35mgd</b>	<b>Effluent</b>	<b>Average %</b> <b>Removal</b>	<b>Effluent Limit</b>	
<b>CBOD</b>	287	184	35.89%	Monitor	
<b>Suspended Solids</b>	226	73	67.70%	Monitor	
<b>Other: Settleable Solids</b> <b>Max</b>	12.3	0.43	96.50%	Monitor	
<b>Total Nitrogen</b>	Sept 28.9	Sept 25.4	12.11%	Monitor	
<b>Chlorine</b>	NA	1.25 Max.	NA	2.0Max.	
<b>Avg. Temperature</b>	20.3	19.6			
<b>Solids Removed</b>					
		<b>July</b> <b>2016</b>	<b>Aug 2017</b>	<b>Sept 2017</b>	<b>Oct</b> <b>2017</b>
<b>Digested</b>		0	0	0	0
<b>Lime Stabilized</b>		557.83	580.45	536.53	558.11
<b>Total</b>		557.83	580.45	536.53	558.11
<b>Grit</b>		0	0	0	0
<b>Screenings</b>		13.82	5.07	9.63	11.33
<b>Grease</b>		3.79	9.78	0	2.14

### **Operations Summary, Construction and Related Issues**

We continue to operate with challenges related to the capacity of the new temporary chlorine contact chamber and the temporary effluent discharge pipe. The discharge pipe was adjusted due to flow constriction at over 24-26 MGD.

At times, during wet weather events, weirs and skimmers in the settling tanks were submerged. GHD and Jacobs are working to resolve the issue.

- On October 15<sup>th</sup> our flows peaked again, this time at 35 MGD with 0.44 inches of rain. On October 23<sup>rd</sup> we again had problems with weirs under water.



## Operations Summary, Construction and Related Issues-cont.

- Bypass pumping of the Binghamton flow commenced October 26. The flows from the bypass pumping scheme are extremely erratic, with changes of 6-10 MGD flow within minutes. This problem has not yet been resolved. Operations will continue to adjust Binghamton header valves to settling tanks 2 thru 5 due to erratic flow and wet weather flows. On October 25<sup>th</sup> NYSEG drilled into the Terminal Pump Station force main, causing a leak and requiring shutdown and repair. DEC was on site to observe.
- The solids handling phase of the construction has begun.
- Flood Wall: Vestal 12" line Overflow is required. There have been Planning/ Discussion meetings with the Town Engineer, and the issue is not yet resolved
- Request Authorization for travel, advance of \$300.00 and reimbursement of any related expenses for Facility Engineer to attend the Basic Lab Course December 4<sup>th</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup>.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve a travel allowance of up to \$300.00 and related expenses for attendance at the Basic Laboratory Course by the Facility Engineer in accordance with the Board's Travel Policy.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

## Committee Reports

Construction – Gary Holmes – refer to Ken DelBianco's update; nothing further to report

Finance – Edward Crumb – completed underwriting for the 2018 health insurance program; the proposed program notices are included in the Board folder.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to extend the brokerage Contract for Health Benefits Products/Contracts with Haylor, Freyer & Coon, Inc. (Thomas Augustini, Broker) for an additional one-year period (through 12/31/18) with no change in price, terms or conditions (charges are built-in to the Excellus group health insurance contract premium prices), and to authorize the Chairman *Pro Tem* to sign any required documents, as applicable.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to extend the Contract for Health Benefit Program Consulting Services with NFP Corporate Services, LLP (Thomas Surowka, Senior Director) for an additional one-year service period (with the anniversary dates as provided in the agreement, with the latest being extended to 04/30/2019) at no change in price (\$13,500.00 per year), terms or conditions, with the costs to be charged proportionate to enrollment against budget lines J9060.58000C (Health Insurance) and J9060.58002C (Health Insurance – Retirees), and to authorize the Chairman *Pro Tem* to sign any required documents, as applicable.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to extend the Contract for Dental and Vision Claims Administration with Lifetime Benefit Solutions for one year at a cost of \$450.00 per month for up to 100 employees/participants, plus \$4.50 per employee/participant per month greater than 100, but with no other change in terms or conditions, and to authorize the Chairman *Pro Tem* to sign any required documents, as applicable.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve the Excellus SimplyBlue Plus Bronze 4 proposal for the 2018 group health policy for Non-Medicare Eligible Participants, with the costs to be charged corresponding to enrollment against budget lines J9060.58000C (Health Insurance) and J9060.58002C (Health Insurance – Retirees), and to authorize the Chairman *Pro Tem* to sign any required documents, as applicable.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve the Excellus Medicare Blue PPO Co-Pay Plan proposal for the 2018 group health policy for Medicare Eligible Participants, with the costs to be charged corresponding to enrollment against budget lines J9060.58000C (Health Insurance) and J9060.58002C (Health Insurance – Retirees), and to authorize the Chairman *Pro Tem* to sign any required documents, as applicable.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve employer contributions to the 2018 Health Reimbursement Accounts for Non-Medicare Eligible Participants – *after the first \$600.00 in covered expenses has been incurred by a patient in 2018* – of up to \$5,950.00 per Individual for 2018, but not more than \$11,900.00 for 2018 for all persons covered under a multi-person enrollment (i.e., Employee plus Child[ren], Employee plus Spouse, or Family), to be paid corresponding to enrollment from 2018 budget lines J9060.58000C (Health Insurance) and J9060.58002C (Health Insurance – Retirees).

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to ratify the 2018 Health Benefits Program Notices to employees and Retirees in the form presented. Copies of the notices are to be attached to these Minutes.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 6/0

Personnel – Steve Andrew – nothing to report

Ad Hoc – Ronald Davis – nothing to report

Flow Management – Edward Crumb – nothing to report

Co-Counsel Alfred Paniccia informed the Board that he had a phone conference with Tom Surowka and erisaPROs regarding the update to the benefit plan documents. A conference call with Board and Plant representatives is being planned to work on these documents further.

Correspondence:

Governor Cuomo's announcement regarding the award of a \$10 million grant to the City of Binghamton and Village of Johnson City under the state's Intermunicipal Water Infrastructure Grants Program for the Solids Handling Improvements project  
Correspondence from FEMA (dated 10/18/17) approving extensions through December 30, 2019 for completion of PW-02555 (BAF), PW-02512 (SCADA-2-BAF), and PW-02573 (Valve Gearboxes)  
Email from the Sierra Club – to be referred to the City of Binghamton for Lead Agency coordination/participation  
Village of Johnson City Resolutions regarding approval of budget transfers and FEMA monies  
Village of Johnson City 11/07/17 letter to Pizza Pie, Ltd. d/b/a Rossi's regarding violations of the Village's Sewer Use Code in relation to Fats, Oils, and Grease (F.O.G.)

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Engineer Howard Reeve stated there was nothing new to report regarding the TPS HVAC and Roof Projects.

NEW BUSINESS

George Kolba asked the Board if it should continue with just one Attorney; stated the Plant will need someone to represent the Board in relation to the DEC. Should the Board advertise a Request for Qualifications (RFQ)? Charles Pearsall to prepare draft letter soliciting qualifications of potential candidates; Co-Counsel Alfred Paniccia will review it.

Steve Andrew made a motion for the Board to adjourn  
Ronald Davis seconded the motion  
Motion carried 6/0

Meeting adjourned at 5:07 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lee Perkins  
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  
Catherine Young, Superintendent  
Brown & Brown Empire State  
Haylor Freyer & Coon  
Robert Bennett, P.E., Village of Johnson City, Engineer  
Ray Standish, P.E., City of Binghamton, Acting City Engineer  
File