

FINAL COPY

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

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: Chris Papastrat, Chairman
George Kolba, Vice Chairman
Edward Crumb
Bruce T. King
Stephen Andrew (3:30 PM via Audio/Visual Attendance)
Ray Standish (3:35 PM via Audio/Visual Attendance)

Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer/City of Binghamton Comptroller
Ronald Warwick, Acting Assistant Superintendent
Howard Reeve, Facility Engineer
Ron Lake, P.E., City of Binghamton Project Engineer
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary
Clark Giblin, Deputy Mayor, Village of Johnson City (Exited at 5:37PM)
Angela Riley, City of Binghamton, Council Member, 3rd District
(Audio/Visual)
Larry Travis, Computer Systems Engineer
Michael Donahue, Town Board, Town of Binghamton
Elizabeth Rounds, Supervisor, Town of Binghamton
Vaughn Golden, Reporter, WSKG
Tina Chronopoulos, Resident, City of Binghamton
Jason Greene, PE, GHD (4:07 PM via Audio Attendance; exited at 4:32 PM)
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist

Guests: none

Chairman Chris Papastrat called the meeting to order at 3:31PM. Sign in sheet was passed and Confidential Secretary Michele Cuevas took attendance aloud with one not present (Ray Standish). Five (5) Board Members were present. One (1) was present via audio/visual by 3:35PM (Ray Standish). Therefore, six (6) Board Members were present at this meeting.

Fire exits were identified. Chairman Papastrat introduced and welcomed newly appointed Board Member Bruce T. King. Chairman Papastrat also stated he wished all the best to former Board Member Ron Davis.

Privilege of the Floor

Edward Crumb wanted to make some comments in appreciation of Ron Davis's service; that Mr. Davis was appointed to the Board on January 3, 2012 by the Village of Johnson City Mayor and confirmed by the Village Board. He demonstrated common sense, a practical business-like approach, was diligent, thoughtful, industrious and faithful to his duties as a Board Member. He well-represented Johnson City and its residents. He well-served all user-communities and in addition to his services as a Board Member he served on the Finance Committee, chaired the Ad-Hoc Committee, and we wish him well.

Mr. Crumb is requesting consideration to expeditiously process the stipend Mr. Davis will receive for his service in 2021 now rather waiting until the end of the year.

Mr. Crumb also wanted to bring up a negative tweet which he was a subject of and that he did not agree with the characterization or the content of the statements.

Chairman Papastrat then gave the floor to Tina Chronopoulos, a Binghamton resident to speak. She addressed the current public issue regarding the proposed audit contract with Veolia speaking strongly against it.

As a point of order, Edward Crumb wished to point out that there has been no motion or proposal before this Board nor does this Board have the authority with respect to the owners' procurement of a consultant. While in the past, the Board has approved providing funding for an audit without specifying the company to be chosen.

Vice Chairman George Kolba stated that he agreed with Mr. Crumb and that he wanted to confirm the statement that the Board did not accept a contract for Veolia; that it was the responsibility of the Owners.

Ray Standish asked for the floor to announce his resignation as a Board Member and that his last day working for the City of Binghamton will be April 30, 2021. He stated that since he resides outside of the City of Binghamton he could no longer serve on the Board and that this Board meeting will be his last day. Vice Chairman George Kolba stated that the By-Laws of the Board do not state he must live in the City of Binghamton. Mr. Standish will look further into this then before proceeding with his resignation.

March 9, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes Approval

Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted March 9, 2021 Draft Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

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

Superintendent's Report

Elliott Wagner presented the Superintendent's Report which appears below and was distributed in the Board Folders along with the charts and graphs. Starting with an overview of the Weekly Plant Status Report as of 4/13/2021.

Main Pumps:

Auto

Headworks:

Auto. Received authorization to go out to Bid 3/23/2021 [for the Hydro-Dyne WCP-12H-64-5S Washing Compactor and spare parts package]. Waiting on Bid Bond.

Aerated Grit System:

Auto.

Primaries:

Auto. Primary tank #3 is currently being inspected. We will be verifying the weir elevations.

Sludge Handling Building:

Auto.

Thickeners:

Auto.

Digesters:

Auto.

Micro-Turbines:

Semi-Auto, Running 4 Micro-Turbines and burning off extra gas.

Centrifuges:

Auto.

Scum system:

Semi-Auto. Plant has come up with an alternate method to run in Semi-Auto.

Actiflo:

Auto. Over the weekend, it appears that it is holding sand. Plant added maintenance sand over the weekend. Plant continues working with Kruger/Veolia daily to operate as efficiently as possible. Running both backwash pumps at the same time instead of one.

SIPS:

Auto.

BioStyr, CN Cells:

Auto. CN4, CN10 and CN11 are waiting on valve Actuators. Despite this we continue to achieve good numbers.

Methanol:

Auto.

D/N Cells:

Auto.

UV system:

Auto, Wedeco sent out an HMI software upgrade. Since the HMI software update UV has been working in auto.

Plant Water System:

Auto.

Storm Water pump stations:

Stand-By, see attached (note: attachment not included in these Minutes). Pump 1 VFD replaced, Transformer replaced and relocated to a higher elevation, Pump 2 VFD is still blown up and needs to be replaced. See photos on attached word file (*not included in these Minutes*). Waiting for this to be cleared up.

Chemical Storage system:

Auto.

Scrubber system:

Offline for the winter. Plant has started prepping Scrubber to bring on-line May 1st.

HVAC Systems:

Auto, Issue with Greenheck unit. Issue with Tube fan being worked on.

Laboratory:

WET testing completed for this quarter. Results have not been received yet.

CMMS:

137 Work orders for this week. 74 Closed work orders last week. Qty of 26 Misc. open, non-critical work orders.

Staffing:

Looking for an electrician.

Training 2 Operator trainees. Mechanics Assistant started 4/12/2021

Advertising for Industrial Hygienist.

Landfill:

8.5 trucks this week.

Training:

Construction:

Still waiting for O&Ms from Matco, GHD and Kruger/Veolia (preliminary O&Ms have wrong parts and vendors listed)

Waiting on Coordination study, Arc-flash hazard analysis, baseline test reports for equipment and breakers, third party test reports from HMT for equipment and breakers.

Waiting on storm water pump VFD installation, Matco has it in their possession.

Waiting on as-built drawings, Notification of warranty start dates for equipment that has had warranty extended due to installation date.

Waiting on Cummings training. (Matco)

Cover installation on Primary 1-6 started last week. Stalled.

30 day performance test on Actiflo system (has not been completed).

Plant water system and SIPS pump room roof leaks. Jacobs has been notified.

Concrete is starting to chip and crumble at various locations on the West wall (Facing NYSEG) see picture (on next page). Still waiting for response (from Lead Agency).

Waiting on DEC final sign-off and removal of Consent Order.

(continues on next page)



(Minutes continue on the next page with charts)

Superintendents Report for March 2021

	FLOW	CBOD5		REM	Tot Susp Solids		REM	Settleable Solids		REM	Total Nitrogen		REM	Phosphorous		REM
	MGD	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%
	AVG	limit			limit			limit			limit			limit		
		18 mg/L			20 mg/L			0.3 mL/L			6.0 mg/L			1.0 mg/L		
January	18.46	194	11	94%	156	8.7	94%	6.6	0.05	99%	16.0	2.6	84%	3.03	0.46	85%
February	15.55	216	11	95%	212	6.7	97%	8.8	0.03	100%	25.8	2.3	91%	4.20	0.46	89%
March	20.55	154	12	92%	163	7	96%	7.50	0.08	99%	20	2.5	88%	3.34	0.42	87%
April																
May																
June																
July																
August																
September																
October																
November																
December																
Avg Year	18.19	188	11	94%	177	7.5	96%	7.6	0.05	99%	20.60	2.47	87%	3.52	0.45	87%

Outfall 001

Waiting on 1 data points TN= 2.5 mg/L

Outfall 01A

Waiting on 1 data points TN= 2.6 mg/L

Notes:

The Permit for TN = 6mg/L from Outfall 01A

The Permit for TN = Monitor month avg. from Outfall 001 Not to exceed 639,261 lbs. 12 month rolling avg.

Outfall 001 includes flow through 01A and 01B bypass

Landfill Solids 2021

Date	Digested	Lime Stabilized	Solids Total	Bar screen	Grit and Screen	Grease	
	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	Tons	
January	647.19		647.19		7.29		
February	549.86		549.86		12.08		
March	673.60		673.60		19.16		
April							
May							
June							
July							
August							
September							
October							
November							
December							
Average Tons	623.55	#DIV/0!	623.55	#DIV/0!	12.84	#DIV/0!	
Total Tons	1870.65	0	1870.65	0	38.53	0	

Notes:

If cell is blank, that item did not go to the landfill (Or the Bill has not Posted)

Mr. King asked the percentage of electrical produced by the micro turbines and Superintendent Wagner stated 17 percent which is depicted in the graph.

Superintendent Wagner stated he is pleased with the numbers being produced. He is actively seeking and filling available staff positions with qualified candidates.

Regarding the concrete chipping and crumbling at various locations on the west wall, Mr. Lake stated that he is still awaiting a response from GHD.

Summarizing the graphs, Superintendent Wagner pointed out that solar production is up and that electric use has greatly decreased due to the use of the micro turbines.

Superintendent Wagner advised that some of the remaining “punch list” items are still in progress; that staff is working to clean up post-construction and that the grounds show remarkable visible improvements. He gave kudos to the departments who are working on the cleanup and grounds improvements.

Superintendent Wagner addressed to Edward Crumb that he was reviewing the Rules and Regulations as part of the IWPP and Mercury Minimization Plan but his information is dated as updated 2013; he is requesting a recently updated packet to post on the website. Mr. Crumb said that posting it would be a good idea and that he will forward the most recent one to him.

Superintendent Wagner advised that the Plant’s current SPDES Permit is now posted on the website, and he will be starting the process to mail surveys to dental facilities in our collection area to fulfill permit requirements for the Mercury Minimization Plan. He will be coordinating this with Jason Greene and as part of the due diligence requirement per the Permit.

Jason Greene, P.E. joined the meeting via audio conference and presented the IWPP March 2021 Status Report which was distributed in the Board folders. He is ready to go forward with the DEC-required Industrial Survey but will be going over it with Superintendent Wagner prior. Included in the folders is a table of hourly rates he discussed for adjustments. The rates will not alter the *not to exceed amount* on the initial contract. The Board will review the document in the folder and GHD’s request for contract modification for further discussion at the next meeting.

Jason Greene exited the meeting at 4:32PM.

Fiscal Officer’s Report

Fiscal Officer Chuck Shager reviewed his report which was distributed in the Board Members’ folders. He stated that the revenues and expenditures are pretty much the same as last month. What was not on the report is that there are large variations in the 2020 Flow amounts (from 2019) due to the pandemic and he anticipates calls from the municipalities questioning the numbers. Edward Crumb stated that as a Member of the Finance Committee he reviewed the flow reports submitted by all Municipal Users and did not find any reason to believe any municipality failed to report accurately. Reports that were submitted by the municipalities and the numbers the Board ratified at the March Regular Meeting were taken from those reports.

Mr. Crumb then presented the Lead Agency Capital Project Chart Report and Graph Report as well as a report Capital Construction Grants Awarded and Received, and an Executive Summary of FEMA DR-4031 Progress Payments Due and Amounts to be Submitted, copies of 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. Then he gave an overview of the quarterly grant reports.

Business Manager's Report

Business Manager Pearsall presented the Business Managers report, copies of which were distributed in the Board Members' folders. Mr. Pearsall is awaiting a proposal from the City of Binghamton Fire Department for a Confined Space Rescue Agreement with the same rate as for 2020. He received the final version of the Actuarial Valuation and forwarded same to EFPR Group for a single audit.

Mr. Pearsall advised that he submitted the paperwork for the staff changes, specifically the Electrical Engineer position and will present to the Board in the future for an amendment. Edward Crumb picked up with the topic to propose a motion for a budget modification in accordance with the following chart:

Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Board

**PROPOSED BUDGET MODIFICATIONS (i) TO FUND WWTP ELECTRICAL ENGINEER,
(ii) DEFUND HEAD ELECTRICIAN, and (iii) PARTIALLY DEFUND COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEER**
(updated: 04/13/2021, post JSB Meeting [for an 04/24/2021 effective date])

NOTES:

- 1) 2021 Pay Period #1 began December 26, 2020.
2021 Pay Period #5 began February 20, 2021.
2021 Pay Period #9 begins April 17, 2021.
April 24, 2021 is the beginning of the second half of 2021 Pay Period #9 (note: Pay Periods are two weeks long).
- 2) On March 24, 2021, the Binghamton Civil Service Commission approved creation of the Job Title/Description for **WWTP Electrical Engineer**. The Joint Sewage Board proposes to fill the new position by "lateral transfer" of the present Computer Systems Engineer, which transfer will allow defunding of the position for the remainder of the year. (The present Computer Systems Engineer began his [re]employment by the Board February 22, 2021).
- 3) Assuming approval of the proposed Budget Transfer by the Legislative Bodies of both Owners, the proposed starting date for the new WWTP Electrical Engineer is April 24, 2021 (the beginning of the second half of 2021 Pay Period #9).
- 4) The **Head Electrician** position has been vacant throughout the 2021 "payroll year".
The **Computer Systems Engineer** position was vacant from the beginning of the 2021 "Payroll Year" through February 21, 2021.

The proposed Budget Modifications to accomplish this transition are as follows:

BUDGET LINE/NAME	COMPUTER SYSTEMS ENGINEER 1 @ up to 72,774.00	HEAD ELECTRICIAN 1 @ up to 70,707.00	WWTP ELECTRICAL ENGINEER 1 @ up to 87,000.00	NET TOTAL MODIFICATION FOR BUDGET LINE	TRANSFER TO J8130.55000 CONTINGENCY
J8130.51000 Personal Services	\$ (60,178.00) (-21.5 pay periods only)	\$ (70,707.00)	\$ 58,558.00 (17.5 pay periods only)	\$ (72,327.00)	\$ 72,327.00
J9010.58000.A State Retirement	\$ (5,131.00)	\$ (7,211.00)	\$ 5,913.00	\$ (6,429.00)	\$ 6,429.00
J9030.58000.B Social Security	\$ (4,603.00)	\$ (5,409.00)	\$ 4,478.00	\$ (5,534.00)	\$ 5,534.00
J9040.58000.D Workers Compensation	\$ (3,920.00)	\$ (3,232.00)	\$ 3,814.00	\$ (3,338.00)	\$ 3,338.00
J9060.58000.C Health Insurance (Active) (82.0% Employer Share only)	\$ (3,954.00)	\$ (15,026.00)	\$ 10,018.00	\$ (8,962.00)	\$ 8,962.00
			TOTALS	\$ (96,590.00)	\$ 96,590.00

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board approves modifications in the Request for Legislation to the Owner's Legislative Bodies to fund a Wastewater Treatment Plant Electrical Engineer, defund the Head Electrician, and partially defund the Computer Systems Engineer to make a net total modification to the Personnel Services Budget Line, State Retirement Line, Social Security Line and Workers Compensation Line totaling a negative (\$96,590.00) with a transfer to the Contingency Line in the amount of \$96,590.00.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

Motion carried. 6/0

Mr. Pearsall finished by reviewing the short list of bullet points on the Progress Report submitted by Weaver Recovery Consulting, a copy of which was distributed in the Board folders.

Committee Reports

Construction: George Kolba and Steve Andrew - Mr. Andrew had nothing to report at this time. Mr. Kolba asked Ron Lake about his progress on the greenery on the "green roof". Mr. Lake said that the contractor advised him that what was planted are up to specs. Mr. Kolba has a concern for the care of the greenery not even knowing what they are as well as the safety on the roof also mentioning the stains on the ceiling and trim work in the Admin. Building First Floor Conference Room. Mr. Lake said the stains issue was still on the punch list. Mr. Kolba also asked about inspection for the flood insurance at the TPS building. Mr. Lake advised he is in the same place with the issue as last reported. Mr. Kolba asked Mr. Lake if he would like him to take this issue to see what he can do to move it forward and Mr. Lake said that would be great. Mr. Kolba continued by asking about receiving credit for the remaining propane in the tank for the trailer which was recently removed. Michele will call Mirabito. Mr. Kolba had a concern about repositioning one of the barricades in the alleyway. Mr. Kolba brought up the renting of storage trailers and feels perhaps purchasing rather than renting would be fiscally beneficial to the Plant. This could be presented at the next Board meeting. Mr. Kolba brought up a concern regarding erosion control on a couple of manholes. Howard Reeve will look into that further.

Finance: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb stated that the 2020 Final Bill will be coming and that he expects it will be Board-ready for next month's meeting agenda.

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 is filling in for this committee until a new committee chair appointment has been made. Mr. Crumb spoke on an email thread on the Board's/Plant's behalf between him and Kristin O'Neill, Asst. Director, Committee on Open Government. A copy of the entire email was printed-out and distributed in the Board folders. Mr. Crumb believes he has appropriately answered and/or updated the issues mentioned.

Flow Management: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb stated that the Town of Vestal issued a sanitary sewer overflow notification (manhole leaking onto the ground). The Vestal sewer department worked on it and remedied the problem.

Correspondence: Confidential Secretary Cuevas made copies of recent news articles and distributed them in the Board's folders for perusal.

Old Business: Michele Cuevas wanted to bring up the outstanding water-sewer bill from the Town of Vestal at this time turning the floor over to Charlie Pearsall. Mr. Pearsall stated that he has received a water bill from the Town of Vestal for about three years of usage totaling \$250,000.00. This has been referred to Corporation Counsel with the City of Binghamton. Mr. Kolba then brought up Town of Vestal's sanitary overflow system and wanted to know if there was a special discharge installed on its Bunn Hill trunk sewer should there be a wet weather disaster event.

Election of Board Officers (Chairperson and Vice Chairperson) took place. Nominations for Chairman. Board Member Andrew nominated George Kolba for Chairman. Board Member Standish nominated Chris Papastrat for Chairman. Chris Papastrat declined the nomination for this position and George Kolba accepted the nomination. Seconded by Bruce King. Election of George Kolba as Chairperson unanimous 6/0

Ray Standish nominated Chris Papastrat for Vice Chairperson. Seconded by George Kolba. Election of Chris Papastrat as Vice Chairperson unanimous 6/0

New Business: None

Executive Session: None

**Edward Crumb made a motion to adjourn.
Motion seconded by George Kolba.
Motion carried. 6/0**

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2021.

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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