

FINAL COPY

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

Tuesday, September 8, 2020

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: Chris Papastrat, Chairman
George Kolba, Vice Chairman
Edward Crumb
Stephen Andrew
Ray Standish (Audio/Visual Attendance)
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 4:45PM)
Ronald Warwick, Acting Assistant Superintendent
Adam Afify, Acting Head Operator
Ron Lake, P.E., City of Binghamton Project Manager
Angela Riley, City of Binghamton Council Member, 3rd District (Audio)
Aviva Friedman, City of Binghamton Council Member, 4th District (Audio)
James Atherlay, News Channel 34
Jason Greene, P.E., GHD (Audio, exited at 3:45PM)
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist

Guests: No guests were present at this meeting.

Chris Papastrat called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Six (6) Board Members were present. Board Member Standish was present via audio/visual attendance, and attendance was noted aloud by Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary. Fire exits were identified.

Privilege of the Floor

None

August 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes Approval.

Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted August 11, 2020 Draft Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.

Motion seconded by Stephen Andrew.

Motion carried. 6/0

Jason Greene, P.E., reviewed the GHD submitted Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Status Report which was distributed in the Board folders. Mr. Greene reviewed the status list and clarified that all fine notices are currently being sent out to the Industrial Users. Chris Papastrat asked for more information on the noted Discharge Request Denial as to Lupini Construction/OGS. Mr. Greene said that since all required pollutants were not tested they issued the denial. Once they receive all the required testing information as to all pollutants of concern they will look at it again. Edward Crumb made a suggestion for the status report: that Mr. Greene revamp the look of the columns and include a current listing of the number of permitted industries. Mr. Greene will expand the tables and is open for any further suggestions for an informative and comprehensible report for the Board.

Jason Greene exited the meeting at 3:45PM.

Fiscal Officer Chuck Shager spoke on current fiscal matters, referring to the submitted financial report which was distributed in the Board folders. Mr. Shager pointed out that the lower cash balances posted were due to the recent refunds to the various municipalities after approval of the 2019 Final Billing. Mr. Shager stated that the information shows as substantially under budget (about 25%) at this reporting time, but it would change into next quarter.

Mr. Shager reported that New York State Retirement System numbers have changed, but he has no details to report as of this meeting.

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 August 2020
September 8, 2020**

Violations and Significant Issues:

Fines: None

Compliance:

August 2020 Average Flow 13.74 MGD	Influent	Effluent	Average % Removal	Effluent Limit
CBOD mg/l	220mg/l	13mg/l 1605 lbs/d	94% last month 94%	18mg/l 5,300lbs/day
Suspended Solids mg/l	212 mg/L	8.7 mg/l 1045 lbs/day	96% Last Month 96%	20mg/l 5800lbs/day
Other: Settleable Solids Max ml/l	avg 9.2 ml/l	0.03ml/l	99%	0.3
Total Nitrogen mg/l	July 2020 20.2 mg/l minus 6 days data	2.3 mg/l minus 6 days data	Aug 91% July 85%	6mg/l 639,261lbs/year
Phosphorus mg/l	4.03 mg/L	0.49 mg/L	88%	1.0 Max. Monitor
Avg. Temperature	24.5	23.5		
Solids Removed	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	Aug 2020
Digested	754.53	797.51	773.43	878.67
Lime Stabilized	0	0		
Total	754.53	797.51	773.43	878.67
Bar rack screenings		2.94	6.97	
Grit/Screenings Combined	23.79	12.64 tons	11.59 tons	
Grease	2.45			

Construction Topics

- H-Line awaits resolution
- We are making gains on the SCADA system programming.
- We are still waiting for the re-work of the truck bay drain and cleanout.

Other Notes:

- We are moving towards bringing on the remaining digesters.
- Biosytr Start Up: Biostyr continues to produce good results. August Ammonia removal of 97%, Contractors and Kruger continue to fine tune the process.
- UV continues to operate, transmittance is good at approx. 50-60 NTU, Wedecco has completed its 30 day test. At present UV system is operating in hand.
- We have again met our permit for SS, CBOD5, TSS, Phos, and TN.
- Operators continue performing process testing for the BioStyr.
- The plant is actively advertising for Computer Systems Engineer, Electrician, Mechanic or Assistant, Lead Shift Operator, Operator 3 and Safety Coordinator.
- Plant staff continues to clean up after contractors. It will take some time but the plant looks much better.
- We have been operating the Micro-Turbines in semi-Auto for the last 34 consecutive days. The month of August we produced 123,447 KWH which equates to roughly \$8,246 in savings.
- Deron Biechele has completed Basic Operations Course at SUNY, Morrisville
- The Lab has received another Certificate of Excellence for achieving 100% acceptable data.
- Digester is recovering (from the volume of inorganic solids received from the Binghamton Water Filtration Plant). Volatile Solids reduction is up 12% which means Gas production is up, which translates to more preheating of the boiler water (Reduction of Natural gas consumption) and electrical production is up (Reduction of electrical consumption)

Superintendent Wagner reported that no fines were levied, construction is winding down, they are preparing to start up two Digesters and are continuing to meet all the permit requirements.

Further going through his report, he overviewed the graphs.

Superintendent Wagner reported that newly hired Plant Operator, Deron Biechele, attended the required Basic Operations Course at SUNY Morrisville and received his Certificate of Completion and that the lab again received a Certificate of Excellence in proficiency testing for Demand, Settleable Solids, and Solids. He stated that the plant staff are stepping up and cleaning up where the contractors were lax. The facility is looking fantastic, making for a better working environment.

Superintendent Wagner is actively advertising for various positions and is reviewing all submitted applications.

The Micro-Turbines have been running in semi-auto and producing substantial electrical savings of approximately \$8,246.00.

Mr. Crumb wanted to note that the effluent nitrogen number in the report is substantially lower and that seems to be the best he has seen since becoming a Board Member. Mr. Kolba agreed. Superintendent Wagner advised it is the lowest in the history of the plant which that alone is a testament to how the process works with such a commendable staff on the site. Their hard work and diligence is effectively keeping this number what it is.

Superintendent Wagner reports that the efficiency of the methods, processes, equipment, staff training and hard work including the staff in administration and Board oversight have all contributed to the impressive clarity of the discharge.

Charles Pearsall presented the Business Manager's Report. The NYSDEC did waive the stipulated penalty for June and due to compliance for July there was no penalty. Mr. Pearsall stated the Certificates of Elevation survey team will soon be started. This month he received bids for Methanol which he previously distributed to the board for review and recommends the acceptance of the 12 month supply at \$1.36 delivered from SPS. Mr. Pearsall also is requesting permission to advertise for Hydrated Lime supply.

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board reject the bid of TR International and accept the bid alternative of SPS for a twelve (12) month supply period for Methanol at a cost of \$1.36/gallon delivered.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

Motion carried. 6/0

George Kolba made a motion that the Board grant permission for the Business Manager to advertise for bids for Hydrated Lime Supply.

Motion seconded by Edward Crumb.

Motion carried. 6/0

Mr. Pearsall reminded the Board that the next 2021 Budget Hearing (with the owners) is on September 16, 2020 at 6:30PM.

Mr. Pearsall wanted to mention that the ongoing valuation proposals are still in the works with insurer Trident, and he will have the proposal once competed.

Ronald Lake, P.E. wanted to report that they are waiting to hear from GHD on the leak issue with the H Line. He also wanted to thank Superintendent Wagner and staff for providing a desk/office area for Jacobs personnel so they can work at the Plant rather than leaving the premises. Mr. Lake is working with Broome County for a catch basin on Vestal Road, and once that is in place the contractor will work on curbing. The truck bay drain issue is a work in progress.

Committee Reports

Construction: George Kolba and Steve Andrews. George Kolba still has a concern for the H Line issue and will stay on top of assuring a remedy at some point. He asked about Building 12, why wasn't it completed? PC still working on it per Mr. Lake. Mr. Kolba spoke on the parking lot; that it has not been resprayed nor restriped. Mr. Lake will follow up with that issue and advise accordingly. Mr. Kolba had a concern with the stairs at the Administration Building. Mr. Lake reported that GHD was working on a solution but he had not heard from them on this issue as of this meeting. Mr. Lake will follow up. Mr. Kolba brought up the condition of the green roof which created a discussion but no solution at this time. Steve Andrew had nothing to report.

Finance: Edward Crumb – Mr. Crumb reported on the proposed 2021 Budget preparation process, the upcoming budget hearings, and the 2019 audit. He requested that Board Members send him any comments or questions on the draft audit report when received.

Mr. Crumb discussed the piggyback option with the City of Binghamton for time and material contract with Evan Mechanical for Plumbing HVAC projects. Business Manager Pearsall to contact City of Binghamton purchasing for details.

Mr. Crumb discussed the amounts of increase in NYS Retirement System employer contributions for the next fiscal year and says the proposed budget is sufficient to accommodate the increased amounts. He also discussed the Health Insurance 2021 rate increases approved by the New York State Department of Financial Services..

Personnel: Steve Andrew – Mr. Andrew reported he still has not heard anything from the Union with regard to negotiations for a successor contract.

Ad Hoc: Ronald Davis - Nothing new to report.

Flow Management: Edward Crumb – wanted to bring to the Board's attention that the City of Binghamton is undertaking a project at the City of Binghamton Water Plant which will help the sewage plant facility with the discharge from the water plant. Secondly, the City of Binghamton is undertaking a sewer lift/pump station study.

Correspondence: Ms. Cuevas stated that all of the correspondence have already been addressed.

Old Business: George Kolba asked about the status of the check for the Town of Vestal in relation to the Terminal Pumping Station. He wanted to hand deliver the check and the plans to Town of Vestal. It was noted that the check issuance will take some time due to the process; that the employee processing the checks for signature is presently working from home. There was a discussion on electronic format of the plans so the Town of Vestal can have the correct size. Mr. Crumb will email the files to Ms. Cuevas and Elliott Wagner to submit for printing and delivery to Vestal.

Mr. Paniccia asked if any correspondence from Town of Kirkwood was received, and Ms. Cuevas reported none.

New Business: Edward Crumb reported that an updated report on the status of Lead Agency contractor insurance has been provided to the Business Manager and insurance broker.

Executive Session: None

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:00PM.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2020 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
Robert Bennett, P.E., Village of Johnson City, Engineer
Ray Standish, P.E., City of Binghamton, City Engineer
File