

# **FINAL COPY**

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

**Tuesday, May 13, 2025**

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: George Kolba  
Chris Papastrat  
Ron Lake  
Bruce King  
John Paddock  
Stephen Andrew

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 (exited family emergency 3:50pm)  
Mary Jacyna, Village of Johnson City Trustee/JSB committee  
Adam Afify, Lead Operator  
Deron Biechele, Shift Lead Operator  
Jason Greene, GHD

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**

**Steve Andrew made a motion that the Board approves the submitted March 11, 2025, Regular Board Meeting Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.**

**The motion was seconded by Chris Papastrat.**

**Motion was carried. 6/0/0**

## **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 stated that currently the Joint Sewage Board pays the City of Binghamton fiscal officer department a yearly payment for all the services they provide to the board at a total cost currently of \$40,000/year which is split into 6-month payment of \$20,000 each.

Mr. Robinson has put together an excel spreadsheet of all the duties that are provided to the Joint Sewage Board with a cost associated with each of these duties. Duties included but not limited to 1099 processing of Joint Sewage Board members, store records software, flow reporting etc. The proposal that Mr. Robinson submitted was \$80,000/year, which could be split up in 6 months with payments of \$40,000 each. After a brief discussion it was asked by the board that Mr. Robinson e-mail the proposal over to them for review. Also, budget scheduling for the 2026 budget is underway. Mr. Robison is still working on the IMA Agreement.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wagner addressed the board stating that he will be retiring and his letter was in the board folders.

Mr. Wagner said thank you to the Joint Sewage Board for their support and guidance throughout his 30 years at the facility.

Mr. Wagner would like to formally submit to the board his recommendations for the following positions: Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent & Senior Operator.

Interim-Superintendent- Mr. Ronald Warwick has a 4A license.

Interim-Assistant Superintendent-Mr. Adam Afify has a 4 license.

Interim-Senior Operator-Mr. Deron Biechele has a Grade 3 license and is preparing to take his 4-license test.

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

### **Assistant Superintendent's Report**

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

### **April Assistant Superintendents Report**

May 13, 2025

April numbers were as follows:

Average Flow=17.38 MGD

CBOD=8.9 mg/L and 95% removal

TSS=5.9 mg/L with 97% removal

Fecals=4 MPN

Precipitation=2.95 inches

Average Influent temp was 12.6 Deg C

We are meeting all the requirements of our permit.

Solar production was 6,650 KWH.

Micro-turbine production was 125,647 KWH.

Volatile solids reduction average for the digesters is 66.5%, 38% is the minimum which is very well.

We have started changing our operational strategies from winter to spring/summer mode and started spring cleaning and inspections around the plant facility.

We have been labelling all areas around the plant that are considered a Permitted Confined Space with signs. We are starting a safety committee which includes members from each department and department heads. The first meeting will be on May 14<sup>th</sup>.

We had an operator Mr. Garrehy complete the Grade 3 course at Suny Morrisville and will be testing soon.

We have another operator; Mr. Elman is at Suny Morrisville and is taking the Grade 2 course.

We have a couple of operators, Mr. Biechele and Mr. Fassett that will be testing for Grade 4 and Grade 3 licenses.

Budget meetings with departments heads will start this month.

We need to decide if we want GHD to put International Paper under IWPP permit.

We need to decide on GHD FEMA proposal, mapping, CBS/PBS and Spill Prevention Updates.

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

### **Jason Greene GHD IWPP, International Paper Draft Permit FEMA MT 2 form 1 & 3 Update-**

Mr. Greene spoke to the members about the FEMA Flood forms that need to be filled out and certified.

MT 3 form has 3 to 4 pages that need to be filled out. There is quite a bit of work that needs to be completed between Griffith Engineering, Hulbert Engineering & GHD. Mr. Greene will continue working on this and report next month.

Mr. Greene will send draft permit for International Paper IWPP to Mr. Paniccia for comments and report next month.

Board Member Lake asked Mr. Greene about the floodwall research certificate work. Asked specifically how much it was going to cost to get this completed. The price for this work will be \$6,000.00 lump sum not to exceed and it be completed in a 1-month time frame. Please send a contract to the JSB and co-counsel Paniccia.

**Motion by Ron Lake to accept the proposal in the amount of \$6,000.00 for the floodwall research certificate.**

**Seconded by Steve Andrew.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

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

### **Business Manager's Report**

Business Manager Goodson no new business to report.

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

### **Board Committee Reports**

#### **Construction**

No new business.

#### **Finance**

No new business

#### **Personnel**

Mr. Andrew noted that the union has been in contact with him and will be setting up meetings to review union contract negotiations. Also, I would like to reserve an Executive session to discuss personnel items.

#### **Ad Hoc**

No new business to report

#### **Flow Management**

Mr. King wanted to be notified of any new information of new development requests that have been received.

#### **Future Planning**

Nothing to report

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

**Old Business: Board Member Stipend-Crumb**

**Bruce King made a motion that the Board approves the original submitted board member Crumb's 2025 stipend in the amount of \$1,275.00 as presented and directs the confidential secretary Cuevas to submit the original claim for payment.**

**Seconded by Andrew.**

**Motion carried 5/0/1 (RL)**

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

**Executive Session: Personnel Matters**

**Stephen Andrew made a motion to enter the Executive Session to discuss personnel matters at 5:28pm**

**Motion seconded by Chris Papastrat.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**No action was taken.**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 3:30pm.

**Adjournment:**

**Steve Andrew made a motion to adjourn.**

**The motion was seconded by Bruce King.**

The meeting adjourned at 5:31pm.

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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