

**GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**August 9, 2023**

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board (GJJSB) held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, August 9, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Bobbi Trudel	Chair
Wrandy Siarkowski	Secretary
Donald Schwartz	Member
Eric Parker	Member
John Rizzo	Member
Wallace Arnold	Manager-Wastewater Programs
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Michele Rackmyre	Senior Account Clerk
Hilary Ruzicky	Administrative Aide

ABSENT

Christopher Vose	Vice Chair
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PERSONNEL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Personnel Committee held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Monday, August 7, 2023 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting was attended by Manager Arnold and Board members Trudel, Rizzo, and Parker. No action was taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, all Board members in attendance went into executive session at 7:01 P.M. to discuss NY Public Officers Law §105:1 – (f) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Employees Robert Yaggle, Michele Rackmyre, and Mark Levendusky were individually called into the executive session.

On a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 8:23 P.M.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, all Board members in attendance went into executive session at 8:23 P.M. to discuss NY Public Officers Law §105:1 – (e) collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of Civil Service Law.

On a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 8:32 P.M.

JULY 12, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the July 12, 2023 meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 1, 4, 5, 13, 14, and 15.

## PLANT OPERATIONS

### **Authorize Bidding: Ferrous Chloride**

Plant Manager Arnold requested Board approval to seek bids for the supply and delivery of Ferrous Chloride. On a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized to advertise bids for a two (2) year contract for the supply and delivery of Ferrous Chloride.

### **Natural Bulk Gas Contract**

Plant Manager Arnold reported he received correspondence from Empire Natural Gas Corporation on June 7, 2023, stating the Office of General Services (OGS) will no longer provide state contract pricing for natural gas. The facility's natural gas is currently supplied by Empire Natural Gas Corp. under the OGS Award 23261 for the term of Sept 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023. A second notification from Empire Natural Gas on August 8, 2023, states OGS may still handle the facility's account since it is considered a special account. Manager Arnold is waiting for further confirmation from Empire Natural Gas on state contract pricing.

### **Cogen Engine #3 Overhaul**

Plant Manager Arnold reported Cogen Engine #3 was shipped to Milton Cat on March 27, 2023 for a full overhaul. Milton Cat delivered the engine back to the plant on August 3, 2023. Maintenance employees are working to reconnect piping and electrical systems. The engine is expected to be online soon.

### **Thermal Sludge Dryer Update**

Plant Manager Arnold reported the deadline to apply for the latest round of grant funding from Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) is extended to August 11, 2023. Manager Arnold is working with the City of Gloversville Finance Commissioner to apply for State Revolving Fund financing for the proposed Thermal Sludge Dryer Project. The application includes an updated bond resolution provided by the City of Gloversville.

## INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

### **Sewer Bill Protest: 8 Beech Street, Gloversville**

Senior Account Clerk Rackmyre reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 8 Beech Street in Gloversville. Plant Manager Arnold conducted an inspection of the premises. On a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved a credit of \$601.88 since the water did not enter the sewer system to be treated.

## PERSONNEL

### **Resignation: WWTP Lead Operator**

Chair Trudel read aloud a letter of resignation received from Lead Operator Robert Yaggle. On a motion made by Mr. Rizzo, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board tabled a motion to accept the resignation of Lead Operator Robert Yaggle.

### **Resignation: Senior Account Clerk**

Chair Trudel read aloud a letter of resignation received from Senior Account Clerk Michele Rackmyre. On a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board accepted the resignation of Senior Account Clerk Michele Rackmyre, effective August 25, 2023, after one (1) year of service.

### **New Hire: WWTP Operator Trainee**

Plant Manager Arnold reported a WWTP Operator Trainee position is vacant due to a recent employment termination. Manager Arnold interviewed candidate Aaron Tubbs for the open position. On a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board appointed Aaron Tubbs as a WWTP Operator Trainee, pending Civil Service approval.

## ATTACHMENTS

### **Resolution No. 2023-12**

On a motion made Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2023-12. *Transfers within the General Fund.*

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2023 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 2, 3, & 4.

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$230,989.34 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Wastewater Engineer Position**

Plant Manager Arnold reported he conducted an interview and a tour of the facility for a Wastewater Engineer applicant. Board members requested a Personnel Committee meeting within the upcoming week to interview the candidate.

### **WiFi Installation**

Plant Manager Arnold requested Board approval for the installation of WiFi service on the facility's campus. Employee safety is a concern as some buildings no longer have any communication due to deteriorating copper lines. Contractors and vendors have difficulty accessing data necessary for repairs and equipment monitoring. Trojan Technologies has requested live access to the UV Disinfection System through WiFi connection for bulb monitoring. WiFi service will allow Motion Ai technicians to work remotely on the SCADA alarm system.

Manager Arnold held discussions and obtained pricing from Stored Technology and First Light. Manager Arnold recommended First Light for the WiFi installation. On a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved contracting with First Light for the installation of commercial grade WiFi equipment, at the cost of \$7,250.00, with a monthly fee of \$959.00 for system support.

## MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Siarkowski, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 7:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Wrandy L. Siarkowski, Secretary  
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board