

GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2024

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Thursday, April 11, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Christopher Vose	Chairman
Donald Schwartz	Vice Chairman
Eric Parker	Secretary
John Rizzo	Member
Bobbi Trudel	Member
Michael W. Stover	Member
Wallace Arnold	Manager-Wastewater Programs
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineer Technician
Darleen Gaugler	Principal Account Clerk
Ronald Horton	Maintenance Supervisor
Donna Renda	Consultant

MARCH 2024 MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the March 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 2, 13 and 15.

PLANT OPERATIONS

High Yard Recovery

Plant Manager Arnold gave an update on progress to repair the facility's main high voltage substation. The new building to house power equipment will be relocated southeast of the previous structure. Foundation for the building is being laid with a trench dug for conduit. Frontier Communications is adding fiber for the DTT switch to this conduit. High Voltage Electric Service, Inc. (HVES) expects the building to be delivered in May. Awaiting insurance reimbursement estimate toward building cost. Manager Arnold contacted the NYMIR insurance representative seeking reimbursement for work that has already been completed.

A report on damage to the 2010 Freightliner involved in the high voltage substation accident has been received from Apollo Northeast. Axle #2 air canister springs were broken and replaced by Apollo Northeast. There were no issues determined with axle #3. The cost for this service has been forwarded directly to NYMIR for reimbursement.

Member Stover arrived at 6:24 P.M.

Preventative Maintenance on High Voltage Substation

Plant Manager Arnold reported receipt of an updated proposal from High Voltage Electric Service, Inc. for preventative maintenance to the high voltage substation per the Request for Qualifications and Quote approved at the March 2024 Joint Sewer Board Meeting. On a motion made by Mr. Parker, and seconded by Ms. Trudel, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed the Board authorized to accept the proposal from HVES for preventative maintenance on the high voltage substation at a cost of \$12,500.00.

Emergency Generator Upgrade for UV Disinfection

Plant Manager Arnold reported receipt of proposal for addition of a 400-amp, 480V, Automatic Transfer Switch to power the UV building from the existing 650k W Caterpillar Generator per the Request for Qualifications and Quote approved at the March 2024 Joint Sewer Board Meeting. On a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Ms. Trudel, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed the Board authorized to accept the proposal from HVES for emergency generator upgrade for UV disinfection at a cost of \$89,800.00.

HRP Thermal Imaging

Plant Manager Arnold reported that HRP Associates requested, and he approved an additional \$3,000.00 to complete thermal imaging of the Administration Building to help detect source of odor issues in the building. The process was completed on April 8, 2024. Draft reports on the work completed to understand odor issues in the Administration Building have been received from HRP. The building is in a positive balance zone. From the air tests that were collected, the only detection was acetic acid which was within acceptable limits on the day of testing. There is no immediate hazard to employee health. The thermal imaging found no real issues on air control of the building. There are some areas that will need to be caulked.

Land Slump North Side of Cayadutta Creek

Plant Manager Arnold reported on a land slump that occurred on the north bank of the creek near the old aeration tanks. NYS DEC was notified of the incident, and they did a brief inspection of the site on April 11, 2024. As this area is very close to the duct bank which was upgraded a few years ago and having this fail would be an emergency for the Facility, it was decided to get specialized engineers to review the site as soon as possible.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

Sewer Bill Protest: 72 Chestnut Street, Johnstown

Principal Account Clerk Gaugler reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 72 Chestnut Street in Johnstown. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board denied a credit since the excess water entered the sewer system and had to be treated.

BUDGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

2024 – 2025 Proposed Sewer Rates

Consultant Renda gave a presentation on the proposed 2024-2025 sewer rates. Industrial rates are proposed to remain relatively stable and residential sewer rates are proposed to increase by \$0.23/100 cubic feet. Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) fees are proposed to increase by \$5.60 per connection. All rates will be presented at a public hearing on Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers of Johnstown City Hall. If adopted, the rates will become effective on May 1, 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution No. 2024-07

On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2024-07. *Appoint Bank Account Signatories.*

Resolution No. 2024-08

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2024-08. *Transfer from 2023 Fund Balance to Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund.*

Resolution No. 2024-09

On a motion made by Mr. Rizzo, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2024-09. *Transfer from Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund to General Fund.*

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2024 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 2, 3, & 4.

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$180,555.47 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Ms. Trudel, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Wifi upgrade at the facility is still experiencing communication issues. FirstLight Fiber is continuing to troubleshoot.

Compliance issues raised during NYS DEC annual inspection were discussed. SPDES compliance with Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan has been satisfied. An emergency backup generator for UV Disinfection system is in the process of being completed. Employees continue to work toward achieving Grade 4A operator certification.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, all Board members went into executive session at 7:17 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.

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 7:51 P.M.

The Board presented Plant Manager Arnold with a letter relieving him of his duties as Manager-Wastewater Programs. Harry Brand will be appointed to the Manager-Wastewater Programs position with a start date of April 22, 2024.

Resolution No. 2024-10

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2024-10. *Authorize Chairman Vose to sign Employment Contract with Manager-Wastewater Programs, Harry Brand.*

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board amended Resolution No. 2024-07 passed earlier in the meeting to remove Wallace Arnold as signatory on all bank account resolutions.

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Schwartz, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved a claim submitted by Goldberger and Kremer, Attorneys at Law for \$3,594.47.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M. until April 24, 2024 @ 6 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Parker, Secretary
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board