

GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 13, 2024

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility (GJJWTF) on Wednesday, November 13, 2024. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Christopher Vose	Chairman
Donald Schwartz	Vice Chairman
Eric Parker	Secretary
Michael W. Stover	Member
John Rizzo	Member
Harry Brand	Manager-Wastewater Programs
Robert Yaggle	Chief WWTP Operator
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Darleen Gaugler	Principal Account Clerk
Hilary Ruzycky	Administrative Aide

ABSENT

Bobbi Trudel	Member
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OCTOBER 9, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the October 9, 2024, regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 2, 6, & 7.

PLANT OPERATIONS

High Yard Recovery Update

Manager Brand reported that Cogens #1, 2 & 3 are back in service. National Grid tested the electrical relays. HVES, Prime Automation, and Amaha Electric were on-site multiple days to test the new Cogen controls installed during the High Yard Recovery Project. Additional Cogen Unit tuning occurred during the testing phase, including paralleling, load dropping, and testing with natural gas. The Units now share load and run more efficiently. Black Start Capability during power outages was confirmed to be achievable by running one engine on natural gas. Maintenance repairs were completed on Cogen generator breakers. Cogens #1 & 3 are currently running, with Cogen #2 on standby as a spare. Milton CAT recommends a top end rebuild on Cogen #2.

Slope Stabilization Update

Manager Brand reported the Emergency Slope Repair Project is progressing rapidly. Carver Construction nearly completed cutting a keyway, placing stone, and benching. Bridging is complete. Large stone will be placed next. Material excavated from the site was used to create an entry roadway. Remaining excess material was deposited in a nearby staging area with no transport offsite necessary at this time. The project is currently within the bid limit.

BUGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

2025 General Fund Budget Status

Manager Brand reported the Budget Committee met on November 6th to discuss the proposed 2025 General Fund Budget and projected Capital expenses. Copies of the draft budget were disbursed to the full Board. Manager

Brand compared the current budget against projected revenues, specifically noting a \$500K shortfall partially due to a large increase in labor costs. In 2024, O&M costs increased by 10%. Influent plant flow is currently decreasing. Most Industrial Users have requested a reduction in capacity in their 2025 permit renewal applications. Manager Brand proposed options to cover the deficit such as delaying the purchase of a new dump truck, partial rebuild of the Gravity Belt Thickeners, or reallocating funds from the Rate Stabilization Account or Capital Reserves. Manager Brand anticipates a large increase in Residential and Industrial User rates.

PERSONNEL

Staffing Update

Manager Brand reported Maintenance Supervisor Horton returned to work full time on October 15, 2024. Monitoring Technician VanAuken is expected to return to work in December. Both employees sustained injuries away from the workplace. Chief WWTP Operator Yaggle started employment on October 14, 2024.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

Request for Permit Modification: FAGE USA Dairy

Manager Brand reported FAGE USA Dairy submitted a Request for Revised Allocation of annual capacity for November and December of 2024. The request is based on actual usage, with a decrease in Flow and BOD, and an increase in TSS. Current projections indicate FAGE will exceed the current Annual Max for TSS in 2024, which will result in an economic penalty. Sewer Use Law gives authority but does not mandate revising Industrial allocations. After much discussion the Board agreed to deny FAGE's current request for a revised allocation. On a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board denied the request submitted by FAGE USA Dairy for Revised Allocation of annual average workday loadings for the months of November and December of 2024.

ATTACHMENTS

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2024 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 1, 2, & 3.

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$480,147.39 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

Capital disbursement sheet totaling \$134,645.50 was approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Manager Brand noted a Collective Bargaining Agreement meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2024.

NEW BUSINESS

Day Tank Cleaning & Drainage System Maintenance

Manager Brand reported several tanks were recently cleaned. During the cleaning of the Day Tank, which is the tank that feeds the Belt Presses, the facility drainage system backed up into the Sludge Building. The drainage system runs between the Sludge Building to the Primary Tanks. Drainage system piping was found ½ full of solids with 2 to 3 feet of cheese balls in each manhole. The Primary splitter box contained approximately 5 feet of grit. Adirondack Septic Service was called on-site to jet and vacuum the Drainage System which is anticipated to take 4 full days. This unbudgeted expense is expected to cost approximately between \$10K to \$20K.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:29 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Schwartz, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, December 11, 2024, at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Parker, Secretary
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board