

GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2026

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility (GJJWTF) on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Bobbi Trudel	Chair
Eric Parker	Vice Chair
Michael W. Stover	Secretary
Deanna Hitchcock	Member – Arrived at 6:05 P.M.
Christopher Vose	Member - Arrived at 6:06 P.M.
John Rizzo	Member
Harry Brand	Manager-Wastewater Programs
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician
Nicole Benton	Administrative Aide
Adrienne Slade	Principal Account Clerk

AUGUST 12, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the August 12, 2026 regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, two (2) absent, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 5, 8, 13, & 18.

PLANT OPERATIONS

WET Testing

Manager Brand reported that the August Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) test failed. Staff continue to document their efforts to identify the cause of the toxicity and determine what could be done before the next test. As part of these efforts, staff secured all flow and completed cleaning of both the effluent channel and the UV channel. Operator Bruce Gardner researched potential factors that could contribute to toxicity and identified algae accumulation as a possible contributing factor. While algae may not be the direct cause of the toxicity, its buildup can potentially enhance or exacerbate existing toxicity and act as a source of additional stress. Based on this information, it was determined that cleaning the channels was an appropriate proactive measure to determine whether reducing algae accumulation has any impact on future WET testing results. The next WET test is scheduled for Sunday, September 13, with samples scheduled to be sent out on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. This will be the second to last required WET test for the year, with the understanding that there will be more testing next year. Staff will incorporate the information and documentation gathered throughout this process into the facility's ongoing plan for addressing the issue. It is noted that the current documentation demonstrates that the staff is taking proactive steps to investigate and address the situation. It was also noted that August has consistently been the most challenging month for toxicity results over the past two years.

Whey Vault Leak

Manager Brand reported that a whey leak in the whey vault on the south side of the facility was identified during operator rounds at approximately 5:00 p.m. The Whey Vault is equipped with a sump-pump, that normally pumps out any accumulated rainwater in the vault. Operators observed whey coming from the sump-pump discharge line. Operators immediately diverted the sump-pump discharge to the aeration tank, while staff made preparations to enter the vault to identify the source of the leak and determine the required repair.

Manager Brand reported that the source of the leak was identified as a 3/16-inch hole in the side of the valve. The issue was related to a previous valve failure that had occurred several years ago, when the valve bonnet failed and began leaking into the vault. At that time, the decision was made to remove the valve bonnet and ball and a steel metal plate was installed in place of the valve bonnet, without any plan for a permanent repair. Over time, corrosion of the carbon steel valve body, which was exposed when the bonnet was removed resulted in the leak that was identified. A temporary soft patch was installed and secured with a ratchet strap to control the whey leakage until a permanent repair could be completed. The final repair included removing both valves and the mag meter and replacing them with a CPVC spool piece. The incident had minimal impact on Euphrates and FAGE, as both were able to lock out their respective discharge valves, securing their Whey discharges coming off the holiday weekend. Staff were able to manage the situation and complete the necessary repairs in a manner with minimal impact on the facility and its users.

Sulfur Treat

Manager Brand reported that there are H₂S breakthrough levels approaching 60 ppm, indicating that the media was nearing the point where it would need to be changed. The media had been installed in September 2025, and the current H₂S levels remained below the limit required for the facility's engines. The current plan is to source a crane from Miller to assist with the media change-out, which is planned for the second week of October. Precision had also been sourced to remove the spent media. 24 hours prior to this, the vessels will be filled with water for a safer removal.

Paving Repairs

Manager Brand reported that the Department of Public Works (DPW) was at the facility during the first week of September to walk through the site and assess damage to the facility roads. On September 9, 2026, DPW was on site to complete pavement repairs. For areas identified as requiring more extensive repairs, it was recommended that a small paver be utilized to address areas that cannot be adequately repaired through patching. Manager Brand reported that he has been in communication with Dan's Excavation to inquire about the cost of utilizing a paver. Manager Brand further reported that significant erosion has been identified along the roadway on the hill leading up to the sludge building. There is investigating the possibility of installing a false apron to capture and redirect water to mitigate any water from traveling beneath the roadway in an effort to prevent further erosion.

Cogen #1: Trip and failure to restart

Manager Brand reported that Cogen 1 experienced a trip, and when a restart was attempted, the engine failed to start. CAT reported to site to assist in troubleshooting the shutdown and failure to start. Investigation identified the presence of an alarm, indicating under voltage, which was found to be a result of the voltage sensing wire that had broken at the lug, resulting in the inability to sense the one phase voltage and tripping the unit offline. This would not affect the ability of the engine to start. The wire was repaired. CAT connected up to the engine to read the background codes to identify the cause of the inability to start, no fault codes or errors were identified. CAT initiated an ignition system reset, after which the engine was restarted and returned to operation. The software used by CAT to access and review the engine fault codes is Woodward software, and CAT is going to investigate how we can acquire this software to read the errors and codes without requiring CAT to be on site.

Cogen #2: Head Failure

Manager Brand reported that Cogen 2 experienced a cylinder head failure resulting from a burned valve. The failure prevented the unit from restarting; the damaged valve prevented sufficient compression being developed to support operation. Staff were able to source a replacement cylinder head from CAT, which was installed by facility maintenance staff. Following completion of the repair, Cogen 2 was returned to service.

Cogen #3: Instability Operation and Reverse Powering

Manager Brand reported that Cogen 3 had been experiencing significant fluctuations in operation and would shut down after approximately one and a half days of continuous operation. The unit would begin

to experience instability prior to shutting down. While CAT was onsite following Cogen 1 tripping offline, CAT personnel reviewed Cogen 3 to assist in identifying the cause of the instability. A complete review of the unit failed to identify any abnormal indications. Cogen 3 had been running for approximately two days and remained stable at the time of the report. There have been discussions regarding the installation of our spare Tech Jet, to rule out any spurious issues being generated by the Tech Jet, as CAT is unable to definitively identify the cause of the previous instability.

BUDGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

Final BST Audit

Manager Brand reported that the final BST audit has been received and has listed no material findings. Hard copies of the report will be provided to the board at the next board meeting.

PPA with National Grid

Manager Brand reported that the current PPA is scheduled to expire in April of 2027; after review of the applicable tariffs and available options by which to sell our excess production to National Grid, there appear to be limited options at this time. An alternative arrangement would require hiring an ESCO offered and schedule the facility's excess output, which is normally only a hundred kWH. Based on the current circumstances, there would be limited benefits to pursuing another PPA at this time. Manager Brand requested that the existing PPA be extended. The board requested before extending the current PPA, we investigate if GJJWTF could realize any potential increase of energy sold based on Green Energy Pricing, which is currently not a potential under the current PPA. The decision was made to table this topic while additional research is conducted to determine what benefits may be available and to allow for further negotiation of the agreement and rates.

Facility Natural Gas Commodity Supply Agreement – Empire Natural gas Corporation

Manager Brand reported on the Facility Natural Gas Commodity Supply Agreement with Empire Natural Gas Corporation. The agreement provides for the purchase of natural gas at the commodity index plus the applicable rate. The initial new Agreement proposed rate increase of more than \$1.00, which Manager Brand felt was excessive. Following discussion with Empire Natural Gas Corporation, a revised offer was made to extend the agreement for an additional one-year term at the current rate. The current rate is NYMEX index price plus \$0.037 per unit. Manager Brand recommended extending the agreement for one additional year and requested Board approval. 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 extending the Facility Natural Gas Commodity Supply Agreement with Empire Natural Gas Corporation for one (1) year.

Fulton County Sewer District #5

Manager Brand reported that Fulton County District Sewer #5 has requested a one-time, 30-day grace period for payment of its October billing. District #5 is a stand-alone entity and is currently awaiting approval of a loan from Fulton County. The loan approval meeting is not scheduled to occur until after the first billing cycle invoice becomes due. District #5 has indicated that payment will be made promptly upon receipt of the loan proceeds. The requested extension would apply to the first billing cycle, covering the period of March 23, 2026 through July 28, 2026, in the amount of approximately \$33,000. Manager Brand recommended granting the one-time extension. On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved extending Fulton County District Sewer #5 a thirty (30) day grace period for payment of the first billing cycle.

2027 Budget Process

Manager Brand reported that the budget committee will begin the process for a meeting in October with the target to have full board approval for the 2027 Budget at the December Board meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution No. 2026-09

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Vose, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2026-09. *Authorizing the Manager to move funds due to unbudgeted expenses related to Cogen failures and associated emergency repair, unanticipated loss of staff associated required consulting support, and a failure to incorporate NYSDEC registration fee into the 2026 Budget.*

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2026 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 2, 3, & 4.

Approve Abstract #9

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$426,689.56 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed.

NEW BUSINESS

Investigating Alternative to Ferrous Chloride

Manager Brand reported that the facility is currently working with Green Steel Environmental (GSE) to investigate an alternative to the use of ferrous chloride. GSE is offering a solid, granular product that is a byproduct of the steel milling process and is available at a significantly lower cost than the facility's current ferrous chloride product. The alternative has the potential to reduce phosphorous concentrations while also providing cost savings. Manager Brand reported that testing is being conducted to evaluate the product's effectiveness with the facility's sludge and to determine the quantity of product that would be required. GSE is handling the testing and associated costs. If the product does not demonstrate an effective benefit for the facility, further consideration of the alternative will not be pursued.

PERSONNEL

Steven Burns Retirement

Manager Brand reported that Steven Burns has officially submitted his retirement for 09/19/2026, with his final workday being 09/18/2026. On a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved to submit an official letter to Mr. Burns, thanking him for his years of service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, all Board members in attendance, Manager Brand and Administrative Aide Benton went into executive session at 7:03 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. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 7:44 P.M. No action was taken.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:46P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried six (6) in favor, none (0) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Stover, Secretary
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board

GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD

RESOLUTION #2026-09

WHEREAS, the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board wishes to make changes to the 2026 General Fund Budget as follows:

Transfer From:

J8130-1100	Plant Salaries	(25,000.00)
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Transfer To:

J8130-4465	Cogeneration System	25,000.00
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Transfer From:

J8110-1100	Administrative Salaries	(10,000.00)
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Transfer To:

J8110-4720	Professional Services	10,000.00
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Transfer From:

J8130-1100	Plant Salaries	(4,000.00)
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Transfer To:

J8130-4760	Other Fees and Services	4,000.00
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RESOLVED, that the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board make the above mentioned changes to the 2026 General Fund Budget.

DATED: September 9, 2026

MOTION: Mr. Vose

SECOND: Mr Parker

YES: 6

NO: 0

ABSENT: 0