

FINAL COPY

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

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: Chris Papastrat, Chairman
George Kolba, Vice Chairman
Edward Crumb
Stephen Andrew (Exited at 5:04PM)
Ray Standish (Audio/Visual Attendance)
Ronald Davis

Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer/City of Binghamton Comptroller
Ronald Warwick, Acting Assistant Superintendent
Adam Afify, Acting Head Operator
Howard Reeve, Facility Engineer
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist
Ron Lake, P.E., City of Binghamton Engineer (Entered 3:57PM)

Guests: James Atherlay, News Channel 34

Chris Papastrat called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM. Six (6) Board Members were present. Board Member Standish was present via audio/visual attendance. Attendance was noted aloud by Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary. Fire exits were identified.

Privilege of the Floor

Nothing.

October 13, 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes Approval

Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted October 13, 2020 Draft Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.

Motion seconded by Steve Andrew.

Motion carried 6/0.

Fiscal Officer's Report

Chuck Shager presented his submitted report which was distributed in the Board's folders. That the only municipalities outstanding for 2020 as of October 31, 2020 were Town of Binghamton and Town of Kirkwood.

Edward Crumb presented the Lead Agency Capital Project Chart Report and Graph Report, copies of which are in the Board Folders, and explained how to review the Chart Report, as well as the color-coding system and the scaling of the graphs in the Graph Report.

Chairman Papastrat commented that the plant photographs Mr. Crumb inserted in the report were a welcome addition.

Superintendent's Report

Elliott Wagner presented the Superintendent's Report, a copy of which appears below.

Superintendents Report for October 2020

11/10/2020

Construction Topics:

Still waiting on completion of H-Line.

SCADA programming by GHD ongoing.

Still waiting for Micro-Turbine, water supply resolution.

7-10 valve stems have been repaired, temporary weir has been removed.

We have an approximate 8-10 foot obstruction in in the 7-10 drain line that returns to the Wetwell. We received a quote from The Drain Brain for \$28,600.00. At this point, this in Jacobs' and Ron Lake's hands. It's not known what has caused this obstruction. This drain was functioning prior to construction.

We were not provided a spare DN influent pump and one will need to be procured. If one goes down we will not be able to operate the corresponding DN cell.

Other Notes:

We received a quote for Nitrogen from Haun and will be looking to schedule that soon.

The DEC has approved our Digester 1 and 2 seeding and feeding plan.

BioStyr continues to produce good results, ChemScan is still hit and miss. Senior Operator and Instrumentation Dept. continue working with ChemScan technical support group to find a solution. It ran for 10 days straight then went awry. We ran in reference table mode over the weekend.

We continue operating the Micro-Turbines in Semi-Auto. We await Vendors arrival, (Due to show up 1st week of Dec.) of the gas storage equipment to setup and test the instrumentation. We have produced 162,894 KWH for the month of October.

Spoke with DEC this morning, EBP \$50,000.00. DEC's lawyers need a little detail from project lead.

We received a request from the Mayor's office to modify the superintendents report yesterday and are working towards that modification.

Deron B. has taken and passed his NYSDEC Operator 2 exam. We have a candidate ready to start as soon as he is cleared by Occupational Med.

We hired a new Lab tech and she is doing well.

Superintendents Report for 2020

	FLOW			CBOD5			REM			Tot Susp Solids			REM			Settleable Solids			REM			Total Nitrogen			REM			Phosphorous			REM					
	MGD	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%	In	out	%					
AVG	limit			limit			limit			limit			limit			limit			limit			limit			limit			limit			limit					
	18 mg/L			20 mg/L			0.3 mL/L			6.0 mg/L			1.0 mg/L																							
January	18.32	181	18	90%	134	11.1	92%	7.32	0.04	99%	21.43	8.13	62%	3.24	0.49	85%																				
February	21.02	150	16	90%	127	12.1	90%	7.80	0.02	100%	20.77	9.46	54%	3.27	0.60	82%																				
March	16.94	171	13	92%	131	10.5	92%	8.70	0.01	100%	22.85	9.95	56%	3.31	0.89	73%																				
April	16.97	170	13	93%	157	10.2	94%	8.10	0.01	100%	18.89	4.61	76%	2.98	0.49	84%																				
May	19.40	132	10	92%	136	8.9	93%	7.40	0.01	100%	17.30	3.60	79%	2.70	0.49	82%																				
June	13.57	203	11	95%	216	9.7	96%	9.60	0.02	100%	23.30	3.30	86%	4.02	0.62	85%																				
July	12.03	208	13	94%	239	13.1	95%	11.70	0.02	100%	25.50	3.70	85%	3.92	0.37	91%																				
August	13.74	220	13	94%	212	8.7	96%	9.20	0.03	100%	26.40	2.40	91%	4.03	0.49	88%																				
September	10.84	388	14	96%	515	7.9	98%	17.60	0.01	100%	40.90	2.90	93%	5.68	0.36	94%																				
October	11.63	306	11	96%	280	6.4	98%	13.6	0.02	100%				5.81	0.55	91%																				
November																																				
December																																				
Avg Year	15.45	213	13	93%	215	9.9	94%	10.1	0.02	100%	24.15	5.34	76%	3.90	0.54	85%																				

Notes:

Waiting on Microbac Data for last 4 data points

As of Oct. 27th, Inf. TN = 32.9 mg/L Effluent TN= 3.8 mg/l

Superintendent Wagner commented on the updated format of his submitted report in that he is working to create a more detailed yet less cumbersome report; that this is a work in progress to share clear and precise information in future reports. Superintendent Wagner proceeded describing the practical use of the new format pointing out that the numbers for the year will always show on the report for ease of comparison. Going through the numbers Superintendent Wagner pointed out that these current numbers are favorable because of the operators; that the operators are vigilant in their analysis of the process data daily.

Going through the Superintendent Report on construction topics he wanted to bring to the Board's attention that there is an obstruction in the 7 through 10 drain line which was not there pre-construction; but declines to further discuss it at this time until Ron Lake, P.E., Lead Agency Engineer is present (he will be coming later to this meeting). Mr. Lake has been the one in communication with the contractor.

Superintendent Wagner wanted to bring to the Board's attention that after going through all the provided spare parts or pieces he discovered there was no spare DN influent pump. He stated that should the current DN influent pump break down or they need to perform maintenance on it the plant would break the permit by not having a backup. A spare could cost approximately \$80,000.00 which will need to be in the budget as this spare part was not included to be provided in the Owners' Specifications and would be crucial to have in the inventory.

An Operator 2 position will be filled by a dedicated and promising Operator 1 employee who has taken the certification test and scored very well opening up a position for an Operator Trainee. The Lab Tech position has been filled and the technician is doing quite well also.

Superintendent Wagner then overviewed the graphs in the report as well as the weekly plant report status.

(Lead Agency Engineer Ron Lake, P.E., joined the meeting)

Regarding the H-Line, the Lead Agency has hired Welliver-McGuire to work on this right away, under the direction of GHD. To pick up on Superintendent Wagner's reporting of the 7 through 10 valve stems on the H Line, Mr. Lake stated that this issue is currently a work in progress although he is unsure of the exact work being done. Mr. Kolba stated a concern on the missing bollards at this time and Mr. Lake could not confirm the status as it too is a work in progress.

One "stalemate" is that the City has been unsuccessful in engaging a contractor to drill to emplace the bollards, given a lack of record drawings showing what is (or is not) subsurface. Mr. Kolba asked if the UV system has been turned over to the Plant yet to which Mr. Lake responded that yes, it was turned over. There was a short conversation as to what has been turned over and what has not;; Superintendent Wagner will email Mr. Lake a list to respond.

Mr. Andrew asked if an "IT computer person" has been hired yet and Superintendent Wagner advised that they are still in the processes of sorting out the resumes for qualified candidates.

Mr. Kolba asked Mr. Lake about the status of the “green roof” issue, Mr. Kolba feels there will be a safety issue as a result of the gaps that have not been filled. Mr. Lake advised that he will investigate and report back.

Business Manager Pearsall presented his report. He is still in contact with Keystone for the completed Survey[s] for Certificates of Elevation and the WQIP Water Quality Grants and work has been completed and the final billing is forthcoming.

Business Manager’s Report

Business Manager Pearsall submitted the Agreement for Professional Services (Actuarial Services) for execution with Jefferson Solutions, Clifton Park, NY for board approval. Copies of said agreement was distributed in the Board members folders. Modifications were made on the first page to reflect a four year agreement rather than two.

Edward Crumb made a motion for Board approval the modified Actuarial Agreement with for a two year period ending 12/31/20 at a not-to-exceed fee of \$3,450.00 and including an option for another two year period ending 12/31/22 for the same fee to be encumbered and paid from budget line J8130.54410.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6/0

Business Pearsall submitted a Bid Manual for Solid Refuse and Waste Collection and Disposal Services for distribution in the Board member’s folder and is requesting permission to advertise for waste/refuse collection. Mr. Crumb notes some editing issues he would like to see made and Mr. Kolba questioned the point in the manual located on page 25, subparagraph 8.1 which talks about prevailing wage and should be entirely removed.

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board ratify and approve the bid manual for advertising for solid waste removal and disposal services with the following changes

Page 3, Part 1, Amend heading “Estimated Annual Volume” to “Estimated Annual Quantity”.

Page 4, Part 2, Paragraph 1, Line 2, Insert the word “the” between “near” and “entrance”.

Page 4, Part 2, Paragraph 3, Strike one “to be”.

Page 25, subparagraph 8.1, Delete body of paragraph and replace with “N/A” as it is not applicable.

and directs the Business Manager to advertise for refuse/waste collection and disposal with the changes made in the manual.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6/0.

Since no interested parties submitted bids for Hydrated Lime after the previous advertisement Business Manager Pearsall is requesting permission to advertise again.

George Kolba made a motion for Board approval to advertise for a rebid for Hydrated Lime purchase.

Edward Crumb seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6/0

Business Manager Pearsall is requesting the transfer of \$90,000.00 to purchase a back-up DN Flygt Pump. He suggests creating a new 2020 Capital G/L account and also suggests using Capital Contingency. The Board agreed as to the importance of starting the procurement process for this sooner rather than later. He also is requesting permission to transfer \$3,000.00 into the Lab Supplies line from the Chemicals line.

Edward Crumb made a motion for Board approval to transfer \$95,000.00 from JH8130.55404 Capital Contingency Line to create a new Capital G/L line (JH8130.55407) for DN Flygt Pump Spare and that the requisite Requests for Legislation be submitted to the Owners' Legislative Bodies.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6/0

George Kolba made a motion for Board approval to transfer \$3,000.00 into Laboratory Supplies line J8130.54149 from Chemicals line J8130.54150 and that the requisite Requests for Legislation be submitted to the Owners' Legislative Bodies.

Edward Crumb seconded the motion.

Motion carried 6/0

Committee Reports

Construction: George Kolba and Steve Andrews - Nothing further to report.

Finance: Edward Crumb - regarding the submitted Employee Health Insurance Plans all of which have been emailed to board members on November 8, 2020 and distributed to them via their Board folders. Mr. Crumb gave an overview of the paperwork and a discussion was had between the Board members. Michele Cuevas then called NFP Consultant Tom Surowka for an audio call discussion with the Board members to answer any questions that came up during the discussion and review of the paperwork. Mr. Crumb wanted Mr. Surowka to address the consultant fee and Mr. Surowka advised that there would be no increase for 2021. Questions and concerns were addressed, the Board was satisfied and the call was terminated at 5:03PM.

Personnel: Steve Andrew – Still no news from the union.

Steve Andrew exited the meeting at 5:04PM

Returning back to Finance.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the record that the Board acknowledges and accepts the Lifetime Benefit Solutions' discontinuance of its third party administrative services for the self-funded dental and vision effective for new claims on and after January 1, 2021.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried 5/0/1 (absent SA)

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to ratify the Excellus 2020-2021 rates for active employees in the SimplyBlue Plus Bronze 4 insurance program as presented in his November 8, 2020 email and to authorize the Chairman to sign whatever documents the broker requires for this program with Excellus 2020-2021 and to charge proportionately from the Active Employee Health Insurance budget line and the Retiree Health Insurance budget line based on the enrollment for the various programs.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5//0/1 (absent SA)

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board approve the offer from the City of Binghamton to allow the Sewage Board Medicare-eligible participants to avail themselves of the AETNA Medicare Advantage (P01) ESA PPO Copay Plan effective January 1, 2021 in accordance with the information in the November 8, 2020 email.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 (absent SA)

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board accepts the proposal of Excellus for the fully insured dental PPO insurance for active employees in accordance with the November 8, 2020 email and the proposal from Haylor, Freyer and Coon which has been discussed at this meeting and to direct and authorize the Chairman to sign whatever documents the broker requires to implement this coverage.

Ray Standish seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 (absent SA)

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board to accept the proposal from Guardian for the fully insured vision PPO insurance coverage for active employees at the revised rate as reflected in the chart in the November 8, 2020 email and distributed at this meeting and to authorize the Chairman to sign whatever documents the broker requires to implement this coverage with Guardian and to charge proportionately the various areas in the Health Insurance Budget line.

Ray Standish seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 (absent SA)

Edward Crumb made a motion that based on the change by Excellus in the structure of the SimplyBlue Plus Bronze 4 plan that the Board approves and accepts increase for employer contribution to the Health Reimbursement Account at \$250.00 per individual enrollment and \$500.00 per multi-person enrollment. Total contribution from the Board will be up to \$6,400.00 for individual enrollments, and up to \$12,800.00 for multi-person enrollments for 2021.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 (absent SA)

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board ratify and authorize the Chairman to sign the proposed Consulting Professional Services Agreement with NFP as presented to the Board in the November 8, 2020 email.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 (absent SA)

Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board ratify and approve to the proposed Health Plan Benefits notices in accordance with the November 8, 2020 email for the plans effective January 1, 2021 and authorizes the distribution to the active employees and retirees as part of their enrollment package.

George Kolba seconded the motion.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 (absent SA)

Ad Hoc: Ronald Davis - Nothing new to report.

Flow Management: Edward Crumb – Nothing new to report.

Correspondence: Confidential Secretary, Michele Cuevas noted the submitted October 2020 IWPP GHD report which was in the Board members folders. Ms. Cuevas noted the Village of Johnson City's Resolution #2020-165 pertaining to 2020 Budget transfers increasing appropriations for Property Insurance and Furniture.

Old Business: None.

New Business: George Kolba asked about the scrap removal and delivery for recycling to Greenblott Metal Company and suggested that in the future Plant staff consider checking prices also at Weitsman Recycling or any other local recycling businesses.

Ray Standish made a motion to adjourn.

Motion seconded by George Kolba.

Motion carried. 5/0/1 (absent SA).

Meeting adjourned at 5:20PM.

The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for December 8, 2020 at 3:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Smith
Transcriptionist

cc: Board Members
Mayor Rich David, City of Binghamton
Mayor Greg Deemie, Village of Johnson City
City Clerk, City of Binghamton
Village Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Johnson City
Alfred Paniccia, Esq.
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer
Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent
Brown & Brown Empire State
Haylor Freyer & Coon
Robert Bennett, P.E., Village of Johnson City, Engineer
Ray Standish, P.E., City of Binghamton, City Engineer
File