

**JOHNSTOWN WATER BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
JULY 29, 2020 - 6:00 PM**

MEETING HELD OUTDOORS, AT THE CHARLES E. JENNER MEMORIAL BANDSHELL ON WEST MAIN STREET. MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Board President Swierzowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

John Swierzowski, President  
Michael Capparello, Vice President  
Brandon Lyon, Board Member  
Mark Empie, Board Member

**ATTENDEES**

Barbara Koehler, Clerk of the Board  
Michael Poulin, City of Johnstown Attorney  
Brad Hayner, City Council Liaison

**ABSENT**

Ralph Marotta, Board Member

Board President Swierzowski stated he was resigning from the Water Board at the conclusion of this meeting.

**OLD BUSINESS**

*Water Infrastructure Topics*

Board President Swierzowski stated he wanted to note the issues that need to be addressed:

- 1) Dam Phase 2 – Board President Swierzowski noted the contact at GPI is John Rizzo to proceed with the project. He also stated John Rizzo has been asked to seek grants for project. Board President Swierzowski stated the project should have been completed 2 years ago. Until Phase 2 of the dam is complete there is no downstream insurance.
- 2) The remainder of the filtration plant projects are being handled in house by John Denmark, to be in compliance.
- 3) NESTLE has approached the Board several months ago to contract for water. The Water Board needs to contact Nestle to complete.
- 4) Bad meters have to be replaced quickly by distribution.
- 5) The TAPs letters and applications have to be completed for the FCWD #1. The residents want water. Pursue the new customers.

Board President Swierzowski noted if the Water Department had a Superintendent all these issues would be addressed.

Board President Swierzowski also strongly urged the Water Board to work with the city to solve these issues. The city residents voted to have a Water Board. The Water Board needs to tell the public what is occurring in order for the Water Board to do their job effectively for the residents. As the Water Board works for the voters, they need to inform the voters of the issues.

Board President Swierzowski noted that is why we have Facebook page, to state only the “facts”.

Board President Swierzowski stated the City has contracted with a law firm to “axe” Article 6, to take over the Water Department in the next election.

### **DISCUSSION**

Board Vice President Capparello asked if Mayor Jackson has responded to the letter Board President Swierzowski addressed to him with issues. Board President Swierzowski stated he has not.

Board Member Lyon asked if there was any action on the Bond issue for Phase 2 of the Dam project. Board President Swierzowski stated there has been no communication with the Treasurer’s Office regarding the bond.

Board President Swierzowski also stated that Water rents are not taxes. Board Member Lyon stated taxes are compulsory and utility charges are based on usage.

### **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Next regular Water Board meeting will be August 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION** to adjourn, was made at 6:07 pm by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Member Lyon

**Ayes: Swierzowski, Capparello, Lyon, Empie      Nays: 0      Absent: Marotta      Abstain: 0**

Submitted by  
Barbara Koehler  
Clerk of the Water Board