

JOHNSTOWN WATER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 11, 2015

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

NICHOLAS CANNIZZO, PRESIDENT
JOHN PRADELSKI, BOARD MEMBER
ANTHONY CARUSO, BOARD MEMBER
GEORGE DIMARCO, BOARD MEMBER
SCOTT JEFFERS, BOARD MEMBER
BRETT PRESTON, CITY ATTORNEY
KATHY IANNOTTI, COMMON COUNCIL
CINDA SPRAKER, CLERK OF THE WATER BOARD
MICHAEL HLOZANSKY, SENIOR PLANT OPERATOR

EXCUSED:

PUBLIC SPEAKERS: Wayne Tripp from F&W Forestry updated the Board on the watershed forest stewardship plan. Wayne said the last timber sale was completed and cleaned up nicely. He informed the Board that the logger experienced some vandalism to his equipment. Wayne recommends holding off on the three Larrabee stands and timber a stand near Cork Center. George asked about the timeframe for the Larrabee stands. Wayne recommends waiting until the market improves. Nick asked if Wayne found anyone to timber the Maylender site. Nick also wanted a portion of the property clear cut. Wayne suggested cutting anything to the left of the tank.

Chad Kortz from C.T.Male said the recommendations he made last month remain the same and he would like add to it. Chad said the report first addresses the feasibility of obtaining water from Gloversville. The charts summarize the capacity for each city in gallons. The first conclusion is that Johnstown has limited water capacity for the Town of Mohawk proposed site. Chad said both counties have had studies done concerning power, transportation and waste treatment to the site. The strength for supplying water is in the center of the city but not on the outskirts. The second conclusion is purchasing water from Gloversville would require upgrading some infrastructure. The following suggestions are listed in order of priority. Project #1 would upgrade connections between the Cities and increase 500,000 gallons per day to Johnstown at an approximate cost of \$255,000.00. Project #2 is a waterline upgrade. Installing a sixteen inch line from the Industrial park to Montgomery Street through the city and tie into a sixteen inch line that currently exists. This will also replace some aging infrastructure in the city at a cost of approximately \$5,500,000.00. Other project routes were checked but this seemed to be the most cost effective way to go. Completing project one and two will provide approximately 2.5 million gallons per day. Gloversville currently has a 2.91 million gallon excess of water at this time. Project #3 is a Regional Water Park storage tank. A one to two million gallon tank would provide the water at the peak demand times. George asked about an elevated tank but Chad said it isn't feasible at this location because of elevation. This project will cost approximately \$3,500,000.00. Chad said considering long term growth project #2 and #3 will need to be completed. Nick asked if project #1 then #3 could be completed and do project # 2 later and how SMART water will be effected. Chad said at this time you only have 220,000 gallons of excess water to provide to SMART water. SMART water will depend on the agreement reached with all parties and then this report will need to be revisited according to Chad. Chad also wanted to point out this project lays out the current options to provide more water at this time so the water board has a plan. The timeframe for project #1 is 6 months once an agreement is reached between the two cities. Meetings, bid openings, ordering parts all have to be taken into consideration. Construction should take 3 to 4 weeks. Project #4 is to provide water to Townsend Ave, Bloomingdale Ave area with better water pressure. If an agreement is reached with Gloversville a connection from Harrison Street to Bloomingdale Ave via route 30A could be done. The cost estimate is \$500,000.00. It will be a twelve inch line and the distance is approximately 800 feet.

The recommendation from CT Male is for the City of Johnstown Water Board to strengthen its mutual aid agreement with Gloversville and to negotiate a wholesale rate with Gloversville for purchasing water. Their may be funding available for a feasibility study for the two cities to join their water systems together. CT Male also suggested Gloversville install a storage tank. Different options for getting water to the Bloomingdale Ave area and the types of material that could be used were discussed. George suggested the first step should be talking to Gloversville to see if they are interested in selling water. Approval from both Common Councils will also be needed. Nick said the Board should consider project # 1 and talk to Gloversville as soon as possible. Scott asked what the time frame would be to complete all the proposed work. Chad said all the work could probably be completed in about 3 years. George asked about the refilling of the tank. Chad said the current customer needs were put first when it comes to supplying water. Nick asked if the pump station on Union Ave could help in any way. Chad said it can not be used because it was built for fire protection for Benjamin Moore. Even though Benjamin Moore doesn't use it any more, it can not be utilized to help supply water. Chad stated the fluoride issue will need to be discussed by the two Boards. The NYSDOH will need to be notified of any changes.

FINANCIAL

AUDIT COMMITTEE: Vouchers were approved for payment by John Pradelski and Anthony Caruso
CARRIED

MINUTES: A motion to accept the minutes of the April meeting was made by George DiMarco seconded by John Pradelski

CORRESPONDENCE: The Board discussed a letter from Heidi Ropeter concerning her high usage water bill, waiving of the late fee and a payment plan. Cinda informed the Board that the distribution crew went to the home and determined that her upstairs toilet was running. Anthony stated he discussed the issue with Heidi but did not tell her that we would give her a new meter. Cinda was instructed to send Heidi a letter stating the Board has rules and regulations that they follow but an extension could be done to give Heidi more time to pay the bill past the July shutoff date. The Board received a review request for 640 W Fulton St Ext for a high usage bill. A data log was provided to the Board from the distribution crew showing when the home incurred the higher usage. Cinda was told to send the owner a letter informing her that per the rules and regulations of the water department, any water that passes through the meter must be paid for. George said to include a copy of the report with the letter to Cindy Leotta.

FILTRATION & DISTRIBUTION: Wade didn't submit his monthly report. Mike said we are waiting for the tech to come to Fulton County Electric and Barney Signs to complete our NYSDEC requirements. John asked about Hydro Qual. The vehicle log reports were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS: Brett will check to see what recourse can be taken to collect outstanding water bills for residence that are outside of the City.

NEW BUSINESS: Nick said the distribution crew should read the meters every 3 months. Letters should then be sent to all property owners that indicate there is a leak at their residence. The Board agreed and would like to start with the South end of the City now. Cinda will then send them a leak notification. Cinda told the Board that Mike Worden from Master Meter has resigned from Master Meter. George asked Cinda to email him and ask for a copy of the operations manual. The Board discussed looking into any funding that may be available for water projects. Nick asked Chris Satterlee to follow up with his Board. George will also check with the grant writer at the Fulton County Planning Department.

A motion to enter into executive session for personnel and litigation was made by Nicholas Cannizzo seconded by Anthony Caruso

A motion to exit executive session and adjourn was made by Nicholas Cannizzo seconded by Anthony Caruso

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.