



**Johnstown Common Council**  
Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall  
Tuesday, February 18, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

**REPORTS FROM CITY LIAISONS**

Gloversville Johnstown Joint Sewer Board

Planning Board

Assessor



# City of Johnstown

## Assessor's Office

Tina K. Dimitriadis  
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## ASSESSOR REPORT February 18, 2025

- **All exemptions are due March 1, 2025.** Failure to file your exemption by March 1<sup>st</sup> may result in the loss of the exemption. **Final reminders** for the Renewal applications for the Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens were mailed on February 11<sup>th</sup>.
- For questions regarding ANY exemption, please call or email the Assessor's Office at 518-736-4015 or [assessor@cityofjohnstown.ny.gov](mailto:assessor@cityofjohnstown.ny.gov).
- A reminder, anyone turning 65 this calendar year may be eligible for the Enhanced STAR and/or the Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens. The Partial Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens total income limit is \$29,999 for the tax year 2023. If you believe you may qualify, please contact the Assessor's office for an application.
- The Assessor's Office continues to work on the 2025 roll.

**GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 8, 2025**

**DRAFT**

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:14 P.M.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**ABSENT**

Donald Schwartz                      Vice Chairman

**JOINT SEWER BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

Gloversville - Bobbi Trudel reappointed at Gloversville's January meeting, with term expiring December 31, 2027.  
Johnstown - Eric Parker's reappointment is pending until the next Johnstown Council meeting.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS and APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES**

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the election of Joint Sewer Board officers and the appointment of committees was tabled until the February 2025 Joint Sewer Board meeting.

**DECEMBER 11, 2024, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

The Board approved the December 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker).

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was noted.

**PLANT OPERATIONS**

**Whey Tank Cleaning**

Manager Brand reported the inspection and cleaning of Whey Tank #1 started at 7 A.M. on Saturday, December 28, 2024. The tank contained around 4-feet of cheese particulates which far exceeded the amount anticipated. Precision Industrial Maintenance was onsite to evacuate the tank and discharge for processing to the facility's Screening Building. The intensity of the dumping caused the screening process to backup. Management, Operations, and Maintenance staff worked until 9 P.M. on Saturday to handle issues with the grit classifiers, grease compactor, and plugged pumps. Work continued on Sunday and lasted throughout the week until Friday, January 3, 2025, excluding New Year's Day.

Due to large associated costs and the necessity for whey flow control the tank was placed back in service after removing only 80% of the solids. In total, approximately 121,000 gallons (44 truckloads) of solids were removed from the tank. Large quantities of debris were transported to the Fulton County Landfill. The tank was last cleaned three years ago. Additional cleaning is planned for October 2025.

FAGE USA Dairy covered the incremental costs of the facility's weekend overtime. Extra sampling was conducted at FAGE and Euphrates in an attempt to determine the cause of excess cheese particulate buildup within the Whey Tank. Sampling from Euphrates revealed high levels of settleable solids. Additionally, during this process large pieces of feta cheese were found in the Whey Pump Strainer. Management staff are working with Euphrates to mitigate the discharged feta cheese waste entering the Whey line.

#### **High Yard Recovery Update**

Manager Brand reported he participated in a conference call with NYMIR regarding a Business Interruption Insurance Claim filed for energy costs accrued and revenue lost during the High Yard Recovery Project. NYSERDA incentive payments for performance of Cogeneration Engine No. 3 (under the Anaerobic Digester Gas-to-Electricity Program PON 2828) are impacted as the generators were unable to generate over part of two performance periods. NYSERDA reimbursement totals from the previous three years were provided to NYMIR for insurance estimating purposes. NYSERDA contractor, L & S Energy Services, conducted an onsite inspection of the measurement and verification equipment for performance of Cogeneration Engine No. 3.

National Grid was onsite to inspect electrical metering and wiring in the new Meter Control House due to a lack of charges or reimbursements on the November and December National Grid billing. It was determined that meters were registering billing data and revenue data, and the issue appears to be between departments with National Grid. Records from this period can be confirmed on the facility's SCADA system.

#### **Slope Stabilization Update**

Manager Brand requested Board approval for the sale of surplus High Voltage Cable and PVC Conduit purchased for a contingency plan developed during the Slope Stabilization Project in the event of emergency duct bank failure. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board authorized to advertise bids for the sale of new unused 15kV #2 High Voltage Cable and 650 feet of 4" PVC Conduit purchased during the Slope Stabilization Project.

Manager Brand reported Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. submitted Change Order #1 for over and underrun items of slope repair work provided by Prime Contractor Carver Construction, Inc. The Change Order extends the project completion date 120 days until April 30, 2025, to accommodate springtime work including seeding, mulching, and disposal of spoils. The quantity of spoils is much greater than originally anticipated resulting in additional expense. Currently project disbursements are \$14K under bid with most work completed by the original deadline of December 31, 2024. The Change Order does not revise the awarded contract amount. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board authorized Change Order #1 submitted by Greenman-Pedersen, Inc. for the GJJWTF Emergency Slope Repair Project, reflecting cost increases and decreases for work provided by Prime Contractor Carver Construction, Inc. and extending the final project completion date 120 days until April 30, 2025, to accommodate springtime work, with a total net Change Order Amount of \$0.00.

Manager Brand expounded on the fact the facility allowed Carver to be disposed of all the unused spoils associated with the excavation, to be disposed on site. While this dramatically reduced the logistics and cost associated with transporting said material offsite, the facility did not receive any reduction in cost based on DOT bidding rules. Mr. Brand did feel that GPI could have made this fact clear at the time of the decision to allow all spoils to be disposed of on site, given GPI was contracted to be project manager and represent the facility given the magnitude of the project and being outside Manager's expertise. He did acknowledge that disposing of spoils on site did facilitate the project being completed within schedule, and the project was completed within budget.

#### **Request to Use Facility: RMMI, LLC dba Spa Septic Tank Co.**

Manager Brand reported that RMMI, LLC dba Spa Septic Tank Co. of Greenfield Center requested permission to use the facility for disposal of Septic Septage, Industrial Septage, or Food Waste (Fats/Oils/Grease). On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board granted permission for RMMI, LLC dba Spa Septic Tank Co. of Greenfield Center to use the facility for disposal of Septic Septage, Industrial Septage, or Food Waste (Fats/Oils/Grease) in accordance with the Trucked Waste Hauler Guidelines.

## INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

### **Environmental Laboratory Approval Program Renewal**

Lab Director Levendusky reported receipt of an Application for Renewal of Approval for 2025-2026 Permit Year from the Environmental Laboratory Approval Program (ELAP). The lab is required to be in continual compliance with ELAP standards under the NYS Department of Health. Discussion was held regarding specific language of the application certifying the signatories do not have administrative violations or crime convictions related to laws, rules, regulations, billing, environmental remediation, or sample collection. The Board unanimously supported that both Manager Brand and Lab Director Levendusky shall execute the ELAP Application for Renewal of Approval for 2025-2026 Permit Year, with the addition of language, "To the best of my knowledge."

### **Sewer Bill Protest: 12 Woodside Avenue, Gloversville**

Principal Account Clerk Gaugler reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 12 Woodside Avenue in Gloversville. Engineer Technician Marincic conducted an inspection of the premises. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board denied credit since the water entered the sewer system and had to be treated.

### **Sewer Bill Protest: 58 W. Pine Street, Gloversville**

Principal Account Clerk Gaugler reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 58 W. Pine Street in Gloversville. Engineer Technician Marincic conducted an inspection of the premises. On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board approved a credit of \$154.82 since the water did not enter the sewer system to be treated.

## ATTACHMENTS

### **Resolution No. 2025-01**

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Ms. Trudel, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board approved Resolution No. 2025-01. *Closing Books for Fiscal Year 2024.*

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2024 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 2, 3, & 4

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$211,833.43 were approved for payment on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker).

Capital disbursement sheet totaling \$47,276.00 was approved for payment on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker).

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Chemical Bidding**

Manager Brand reported chemical bidding for Dry Polymer and Emulsion Polymer is postponed until February 3, 2025, due to pending NYS DEC approval of Water Treatment Chemical (WTC) Notification Forms. Polydyne Inc. is currently honoring their 2024 pricing for polymers.

### **Municipal Sludge Hauler Contract**

Manager Brand reported Montgomery Co. Sanitary District No. 1 requested to change the terms of their Sludge Disposal Agreement from the current standard two (2) year term to a one (1) year term. The Board unanimously declined the request, desiring to keep all Municipal Sludge Hauler contracts consistent. Manager Brand suggested a Sludge Hauler rate evaluation during the upcoming 2025 to 2026 regular rate cycle.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), all Board members present, and Manager Brand went into executive session at 7:35 P.M. to discuss NY Public Officers Law §105:1 – (e) collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of Civil Service Law.

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board came out of executive session at 7:54 P.M. No action was taken.

**PERSONNEL**

**Non-Union Employment Agreement**

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, one (1) absent, and one (1) abstained (Parker), the Board authorized updates and revisions to the Non-Union Employment Agreement.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M. on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, and one (1) abstained (Parker).

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Parker, Secretary  
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board