

GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
April 9, 2025

DRAFT

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board (GJSB) held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M.

ROLL CALL

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

ABSENT

Deanna Hitchcock	Member
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MARCH 12, 2025 MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the March 12, 2025, regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 1

PLANT OPERATIONS

Cogen #1 Exciter Failure

Manager Brand reported Cogen #1 shutdown on a voltage regulator fault and tripped the Basler relay on a Loss of Excitation 40 fault. Inspection of Cogen revealed all four bolts holding Exciter in place were laying at the bottom of unit. Two bolts backed out and two bolts broke off. The Exciter rotor made contact with the Exciter stator causing winding damage. Milton Cat disassembled the Exciter and Permanent Magnet Generator (PMG) to determine the extent of damage and found both the Exciter and PMG will require replacement. Both the Exciter rotor and PMG Magnet shifted on the key and contacted their associated stators. Emergency replacement parts are on order with an estimated delivery date in late May.

Report of Noncompliance Event

Manager Brand reported the effluent composite sample taken on 3/6/25 for Cyanide, Free exceeded permit limits for concentration and pounds. Lab report received on 3/20/25 contained the following sample results for Cyanide, Free, Concentration at 7.1 ug/L (permit limit of 6.6 ug/L) and Pounds at 0.58 lbs/day (permit limit of 0.55 lbs/day). Manager submitted a Report of Noncompliance Event to NYSDEC on 3/20/25. Lab sent the effluent composite sample taken on 4/9/25 for Cyanide, Free to an alternate lab to compare sample results against the results from the lab historically utilized for this analysis. Increased sampling will continue to identify and eliminate the source of elevated limits.

Award Bid - Dry Polymer

Manager Brand reported a chemical bid opening was held on April 7, 2025, for a 2-year contract for the supply and delivery of Dry Polymer. Three (3) bids were received with the lowest bid from Polydyne Inc. at \$1.98/lb. Polydyne was the only vendor to receive Water Treatment Chemical (WTC) approval from NYSDEC to facilitate polymer

testing of any proposed polymers. On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board accepted the bid proposal from Polydyne Inc. for the supply and delivery of Dry Polymer - Clarifloc NE-2388, at \$1.98/lb. with a contract term effective April 10, 2025 through April 30, 2027.

Award Bid - Emulsion Polymer

Manager Brand reported a chemical bid opening was held on April 7, 2025, for a 2-year contract for the supply and delivery of Emulsion Polymer. Three (3) bids were received with the lowest bid from Polydyne Inc. at \$1.35/lb. All the vendors' WTC Forms were approved by NYS DEC prior to testing any proposed polymers. All vendors tested their polymers on the facility process with the best performance and lowest required dosing from Solenis LLC. Manager Brand recommended rejecting the low bid from Polydyne and accepting the bid from Solenis at \$1.45/lb. tote due to their polymer's superior performance at a 20% lower dosing resulting in a lower annual expense. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board accepted the bid proposal from Solenis LLC for a 2-year contract for supply and delivery of Emulsion Polymer – Praestol K 290 FLX-VA at \$1.45/lb. tote with contract term effective April 10, 2025 to April 30, 2027.

EFC Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant

Manager Brand reported he submitted correspondence dated April 1, 2025, to the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) requesting removal of the Thermal Sludge Dryer Project (Arcadis No. 30097676) from consideration for the EFC 2026 Intended Use Plan, as discussed at the March Board meeting.

Manager Brand is currently working with Arcadis of New York on a Wastewater Infrastructure Engineering Planning Grant Application for submittal to EFC by April 11, 2025, (submitted April 10, 2025). The EFC grant helps communities prepare to apply for financing through EFC's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and finances development of an Engineering Report required to be eligible for grant proceeds. If awarded, the funding will be used to explore alternatives for financially feasible technology or plant process modifications to reduce the amount of biosolids handled and disposed of by the facility.

Sewer District #4 – Additional Allocation Discussion & Smart Waters

Manager Brand reported he was contacted by Scott Henze of the Fulton County Planning Department to discuss a potential new industry coming to the Tryon Industrial Park, Sewer District #4. Henze provided some preliminary data on the new industry's estimated sewage discharge volume. Lab Director Levendusky will participate in a virtual meeting on April 17th with the new company and the Fulton County Planning Department to learn more.

Additional allocation for new industries, outside user billing, and billing under Smart Waters were discussed. Specifically, all users within Sewer District #4 should be billed at the outside user rate (twice the in-city rate). Manager Brand noted the facility never received a final copy of the Smart Waters Intermunicipal Agreement. Chairman Vose will follow up to provide a copy of the City of Johnstown's agreement.

Obsolete Equipment

Manager Brand requested Board approval to dispose or scrap obsolete equipment no longer usable and not having worthwhile resale value. Equipment includes a 1991 TMC Fork Truck with a failed engine, 2011 Chevy Colorado Truck with a broken frame, and 2012 Vantage Electric Truck with a nonreplaceable battery. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized disposal of (scrap) obsolete equipment no longer usable and not having worthwhile resale value, as listed above.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

Sewer Bill Protest: 34 East Avenue, Gloversville

Principal Account Clerk Gaugler reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 34 East Avenue in Gloversville. Engineer Technician Marincic conducted an inspection of the premises. On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved a credit of \$99.94 since the water did not enter the sewer system to be treated.

PERSONNEL

New Hire – WWTP Maintenance Mechanic

Manager Brand reported he and Maintenance Supervisor Horton interviewed five (5) candidates for a vacant WWTP Maintenance Mechanic position. Manager Brand recommended applicant Andrew Walrath. Mr. Walrath meets the minimum qualifications required by Civil Service. On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved the appointment of Andrew Walrath as a WWTP Maintenance Mechanic, with a tentative start date of April 28, 2025.

BUDGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

2024 International Dump Truck Purchase

Manager Brand reported the 2024 International Dump Truck Chassis and Cab approved for purchase at the March meeting was sold to another buyer, prior to the facility's Purchase Order being issued, and delayed due to the questions related to the transmission type and licensing requirements. An equivalent truck was secured through Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing by HL Gage Sales Inc. at a lower cost of \$157,840.00, (\$3,795 less than the original approved purchase) model 2024 International – HV613 SBA (HV613).

Purchase Orders – Excel Format

Manager Brand reported the facility will transition from a five (5) page carbon style Purchase Order to an Excel format to facilitate electronic Purchase Order submittals, saving postage costs and the cost associated with the purchasing of the carbon style Purchase Orders. A draft copy of the new Purchase Order was provided for Board review.

2025-2026 Proposed Sewer Rates

Manager Brand reported the Budget Committee met on April 2, 2025 to discuss the proposed 2025-2026 sewer rates. All Board members present were provided with a copy of the 2025-2026 Sewer Use Rate Schedule. Manager Brand gave an overview of the rate process, including changes in revenue, expected rate recovery, and the bonded debt schedule. Manager Brand recommends using the \$470,000 Fund Balance in the rate calculation and not using any Rate Stabilization Reserves. Industrial sewer rates are proposed to increase for Average Capital by 13.4% and O&M by 7.7%. Residential sewer rates are proposed to increase by 3.5% per average household. Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) fees are proposed to decrease by \$0.30 per connection.

Public Hearing Date

All proposed sewer rates will be presented at a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at Johnstown City Hall, 2nd Floor, 6:00 P.M. If adopted, the rates will become effective on May 1, 2025.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution No. 2025-02

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Ms. Trudel, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2025-02. *Increase 2025 General Fund Budget and Create Account #8130-4545.*

Resolution No. 2025-03

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2025-03. *Transfer from Capital & Equipment Reserve to the General Fund Account #8130-4545.*

Resolution No. 2025-04

On a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2025-04. *New Salary Schedule for Chief WWTP Operator.*

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2025 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 4, 5, & 6.

Approve Abstract #4

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$220,184.54 were approved for payment on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Stover, five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 P.M. until April 23, 2025 @ 6 P.M. on a motion made by Ms. Trudel, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Parker, Secretary
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board