

**JOHNSTOWN WATER BOARD
REGULAR MEETING VIA ZOOM
MEETING MINUTES MAY 11, 2020**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Board President Swierzowski called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL by Clerk of the Water Board

BOARD MEMBERS

- x John Swierzowski, President
- x Michael Capparello, Vice President
- x Brandon Lyon, Board Member (joined at 4:35p.m)
- x Ralph Marotta, Board Member

ATTENDEES

- x Barbara Koehler, Clerk of the Board

ABSENT

Carson Keeling, Jr. Board Member

Board President Swierzowski noted there will be no Public Session at this meeting

NEW BUSINESS

- **MOTION** to accept the resignation of Carson Keeling, Jr., as Water Board member, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.
Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0
- **MOTION** for Precision Industrial Maintenance to preform robotic camera inspection for #2 Filter at Cold Reservoir at the cost of \$2,850.00, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.
Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0
- **MOTION** for GCS to provide services with regard to the Sonicwalls and allow communication between Fulton P/S and Fulton Tank. (FCWD#1) at a cost of \$ 3,780.00, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.
Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0
- **MOTION** to accept TAP application of James Sutter for 111 Fon Clair Terrace, Johnstown, NY. (FCWD/Smart Water #1). Payment of all TAP materials/costs must be paid prior work commencing. Motion made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.
Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0
- **MOTION** made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Board Vice President Capparello to grant Gregory Hiller a TAP for water at 114 Co. Hwy 131 A, Johnstown NY (Landfill).

Mr. Hillier will be charged 2 times the City of Johnstown water rate and will pay for all costs associated with the TAP prior to work commencing. This TAP is also contingent on City of Johnstown Common Council approval at their next meeting.

Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0

GRIEVANCES

- Grievance 1 made by Jesse Robinson, Account 09110 for February 2020 Water / Sewer Invoice. Partial adjustment by GJJWW.

MOTION to reduce the water portion of invoice relative to the amount adjusted by the GJJWW for sewer portion of invoice, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.

Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0

- Grievance 2 made by Ron Tollner, Account 074600 for February 2020 Water / Sewer Invoice. Partial adjustment was made by GJJWW for Sewer portion.

MOTION to deny grievance for water portion of invoice made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.

Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0

- Grievance 3 made by James Getman (King Cole Laundromat), Account 334400 for November 2019 Water / Sewer Invoice. Adjustment made by GJJWW

MOTION to amend the water portion of invoice relative to the amount adjusted by the GJJWW for sewer portion made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.

Ayes 3 Nays 0 Absent 1 (Lyon) Abstain 0

DISCUSSIONS

- Extending Period from when late fees commence from 06/01/2020 to 6/15/2020.

Board President Swierzowski noted, as advised by City of Johnstown Attorney Poulin, the Water Board cannot suspend late fees for or penalties for water bills. Attorney Poulin noted to Board President Swierzowski, this action would have to have been done legislatively to suspend the relevant local laws that establishes the rates during a local / state of emergency. Currently, according to Attorney Poulin, this action is not legal.

Per Board President Swierzowski, the Water Board wanted to extend the period to June 15, 2020. in which citizens would start paying late fees. Based on the information presented to the Board by the City Attorney, the Water Board cannot waive the period to pay the late fee. Late fees will be due for payments received June 1, 2020.

- Shut off water services for non-payment.

Clerk Koehler noted to the Water Board she needed advice from Attorney Poulin as to when Water could be shut off to residences for non-payment. Due to the COVID pandemic, New York State rules supersede when shut offs can be done.

- Discussion regarding the Water Department creating a Web Page and Face Book page.

Board President Swierzowski will meet with vendors , one being Chris Jablonski in particular, to set up a web page

- Hydrants

Board Vice President Capparello noted he spoke with Jody Watkins, working foreman. All the hydrants have been flushed but there were many hydrants that need repair, which Watkins will address.

(NOTE: BRANDON LYON JOINED MEETING AT THIS POINT AT 4:35 pm)

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **MOTION** to accept meeting minutes of March 9, 2020, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.
Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0
- **MOTION** to accept meeting minutes of March 23, 2020, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Member Lyon.
Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0

FINANCIAL

- **MOTION** to accept Claims and Vouchers for payment for April 2020 (Audit Approval) 4/15/ 20-5/15/2020, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.

Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0

F Account	April 2020	(04/15/2020 – 04/30/2020)	\$	0.00
	May 2020	(05/01/2020 – 05/15/2020)	\$	<u>6,484.06</u>
			\$	<u>6,484.06 TOTAL</u>

- **MOTION** to approve March 2020 Industrial Levy made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Member Lyon.
Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0
- **MOTION** to approve April 2020 Industrial Levy made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello.
Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- **MOTION** to go into Executive Session regarding the employment history of a particular person(s) or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion of a particular person(s) made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice President Capparello, at 4:46 pm
Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0
- **MOTION** to close executive session was made by made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Member Lyon Capparello, at 5:00 pm
Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next regular Water Board meeting will be June 8, 2020

ADJOURNMENT

- **MOTION** to adjourn, made by Water Board President Swierzowski and seconded by Water Board Vice Capparello, at 5:02 pm
Ayes 4 Nays 0 Absent 0 Abstain 0

Submitted by
Barbara Koehler
Clerk of the Water Board