

1. The water board did not take advice years ago on purchasing sand washing equipment that would extend the life of the filter sand and help to maintain maximum water output from the filters. Instead the water board chose to continue with a method of maintaining the filters that in time would cause the filters to fail to meet daily water usage demands and cause a strain on the water system which occurred in 2013 with all six filters. The water board told the NYS Dept. of Health they were going to replace the sand in all six filters but only did two filters and in 2019 the same situation occurred again. Both times the city had to purchase water from Gloversville in order to meet the city's water needs at a cost of 200,000 thousand dollars in 2019 for 61,000,000 million gallons. Filter sand replacement in 2013 for two filters cost 161,000 thousand dollars and in 2019 two filters cost 210,000 thousand dollars and there are still two more filters that need clean sand. The sand washing equipment cost 155,000 thousand dollars.

2. The water board chose to buy remote meter reading heads from a company that did not have good reviews with its current customers. They chose that company because the neighboring city had them in their water system and they had the same problems with the meter heads. The water board was going to try and combine both departments without the approval of the citizens of Johnstown. The new meter heads were installed and supposed to have a battery life of often plus years but meter heads started failing shortly after being installed within the first six months. With the meter heads not working there is the potential for residents to be overcharged and undercharged. If residents are undercharged that affects the funds needed for daily operations cost for the city's water system as well as the wastewater treatment plant, these funds are based on the same meter readings. The company has sent out new meter heads to be installed but only time will tell if the replacement heads will hold up. The company that was the lower bidder had great ratings with their customers and the city was already using their manual meter heads with no problems for over 30 plus years and they did not choose them and their technicians live locally so you get a quick response when help is needed the company the water board chose their technicians are out of Texas.

3. Cork Center storage reservoir dam still needs phase two of the mandated improvements by the NYS DEC. The spillway needs major work with a lot of it being replaced, the two gate valves that are broken in the open position need to be replaced and the valves at the base of the dam need to be rehabbed along with replacing the building that had to be taken down that was over them. The dam is classified as a loss of life dam which means there is the possibility that people could lose their life, dwellings and roadways could be washed away if the dam was to fail. Because these issues have not been addressed, the city is unable to obtain downstream flood insurance. The water board's failure to choose one of the three options present to them by the engineering firm overseeing the project in a timely manner has raised the cost of the work needed to be done by over a million dollars. NYS DEC deadline for completion of work is 2022. Phase one was completed just shy of three years ago and phase two was to start the following year.

4. The water board has been informed for the past 15 years that the two sedimentation basins that supply water to the cold brook reservoir are in need of repairs. The Sylvan falls basin built in 1868 is in need of major repairs, the walls are falling in. The Apple Bessie basin needs less repairs. The purpose of these sedimentation basins is to contain the silt that is carried out of the aquifer by the water. The silt is removed from the basins on a regular basis which keeps the silt out of the reservoir and improves the water quality going into the filters which reduces the number of times the filters need to be cleaned.
5. The gate house at the Cork Center intake reservoir built in 1894 needed a new roof and floor, nothing was done for over ten years. The reservoir in the past has been cleaned once a year to remove silt and organic matter to help improve the water quality going into the filters except from 2012 to 2018 because we were unable to get into the structure to open the valve in order to drain the reservoir for cleaning because the floor of the gate house was collapsing in to the basement of the structure 15 feet down. If the reservoir is routinely cleaned excessive buildup of sediment is greatly reduced, with the six year lapse we took 40 dump truck loads of silt out, with a yearly cleaning schedule you don't take any truck loads out. All of that sediment buildup over that six years did cause water quality issues and plugged the filters up quickly. All the more reason to have sand washing equipment. That was the main cause of the water quality issues and not being able to produce enough water to meet daily demands in 2019 and in previous years as well.
6. Aeration falls at the Cork Center reservoir is in need of repairs as is the bypass channel which is used for flood control, both constructed in 1894. The water board has been informed about the issues in the past.
7. The wiring in the filter beds at both filtration facilities is in need of replacement or repairs in some filter bays the lighting does not work along with some exhaust fans which was noted in the NYS DOH inspection in 2019.
8. The water department is required to have an emergency response plan that specifies how the department will handle an emergency. One emergency situation is a power outage at the pump stations that supply water to storage tanks. In the response plan two generators are listed as backup power, it was discovered this year that neither generator is big enough to power any electric motor in any pump station.
9. In 2019 the water board hires a superintendent before a vote was taken by the common council for approval or denial which the water board knew. The individual they hired was there six days and now the tax payers are paying for part of his unemployment when the position should not have been filled until the outcome of the vote was known.
10. The water board did not plan ahead for future operators to operate the filtration facilities. There is an attached sheet showing required experience, education, training and examinations, you will see the requirements and the length of time needed to fill those positions. Time is running out to get people trained to be licensed operators to oversee the filtration facilities before the current

operator retires. The city is currently in violation of the NYS Sanitary Code because we only have one licensed operator, a water system the size of Johnstown's requires two licensed operators. Head operator with a 1A license and assistant operator with an 11A license.

11. There is a revolving door problem with employees within the water department. If a department can't keep employees for more than a few years eventually the department will have employees with very little knowledge of the water system once the last longtime employees are gone. In the last ten years twelve employees that had been hired have left the department to seek employment in another city department or private sector because of problems with the water board. That is not an issue with the DPW only the water department. Nine of the employees have left in last five years. List of employees that left are Gene D, Bill W, Gus H, Anthony M, Cinda S, Jon A, Tom W, Dave S, Wade H, Eric H, and Brenden E.
12. The union in 2D20 unanimously voted the water board out of the union contract. All matters of the union contract pertaining to water department employees are now handled by the City Engineer and Mayor's office. The NYS civil service only recognizes one hiring and firing entity in a municipality and in the city of Johnstown that is the Mayor's office. The water board wants to hire a superintendent to handle discipline and payroll of water department employees but under the new 4 year union contract that position no longer has that authority. It is now handled by the City Engineers office. [Union contracts supersede the city charter].
13. The water board wants to have the superintendent perform some duties of a union position, Senior Water Plant Operator which is a direct violation of the union contract and grievances would be filled. Except for the water department office, the Senior Water Plant Operator handles the daily operations of the department and under the union contract the city Engineer handles discipline and payroll. In the duty statement for the Senior Water Plant Operator it states the SWPO reports solely to the City Engineer so it doesn't make sense to spend 112,000 thousand dollars a year for a superintendent. That money would be better spent on maintenance of the facilities and water infrastructure.
14. NYS DOH violation in 2019 [Serious Deficiency]. The water board did not take due diligence in the maintenance and operation of the filtration facilities and put the health of the public at risk.
15. The second grand jury report which stated the lack of professionalism by the water board in their dealings with the city and public, for possible removal or disciplinary action of the water board and the grand jury report should be sent to the Common Council, Fulton County Personal Dept., Fulton County Board of Supervisors and Fulton County Ethics Board.
16. The water department is currently in violation of the reduced pressure zone backflow device requirements. It is the water department's responsibility to maintain copies of all yearly required inspection reports of RPZ devices of all business that have them and notify them when their inspections are due. This has not been done in four years which puts the City at risk of being sued if an RPZ device was not inspected every year as required by the NYS DOH and

something hazardous leaked back into the water system making people sick.

17. In 2014 a water board member approached a State Comptroller Fiscal Officer during a yearly audit within the department and asked how to start a slush fund. The State Comptroller Fiscal Officer reported that to city officials and that was one of the reasons for wanting to dissolve the water board at the last referendum attempt.
18. The water board has been saying they have a large sum of money in reserves, then why are facilities, structures and other components of the water system being neglected of maintenance needs. The State Sanitary Code reads as follows [Lack of Maintenance] - Failure to maintain the treatment facilities and/or distribution system to an acceptable level despite having the resources and the means to properly maintain the facility and/or distribution system. All of the Issues that are being pointed out are a violation of [Lack of Maintenance] in the State Sanitary Code.
19. It is highly recommended by the State Department of Health that water storage tanks and clear wells be inspected every five years as a form of preventive maintenance to address small Issues before they turn into big Issues. The Cork Center clear well is 27 years old and has not been inspected, the Christman clear well is 27 years old and has not been inspected, the Maylender storage tank is 9 years old and has not been inspected. The West Fulton Street Ext. storage tank is 26 years old. Five years ago the tank had to be emptied in order to stop the water that was spraying from holes in the tank caused by corrosion. During the repair process the tank was inspected and found not to have cathodic protection, sacrificial magnesium bars that are used to protect the walls of the tank from corrosion. It was recommended by the storage tank company that the inside of the tank needs to be relined before more leaks form and that has not been done. If the tank was inspected in the first five years of being built as recommended it would have been discovered that cathodic protection was not in place and proper measures would have been taken to install them early in the life span of tank preventing the damage that has already occurred. Recently I was informed by a State Health Department Engineer that some communities that needed storage tanks relined found that the relining process cost almost as much as building a new tank.
20. It is approaching two years that the water board was informed that 4 check valves needed to be replaced at the Fulton County Water District number 1 pump station. Quotes were given on two different occasions. During a State Department of Health Inspection in November of 2019 it was noted by the Health Dept. Engineer those check valves need to be replaced. Cost almost two years ago was a little over ten thousand dollars.
21. The two transmission lines that transport drinking water to the city from the filtration facilities are not easily accessible they run through rock ledge, swamps and across streams so quick access in an emergency repair situation is not going to happen. Specialty equipment is needed to get access to these lines which the department doesn't have. Thought on how to make easy access to those two transmission mains has not been addressed over the years by the water board.