

# FINAL COPY

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE BINGHAMTON - JOHNSON CITY JOINT SEWAGE BOARD

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

Plant Administration Building

Members Present: George Kolba, Chairman  
Chris Papastrat, Vice Chairman  
Edward Crumb  
Bruce T. King  
Stephen Andrew  
Ronald Lake

Also Present: Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent  
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager  
Alfred Paniccia, Jr., Esq., Co-Counsel  
Chuck Robinson, Staff Accountant, City of Binghamton Comptroller's  
Office (Exited at 4:44PM)  
Howard Reeve, Facility Engineer  
Larry Travis, Acting Electrical Engineer - WWTP  
Ron Warwick, Acting Assistant Superintendent  
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary  
Janet Smith, Transcriptionist

Guests: Carolyn Laskoski, Resident, Village of Johnson City  
Tina Chronopoulos, Resident, City of Binghamton  
Vaughn Golden, Reporter, WSKG  
Thomas Smith, EFPR Group (Audio/Visual) (Exited at 5:00PM)  
Kenneth Kamlet, Esq., Triple Cities Metal Finishing (Audio/Visual) (Exited at  
4:45PM)

Chairman George Kolba called the meeting to order at 3:31PM. Sign in sheet was passed and attendance was noted aloud by Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary. Six (6) Board Members were present. Chairman Kolba confirmed all present signed in. Fire exits were identified, and Chairman Kolba requested cell phones be turned off or silenced during the meeting.

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Due to technical issues, Privilege of the Floor to be called later in the meeting.

**August 10, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes Approval**

**Edward Crumb made a motion to approve the submitted August 10, 2021 Draft Board Meeting Minutes with the suggested changes as contained in the Board Folders.**

**Motion seconded by Steve Andrew.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**Superintendent's Report**

Elliott Wagner presented the Superintendent's Report and Weekly Plant Status for September 14, 2021 along with the charts and graphs. Both reports were distributed in the Board folders.

Superintendent Wagner overviewed the Weekly Plant Status first pointing out that Plant personnel will be ordering a new wiper motor for one of the lamp carriages on the UV system and that they will also be ordering an inventory spare.

Staff working in Lab, Safety and CMMS are all continuing with projects, follow-through and updates.

The Electrical Department installed an exhaust fan to reduce heat build-up in the Neuros Blower Room resulting in a temperature reading reduction from 110 degrees to approximately 90 degrees.

The Plant is continuing to meet the SPDES permit.

During construction, the drain line from the Solids Handling Building was tied into an original drain line which had pitch/slope issues. The plan for repair has been accepted by Lead Agency Engineer Ron Lake and materials are forthcoming for this repair.

Magmeters for the main plant pumps as well as the Wetwell Ultrasonic level detector were checked by an outside vendor and are in calibration.

After receiving proper authorization, the spent Iron Sponge was sent to the Broome County Landfill.

We are actively working with Matco on training and preventive maintenance.

Superintendent Wagner then overviewed the graphs pointing out that the dollar values are now included on graphs pertaining to the microturbines as suggested by Mr. Andrew.

To update the Board with regard to the Pretreatment Program and the SPDES Permit-required Mercury Minimization Plan, Superintendent Wagner included in the Board folders a copy of the drafted letter along with the NYSDEC Amalgam Waste Compliance Report for Dental

Dischargers, both of which will be sent out to the identified dental service providers in the discharge district.

## Weekly Plant Status 9/14/2021

### Main Pumps:

Auto. VFD #1 will be sent out this week for repair. This drive was installed in 2016.

### Headworks:

Auto

### Aerated Grit System:

Auto

### Primaries:

Auto

### Sludge Handling Building:

Auto. Operators Lime stabilized for 3 days last week to remove inert solids coming into the plant to limit the effect on the Digesters. It appears to have been successful as the Volatile Reduction is going back up and we are producing more gas at the moment. The down side is this creates odor and costs more to centrifuge as we need to add lime and take PH samples frequently.

### Thickeners:

Auto

### Digesters:

Auto. Beginning to recover.

### Micro-Turbines:

Auto. Beginning to recover.

### Centrifuges:

Auto. Performed well during Lime stabilization efforts.

### Scum system:

Auto

### Actiflo:

Auto. Operations tested backwash timing change, it did not work as expected so we returned to the last time sequencing.

### SIPS:

Auto

### BioStyr, CN Cells:

Auto. CN5 Process air valve is beginning to act up. Instrumentation department will replace the valve body.

### Methanol:

Auto. Averaging 798 gpd.

### D/N Cells:

Auto

### UV system:

Auto. We need to order a new wiper motor for one of the lamp carriages. Approx. \$1700.00.

### Plant Water System:

Auto

Storm Water pump stations:

Stand-By

Chemical Storage system:

Auto

Scrubber system:

Auto

HVAC Systems:

Auto

Generator system:

Auto

Electrical System:

Laboratory: We plan on a conference call to discuss required Fecal testing.

Safety:

Work continues identifying confined spaces throughout the plant for emergency services.

Installing small eyewash stations in areas where needed. Installing hearing protection stations.

CMMS:

147 PMs scheduled this week. 62 PMs Closed last week. Qty of 21 Misc. open, non-critical work orders. Account clerk typist helping to install recommended spare parts in the CMMS inventory.

Staffing:

Landfill:

9 Trucks this week.

Training:

Construction:

Still awaiting Coordination Study, Arc-flash hazard analysis, baseline test reports for equipment and breakers, third party baseline test reports for equipment and breakers. Contacted by Matco to help them write a preventive maintenance plan for the medium (4,800 volt) voltage and low voltage (480 volt) equipment. Electrical Engineer – WWTP Larry and I met with Matco last week and walked the entire facility. We spoke about duration equipment can be down, what equipment truly has a redundant power feed system etc. Any work on the electrical system requires operator assistance to have an orderly shutdown and re-energize all equipment in the facility. It requires extensive planning to prevent injury and maintain service. All switching procedures on Medium voltage gear is coordinated with NYSEG to ensure none of their personnel are in harms way as well.

Still awaiting As-Built drawings.

Still awaiting Cover installation on Primary 1-6.

Still awaiting DEC final sign-off and removal of Consent Order.

Re-sealing nearly complete. Only area left is where the sponge was.

*(continues on next page with photograph)*



Instrument technician testing position switch. 9/13/2021

*(end of Weekly Plant Status Report)*

### **Privilege of the Floor**

Chairman Kolba gave the floor to Kenneth Kamlet, Attorney for Triple Cities Metal Finishing, to discuss metering effluent for Triple Cities Metal Finishing, as opposed to sewer charges based on billed water consumption. There was a lengthy discussion in which many points were brought up after which Chairman Kolba concluded that the Board will have a discussion with the two Owners and the Town of Kirkwood and that they would notify Mr. Kamlet of the results.

### **Fiscal Officer's Report**

Chuck Robinson, Staff Accountant overviewed Fiscal Officer Chuck Shager's report distributed in the Board folders. Mr. Robinson clarified the negative numbers listed on the report. He had nothing further to add other than mentioning that Mr. Shager believes he is close to reaching an agreement regarding the pending Vestal water bill.

Mr. Crumb then presented the Lead Agency Capital Project Chart Report and Graph Report which were distributed in the Board folders. He explained how to review the Chart Report, as well as the color-coding system and the scaling of the graphs in the Graph Report detailing the various lines in the financials. He noted a few items to be addressed at future meetings. He also gave acknowledgment to plant employee Deron Biechle for capturing and sharing -photos of the

eagle family of 2 adults and 2 juveniles near the treatment plant by the river; that the photo included in the graph report portrays a positive plant environment.

### **Business Manager's Report**

Mr. Pearsall reported that there was no action taken after the Owner's first 2022 Budget Meeting held last night September 13, 2022 as there was not a quorum of legislative body members. A second meeting is scheduled as a video meeting on September 22, 2021.

Surpass Chemical Company no longer extends the current price and delivery process on the agreement to supply Phosphoric Acid (75%) which expires on October 30, 2021. There was a brief discussion on delivery process of the product as the current delivery type could change. Mr. Pearsall would like the Board's approval to advertise for bids.

**Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board authorizes the Business Manager or his designee to advertise for supply of Phosphoric Acid (75%) delivered in accordance with established specifications.**

**Motion seconded by Steve Andrew.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

Mr. Pearsall then gave the floor to Thomas Smith, CPA, Auditor from EFPR Group who overviewed his 2020 audit. He stated the audit was "clean" but wanted to bring up that in doing the audit on the inventory they found that inventory was not secured/locked. Mr. Pearsall said that inventory is secured from the public as it is gated and locked within the plant facilities. Mr. Smith will submit the report to the Federal Clearinghouse on September 15, 2021 with Board approval.

**Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board approves and accepts the EFPR Group 2020 financial statements, single audit and the representation letter and authorizes that the same be signed by the Fiscal Officer and that the single audit be filed with the Federal Clearinghouse prior to the September 30, 2021 deadline.**

**Motion seconded by Steve Andrew**

**Motion carried. 6/0.**

Mr. Pearsall proceeded with his report and requested permission to accept the bid submitted by SPS for Methanol.

**Edward Crumb made a motion that the Board accepts the bid from SPS Solvents and Petroleum Services, Inc. for Methanol at \$1.87 per gallon for a twelve (12) month supply, delivered.**

**Motion seconded by Steve Andrew.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

For a brief discussion, Mr. Pearsall had distributed in the Board folders a packet of information pertaining to a claim for payment by the law firm Hickley, Allen & Snyder, LLP.

Mr. Pearsall continued by inquiring about the status of the pending Union contract. Mr. Andrew stated that they now have reached a tentative agreement on the contract, and he is ready to make a motion to the Board.

**Steve Andrew made a motion for Board approval to accept the ratified Memorandum of Agreement with the Union signed by Edward Crumb and Steve Andrew on August 5<sup>th</sup> 2021**

**Motion seconded by Bruce King.**

*Edward Crumb notes that the 3 year lookback chart should be included with the MOA, providing an example of the annual “lookback” calculation.*

**Motion carried. 6/0**

### **Committee Reports**

Construction: George Kolba and Steve Andrew – Mr. Kolba wanted to report that because of modifications made, the hand truck can now serve a dual purpose which saves money. He also confirmed that the Town of Vestal is actively working with the Business Manager for a resolution on the pending water bill. Steve Andrew had nothing further to report.

Finance: Edward Crumb – Previously discussed earlier in meeting.

Flow Management: Edward Crumb – Nothing to report.

Personnel: Steve Andrew – Mr. Andrew wanted to make a motion with regard to a budget transfer of funds.

**Steve Andrew made a motion to send to the legislative bodies Requests for Legislation in accordance with the chart which was distributed in the Board’s folders to support the CBA (Collective Bargaining Agreement) modifying the 2021 JSB Budget by:**

- a) reducing Contingency (J8150.55000) by \$66,039.03;**
- b) creating a new “Merit Pay” budget line in the amount of \$54,250.00;**
- c) increasing State Retirement (J9010.58000.A) by \$7,638.75; and**
- d) increasing Social Security (J9030.58000.B) by \$4,150.28.**

**Motion seconded by Edward Crumb**

**Edward Crumb made a motion to amend the previous motion such that the “Merit Pay” budget line would be a sub-line under J8130.51000 (Personal Services).**

**Motion to amend seconded by Steve Andrew.**

**Motion to amend carried. 6/0**

**Motion carried as amended. 6/0**

Ad Hoc: Bruce King – Nothing to report.

Correspondence: Michele Cuevas discussed the GHD August 2021 Status Report on behalf of Jason Greene, P.E., copies of which were in the Board folders. Ms. Cuevas brought up a December 2020 financial transaction error in payment of Binghamton University fees. Said fees were paid via ACH and not posted correctly somewhere at the City Comptroller’s Office. Plant administration records showed no payment made therefore a late fee was incurred and BU notified as in standard procedure. BU provided proof of payment in the ACH form. After confirmation of the payment, the late fee will be reversed.

Superintendent Wagner wanted to mention with regard to the IWPP that currently there have been occasions where some of the Industrial Users have been late submitting lab results because the laboratories have been inundated with testing and staffing issues due to COVID creating a backlog of running the tests and sending back the results. With proof of late lab results, late fees will be waived.

Chairman Kolba asked about the status of the \$250.00 due and owing on the Binghamton Water Filtration Plant fine. Ms. Cuevas advised it is her understanding that this issue is still in discussion.

New Business: Nothing to report

Old Business: Howard Reeve submitted Sole Source certification letters for the purchasing of spare and/or replacement parts for equipment for Board approval. Copies of all five (5) were distributed in the Board folders.

**Edward Crumb made a motion based on the 2/9/2021 letter from Brentwood Industries, Inc. that the Board declares effective 9/15/2021 Siewert Equipment Company, the exclusive sales representative for Brentwood Industries, as Sole Source supplier for Brentwood Primary Settling Tank Flygts, cross collectors, and grease skimmers and that this designation remain in effect for one year from 9/15/2021.**

**Seconded by Ron Lake.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**Edward Crumb made a motion based on the 1/1/2021 letter from Veolia Water Technologies, Inc. d/b/a Kruger that the Board declares effective 9/15/2021 Veolia d/b/a Kruger as the Sole Source Supplier for Hydrex™ micro-sand, chemicals, cleaners, and treatment materials, and that this designation remain in effect for one year from 9/15/2021.**

**Seconded by Ron Lake.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**Edward Crumb made a motion based on the 9/14//2021 letter from Envirodyne Systems, Inc. that the Board declares effective 9/15/2021 Envirodyne Systems, Inc. as the Sole Source Supplier for Envirodyne Grit Classifying Equipment System parts and supplies and that this designation remain in effect for one year from 9/15/2021.**

**Seconded by Ron Lake.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**Edward Crumb made a motion based on the 7/19/2021 letter from Xylem (WEDECO) that the Board declares effective 9/15/2021 Xylem Inc. (WEDECO) as the Sole Source Supplier for Ecoray® UV Lamps, Quartz Sleeves, Ecoray® Ballasts and related parts and that this designation remain in effect for one year from 9/15/2021.**

**Seconded by Ron Lake.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**Edward Crumb made a motion based on the 6/29/2021 letter from APG-Neuros Corporation that the Board declares effective 9/15/2021 APG-Neuros Corporation as the Sole Source Supplier for Neuros CN Blower Filters, spare parts, and associated consumable devices/supplies and that this designation remain in effect for one year from 9/15/2021.**

**Seconded by Bruce King.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

**A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Andrew.**

**Seconded by Bruce King.**

**Motion carried. 6/0**

Meeting adjourned at 5:55PM.

The next meeting is October 12, 2021 at 3:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Smith  
Transcriptionist

cc: Board Members  
Mayor Rich David, City of Binghamton  
Mayor Greg Deemie, Village of Johnson City  
City Clerk, City of Binghamton  
Village Clerk/Treasurer, Village of Johnson City  
Alfred Paniccia, Esq.  
Chuck Shager, Fiscal Officer  
Elliott Wagner, Acting Superintendent  
Brown & Brown Empire State  
Haylor Freyer & Coon  
Joshua Holland, P.E., Village of Johnson City Engineer  
Ronald B. Lake, P.E., City of Binghamton Acting Engineer  
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