



Binghamton-Johnson City  
JOINT SEWAGE BOARD



Ray L. Standish, P.E.  
Edward Crumb

**FINAL COPY**

George Kolba, Jr.  
Stephen Andrew  
Ron C. Davis

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BINGHAMTON-  
JOHNSON JOINT SEWAGE BOARD**

**Friday, November 2, 2018**

JSTP – Administration Building – Conference Room

Members Present: George Kolba, Jr., Chairman *Pro Tem*  
Edward Crumb  
Steve Andrew  
Ronald Davis (arrived at 4:14 PM)

Members Absent: Ray Standish

Also Present: Cathy Young, Superintendent (exited meeting at 6:16 PM)  
Michele Cuevas, Confidential Secretary  
Charles Pearsall, Business Manager  
Greg Deemie, Mayor, Village of Johnson City (exited at 6:23 PM)  
Bruce King, Village of Johnson City Trustee (exited at 6:23 PM)  
Clark Giblin Village of Johnson City Trustee (exited at 6:23 PM)  
Laura Lee Perkins, Transcriptionist

Guests: Thomas Surowka, CEBS (exited meeting at 5:00PM)  
Ronald Lake, P.E. (arrived at 5:39 PM)

George Kolba called the meeting to order at 4:1503 PM. Four (4) Board Members were present. It is noted that the Board is still without a third representative from the City of Binghamton.

Attendance sheet was passed for signatures. Fire exits were identified.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve the transfer of \$100,000.00 from budget line J8130.51000 (Personal Services) to a budget line to be designated by the Fiscal Officer for transfer to the Lead Agency expressly for repair and coating of Digesters 1 and 2. Steve Andrew seconded the motion

*Discussion*

*Steve Andrew stated that the fact that makes this expedient has nothing to do with the Board. The fact that the Contractor(s) have fallen behind, so the Board is willing to take what action has been deemed necessary because it will interfere with the Contract and Consent Order schedule*

Catherine P. Young, Superintendent

Binghamton-Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment Facilities

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otherwise. He believes the work should be done in the way it was planned and understands that the DEC is breathing down our necks, but believes it is not the Board's fault.

George Kolba wanted it noted that the designs were not what Steve Andrew believed they were; Digester 3 was a completely different project.

Edward Crumb stated that the other thing that is very important from a fiscal standpoint is that the Contractor (#10) is reluctant to do this work because it doesn't feel like it was engaged to perform the work and the price they proposed was exorbitant, which is why the City is looking for an alternate means to fund and accomplish the work.

Cathy Young stated it was a convoluted path that got us here. The work was originally intended to be in Contract 10, but then it was removed from Contract 10 (Contract 10 was not even bid out yet) and it was decided it would be expedient to take this part out. The Contractors that were onsite were asked for prices. That was how Streeter got the work for Digester #3. Streeter used all of the allotment for Digester 3; there was nothing left for 1 and 2. Edward Crumb stated that there is still money in Streeter's Contract for Digester #3, but Cathy Young pointed out that Construction Management took the job away from Streeter, thinking they could get a better price. But no one wants to do it. She does not believe the Board has an alternative and this will get us to proceed with the some of the work in Contract 10 but then in 3 to 5 years, the Board will have to take each Digester down to perform complete coating work.

Steve Andrew stated that the Board has a terrible record of trying to get a Digester coated; just not able to do it. Edward Crumb stated that Cathy Young's point is very important. In the future, the Board, if it continues to hold off this work, will be looking at least \$10,000,000 each to replace the Digesters.

Cathy Young stated that she hoped that in the 2020 Budget there would be a line created expressly for this work; and the Owners need to be made aware.

George Kolba stated that Streeter had given the City a price of \$970,000 to do 1 and 2, but they were not able to do the work this year because of the weather. It is too expensive to try to tarp and heat it. By doing the \$100,000 transfer now, we get the most needed portion of the work done now and speed up future progress on the Lead Agency's contracts.

Bruce King is interested in bottom line numbers. He asked that if we do Digester 1 ~~one~~ in 4 years – how much will it cost? How long will down time be and how efficient will the Plant be with just Digesters 2 and 3?

Cathy Young stated that the Plant could run with just Digester 3 but Contract 10, the Solids Handling Contract, would have to wait to put the equipment in that they are supposed to be putting in now. She asked if there is an idea of costs, but the engineer did not want to ponder that.

Bruce King inquired as to whether the Contractor had already removed the damaged coating, and what is going to be done with Digesters 1 and 2.

Cathy Young stated they will be online in the Fall. All 3 Digesters will be online.

George Kolba – what was seen in Digester 3 is the opposite of 1 and 2. When everything is shut down and empty, you get groundwater coming in. Hopefully, with the hydraulics, it keeps the outer pressure from flowing in.

Cathy reminded the Board that Digester 3 was rehabbed similarly in 2006 and 07 and when they went to fill it, it leaked profusely.

Steve Andrew reported that was when the Board tried to rehab it, but the Contractor did not use the right material. George Kolba stated it was not put on correctly. Steve Andrew stated they could run into the same problem.

*Edward Crumb stated this is not a long-term fix, and it may not be everything we hope for. According to what the Engineer reports, there is a reasonable likelihood that it will keep progress going on the Lead Agency's Solids Handling Improvements contracts. Steve Andrew stated that if the Owners are willing to do this, then he has no problem with the transfer. He just wanted to state his concerns.*

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Thomas Surowka, CEBS explained the health benefits program for 2019; the proposal saves the Plant approximately \$150,000 a year (conservative); by lowering Medicare Supplemental rates for Retirees, saving \$4,000 to \$5,000 per individual per policy year.

Michele Cuevas stated it was a work-in-progress; there is a learning curve.

Cathy Young stated it is complicated; worth the savings but need someone tracking what should be paid by patient and what is paid by Board and what paid by insurance.

Steve Andrew stated he was concerned about personal health information being made accessible to someone who has no right to the information

Steve Andrew asked about pre-existing conditions coverage. Thomas Surowka explained the Affordable Care Act (ACA) pre-existing conditions laws – after a lapse of coverage of 63 days with a pre-existing condition – one would now have an 11 month waiting period for coverage of the condition.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve the Excellus 2019 rates for active employees, SimplyBlue Plus Bronze4, dated September 19, 2018 for single/individual coverage \$437.71 per month; subscriber and spouse coverage \$875.42 per month; subscriber and child[ren] coverage \$744.11 per month; family coverage \$1,247.17 per month and authorize the Chairman Pro Tem to sign whatever documents the Broker requires to implement this with Excellus and to charge proportionally from the active health insurance and the Retiree health insurance budget lines for those pre-Medicare Retirees covered by this program.

Ronald Davis seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve and accept the proposed Medicare Advantage Blue PPO Copay Plan 2019 rates of \$288.87 per month authorize the Chairman Pro Tem to sign whatever documents the Broker requires to implement this coverage and to charge proportionally from the Retiree health insurance budget line for those Medicare-eligible Retirees covered by this program.

Ronald Davis seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve ~~and~~ the health benefits program consulting fee for the 2019 service year in the amount of \$13,500.00 and accept and approve entering into a contract with NFP, authorizing the Chairman Pro Tem to sign the same to be charged proportionate to enrollment between the Active Employee Health Insurance budget line and the Retiree Health Insurance budget line.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to approve the Lifetime Benefit Services renewal fee schedule covering the period 1/1/19 through 12/31/21 excepting the COBRA Administration (which is provided by the broker [Haylor, Freyer & Coon]).

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to adopt an amendment to the Policies and Benefits for Salaried and Management Staff to increase the employee percentage to 18% beginning 1/1/19.

George Kolba seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to ratify and approve the proposed Health Benefits Program Notices effective 1/1/19 and authorize that the Notices be distributed to the employees and retirees with their annual enrollment package.

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Cathy Young stated that she has 4 letters regarding requested changes to the DEC Milestones that George Kolba has not signed but Mayor Deemie and Mayor David have signed. The Board has not authorized Mr. Kolba to sign these letters yet. Reports were not submitted in a timely manner to DEC by the Lead Agency.

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to authorize the Chairman Pro Tem to sign the Reporting form indicating that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2018 Report was not timely filed on the City's Public Website

Ronald Davis seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Cathy Young informed the Board that the 3 other letters were emailed to everyone. The letters are dated October 18<sup>th</sup>, October 25<sup>th</sup> and October 31, 2018 (see Board folder for copies of letters).

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to recess the meeting

Steve Andrew seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Meeting recessed at 5:15 PM

Edward Crumb made a motion for the Board to reconvene

Ronald Davis seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Meeting reconvened at 5:39 PM

Ronald B. Lake, P.E. joined the meeting, and gave an update report:

Milestone dates keep moving out.

DEC is increasingly concerned with the Lead Agency's failure to keep the work on schedule.

Extra shifts are being worked for electricians to catch up, given that they had to wait for general construction to progress to a point where electrical work can be performed.

The City is taking work away from some contractors and assigning it to others in order to speed up work.

The DEC blamed Jacobs for its failure to manage the Project so it would remain on schedule. The City has meetings set up between Jacobs and PC to address scheduling and progress.

Steve Andrew made a motion for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation  
Edward Crumb seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:49 PM

Steve Andrew made a motion for the Board to exit Executive Session

Ronald Davis seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:17 PM. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

Edward Crumb requested to hold over the signing of the three milestone modification request letters until the 11/13/18 meeting.

Steve Andrew made a motion for the Board to adjourn the meeting.

Ronald Davis seconded the motion

Motion carried 4//0/1 (RS absent)/1 (vacant)

Meeting adjourned at 6:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Lee Perkins  
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  
Catherine Young, Superintendent  
Brown & Brown Empire State  
Haylor Freyer & Coon  
Robert Bennett, P.E., Village of Johnson City, Engineer  
Ray Standish, P.E., City of Binghamton, City Engineer  
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