

# GLOVERSVILLE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES – JULY 20, 2020

The Regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held and brought to order at their offices, at 67-83 South Main Street, Gloversville, NY on July 20, 2020 at 6:00 PM with President James Robinson presiding.

## Roll Call

### Commissioners-----

Robinson	PRESENT
Antonucci	PRESENT
Isabella	PRESENT
Mauro	PRESENT
Shell	ABSENT

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**Others in Attendance:** Water Superintendent; Anthony Mendetta; Clerk of the Water Board; Christine Linart; Chad Kortz and Jake Gordon from C.T. Male Associates.

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The audited bills were presented and reviewed.

WALMART	-28.67
Deborah Clukey	-107.99
Petty Cash	-153.14
Advanced Cleaning & Restoration Services	-260.00
Bobcat of Gloversville-Johnstown LLC	-284.97
Century Linen Service, Inc	-35.00
Christopher R Jablonski	-865.00
Commissioner of Finance	-1,010.69
Data West Corporation Inc	-1,530.00
Ferguson Enterprises LLC	-12,895.79
Frontier Communications Corporation	-131.94
Fulton County Dept of Waste	-20.00
General Hydraulics Inc	-232.69
Gloversville True Value	-470.34
JH Consulting Group Inc	-711.00
MVP Select Care Inc	-50.00
National Grid	-443.08
Rich-Track Enterprises Inc	-340.23
Robert C Cooper	-1,150.00
Roger Putman	-81.00
Security Supply Corp	-159.54
Telecon Wireless	-134.86
Ti-Sales Inc	-1,095.62
WB Mason Co Inc	-153.79
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-22,267.19
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-1,661.94
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-21,439.59
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-1,598.60
	<u>-69,312.66</u>

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A motion was made by Commissioner Antonucci that the audited bills are ordered paid. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson.

Commissioner	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Robinson	X			
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Shell			X	

The minutes for the last regular meeting were presented, and a motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Mauro. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Antonucci.

Commissioner	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Robinson	X			
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Shell			X	

At this time in the Meeting Anthony invited Chad Kortz and Jake Gordon from C.T. Male to give the Board an update on the recent Change Order for the Tank Project, on our current other Projects, and on the situation with the Water Tank at Eagle Street not using water as anticipated.

**Change Order: Water Tank** In regard to the Change Order. In the tank project plans, it called for a solid sleeve around the tank piping but did not specify the exact kind of sleeve that needed to be used. The contractor Rozelle installed a standard solid sleeve but it was not suitable for the flexibility it needed in the case of the Tank settling. Therefore, they had to dig that back up and install a mega coupling and a Hymax coupling to allow for more leeway for settling. The change order was for the Water Department to pay for the extra costs associated with DN Tanks and Rozelle having to install the new mega coupling. Chad informed the Board that because the plans were not clear and the submittal from Rozelle not specific about the sleeve to be installed, they have agreed to forgive ½ of the cost of the installation of the coupling and C. T. Male has agreed to cover the other ½ and split the cost with them. Therefore, the Change Order will be voided. Jake then went on to remind the Board of the situation that occurred when Rozelle had installed the valves in backwards on the Tank and we kept having to drain the tank. When this occurred, we issued them an invoice to charge them back for the loss of water in the Tank and for Labor for our guys to monitor the refilling of the tank. This invoice totaled \$15,239.76. Jake talked to Rozelle and they wanted the Board to reconsider possible reducing or removing the labor costs on the invoice. Rozelle brought up a couple of points as justifications for a possible reduction.

1) During the project they found that the amount of contaminated soil to be removed in the contract was lower than what was generated on site. When this happened, C.T. Male approached the contractor and asked them to reconsider their prices. The original contract price for removing 150 cu yards of soil was approximately \$80,000. The soil removed was 230 cu yards which because they agreed to reduce their prices saved us 50% of the original contract cost or \$40,000.

2) Rozelle's suppliers built the valves for the vaults and installed them backwards from factory. Rozelle is worried that they will not get any money from these suppliers for the faulty valves unless they take them to court. The Board went on to explain that it is not our responsibility to go after their supplier who built the valves wrong. Also, Commissioner Isabella reminded Jake that the extra contaminated soil from lead was probably caused by the contractor themselves because they tried to take the old tank down during the winter weather. The contractor began taking the old tank down which caused lead paint chips to fall to the ground. Instead of removing the paint chips where they laid, they plowed the area due to a snowstorm and then contaminated more area with these chips. Anthony

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then informed the Board that the amount they are looking for us to forgive is approximately \$4,000 for the labor associated with flushing and overtime at the Plant to make extra water when having to drain and refill the tank twice.

The Board agreed they would consider these points and discuss at a later time.

**Water Tank Lack of Water Use:**

Chad Kortz from C.T. Male was asked by Anthony to discuss the lack of water use from the Tank as the Board was concerned because we are currently using auto flushers to take water from the tank and dumping it on the ground. Chad then went on to explain the situation as follows:

1) When C.T. Male finished their report, they knew prior to the tank project being started that water turnover in the tank was going to be an issue. C.T. Male and Chris Satterlee had a meeting with the Dept. of Health, and this was discussed. At that time, they tried to figure out what they could do by going back and made some modifications that were ultimately approved by DOH and were eventually tied into the specifications of the Tank project. C.T. Male then at that time, based on the modeling they had done calibrated to our system, stated that we would be able to use approximately 160,000 gallons per day which would equate to a water turnover time of 10 days. This 10-day turnover time was then something that the Dept. of Health agreed to live with. The tank was built with a gross volume capacity of 2 million gallons per day however, with our high water level where it is by gravity at our clear well, we only have on any given day approximately 1.6 million gallons in the tank. This is how C.T. Male approximated that if we used 160,000 per day as the modeling suggested, that it would take 10 days to turn over the water in the tank. Currently, we are nowhere close to using 160,000 gallons per day, we are using 30,000 gallons. Chad admitted that they are not sure why however, since the time the modeling of our system was done, our average use was estimated at 2 million gallons now it is more like 1 million. Chad attributed this to the fact that our usage from our major tanneries have dropped and to the fact that the city meter was not as accurate as was thought.

The Board then asked, how do we fix the situation to adjust the amount of water being used from the tank. The following was then discussed to outline some possible solutions.

2) Chad discussed the fact that Jake and Anthony have been working on further flow testing in the low-pressure areas serviced by the tank. C.T. Male will then take these numbers and plug them back into their modeling with reduced demand and see how this comes out. If they cannot figure out from the modeling what is happening, then they will have to go through our system and see if there is something they are missing. Are there pipes connected that we are unaware of or is there a valve that is closed that should not be. These are the things that we may want to look at first as these would-be low-cost solutions to this issue. Anthony then brought up to the Board that they recently had a structure fire on Rose Street in which they used 250,000 gallons from the tank even though the fire was quite far away from the tank. Anthony feels that if we could mimic that usage in the areas closer to the tank, that could be a solution to this problem. They did find a 16-inch valve near the site of the fire that they may be able to close down to isolate the flow and possible back feed to the tank to allow more water usage that way.

3) Chad then went over some other possible options to include:

- a) Cut the water going into the system from the clear well by installing a baffle and draining down the clear well.
- b) Put a weighted balloon in the tank so you have less water in the tank, but you still have the height to maintain the pressure.

First, they are going to try to see if there are any other issues in our system that they just are not seeing besides just decrease in demand. In the meantime, we must keep auto flushing. Gary suggested the possibility of us if clear well is full shutting the gates off from our main transmission lines to allow the tank to feed the City and then open them back up when the tank drains down. Chad agreed that this could be done as that is what they are doing in Johnstown. Chad told the Board that in Johnstown they installed automated valves that are automatically controlled so that when their tank is full, they open to allow the tank to draw down and feed the City. When the tank draws down to a certain level the valves open back up again and allow the tank to re-fill. Chad thinks we could do something similar. However, Anthony reminded them as well as Jake that they did previously discuss closing one of our main transmission lines

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down to limit the flow from the clear well and use more water from the tank. However, the valves to these lines have never been operated and they would have to be physically opened and closed. Anthony also stressed that these valves are called spur valves and were installed in the 1930's and never touched again so we may create an even bigger issue if we try to operate them. Gary was concerned about draining the level of the Clearwell due to its age. Gary told Chad that he is worried that if the clear well is drained, what will happen to the walls will they collapse. Chad said that he will review the details of the construction of the clear well. However, it should be designed to be fully structural in an empty environment. Anthony also reiterated that it is concrete, that we do get it inspected every 4 years, and is due to be cleaned and inspected next week. Chad said they could evaluate the clear well and let us know if we have any issues with it that we should be worried about.

Gary then asked how much it would cost to install new valves on our 18- inch main transmission lines. Anthony suggested that maybe we replace them with new electric automated vales like we are installing in the Plant. Chad mentioned that Johnstown has a Butterfly valve underground in their distribution system. If we were to do this, the valve would have to be closer to the Phelps Street area. Ultimately, we would be looking to possibly close these valves down just enough to provide enough water from the tank to provide turnover every 4 hours or so.

Gary asked Chad that because the Hospital area is close to the Clearwell which may affect them negatively if we close the valves fully down, can we close them 2/3rds of the way. Chad admitted that partially closing valves are not typically good for the valves as they are meant to be fully open or closed. We could possibly use an altitude or pressure reducing valve, however that may negatively affect the pressure in certain areas. We may have to watch how these valves are operated as they would have to be opened slowly to prevent a surge of back pressure that could damage residences plumbing. Chad ultimately feels that we would be better off with an electric actuator and a valve you can control and change as opposed to an altitude or pressure reducing valve where if you don't like what it is doing, you would have to call the manufacturer have settings adjusted.

Gary does not want to see clear well lowered. Chad did want to let Gary know and think about the fact that we currently have 4.6 million gallons of water in storage between the clear well and tank which equates to approximately 7 days of storage in our system. Chad then stated that he would not totally discount reducing the clear well volume as we have too much. Also, we would not must worry about holding the water in the clear well a little longer as this is where treatment begins, and water is treated at higher doses. Also, we are only talking about holding the water for a few hours to let the tank drain down and then beginning to feed the City again.

Chad then brought up idea of installing a diaphragm/bladder in the tank. Gary was again concerned and brought up the issue of the inside walls of the tank not being very smooth which could cause the puncturing of the bladder. Chad assured him that the inside of the tank should be reasonably smooth and that they would install the bladder in the middle of the tank anyway. Anthony then asked if we did this, would it take care of and give better pressure in the Grandview Drive Eagle Street area. Chad then told them that not the pressure would still be same because this is a gravity tank. However, the good thing about this option is that we could modify it take up less space shrink it back down if we needed the extra volume in the future. This would not affect pressure unless demand goes up but, in our system, the clear well will take over.

Therefore, we would still need a pump station or consider the possibility of separate pumps in homes. Anthony did bring up the fact that when they did the flow testing in his opinion, he felt that we did not have a huge pressure issue in that area of town as the pressure issue is very limited to Grandview Drive, Eagle Street and Wells St. Gary then asked about Park Street and Anthony told him that they had 50 lbs. of pressure at the top of hill. If it is limited to those areas, we could possibly put pumps in houses instead of pump station. It is preliminary right now. We would have to see that If we reduce water from clear well and start using tank more will these flow tests be altered? Jake then brought up area of Spring Ave where we got rid of pump station and provided an agreement to have pumps installed in individual homes and maintain them for each resident. We would have to look at the cost of this in the Grandview Drive area.

Gary then asked how we can guarantee that the pump station can deliver water to the areas we need it to. Chad, they explained that we would install new pipes to create a pressure zone to provide pressure to the specific area. We would also install a hydro pneumatic tank so that during night when you have little use the pumps will shut off turn on when pressure gets below certain point.

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had concluded by saying that going forward they are going to work together, and Anthony will keep the Board updated as things go on. However, for now we must auto flush to turn over the water in the tank for now.

**Fluoride Project Update:** The new Fluoride Equipment will be delivered next week and should be installed within a couple of days. Contractor is still working out the kinks with getting the automated valves installed and wired in.

**Electrical Project Update:** The contract is being drawn up now for electrical project they will be sent out to contractors for execution and signature. As soon as Jake gets them back, he will review the contracts and send them over for us to sign. The contractor has already started paperwork for EFC and are WBE contractors so the EFC paperwork should go very smoothly. We should not need any waivers as well. Jake also mentioned that they have worked with these contractors in Dolgeville and they were very good. Gary then asked Chad how many years ago they handled the rehab of the exterior of the plant for us. Chad said he thought it was about 5 or 6 years ago. Gary told him that he was up there last week and one of the lights over door was hanging by a wire. This was the original light that was always there and had not been replaced. Gary bolted it back up to the building but could not find any power going to it. Furthermore, down below it next to the door is a recessed receptacle box with wires wrapped up in it that are live with no cover or nothing further done with it other than it has stucco over it. Chad then admitted that he did not remember lighting to be a part of the project but that he would investigate it. Anthony then suggested that we do a change order and have this taken care of with our current project. Gary then was concerned because he did not feel we should do a change order as every time there is a change order it costs us too much money. Gary wanted to make the point that when this job was done why did not someone inspect this. Chad said that the architect would have done periodic inspections however he does not remember any lighting or electrical as being included in this project. Chad will look at this as he believes that they only resurfaced the outside of the building.

**Questions on Projects from Clerk:** Christine then had a couple of items for Chad and Jake. We must take out a short- term ban for the electrical project until the project is completed, and we can receive our remaining EFC funding. Christine asked Chad and Jake when first payment applications will come through so we can be ready with the BAN funding. After discussion Chad and Jake agreed that we would need the funding in place by the 1st of October. Christine thanked them and told them that she will contact the Commissioner of Finance for the City and let her know. Christine also reminded Jake that the fluoride project quarterly report maintenance report is due to the Dept. of Health. Jake assured her he would get this done and over to us.

The Board and Anthony thanked Chad and Jake for their time, and they left the meeting.

**Superintendent's Report:**

Superintendent Mendetta discussed the following issues with the Board:

- 1) **Water Rate Increase Error with Figures from Clerk:** Christine then addressed the Board and informed them that her figures regarding water rate increases as discussed at the last meeting were incorrect. Therefore, Anthony held off on a press release until the correct rates could be presented to the Board again.

At the last meeting Christine explained that she had taken all three districts for their most recent billings and figured the average water bill in the City at 3,447 cu ft which equates to a cost of \$118.22 every 6 months.

Therefore, an increase in the water rates will equate to the following.

- Increase of 2% = \$4.86 more per year.
- Increase of 3% = \$7.64 more per year.
- Increase of 4% = \$9.74 more per year.
- Increase of 5% = \$11.82 more per year.

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Christine also informed the Board of the potential of at least \$50,000 more revenue per year for this increase.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mauro to stay with the already approved 3% Water Rate Increase to be effective January 1, 2021. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson.

Commissioner	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Robinson	X			
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Shell			X	

- 2) **Update Sale of Water to other Pool Companies:** Anthony informed the Board that he had reached out to another pool company to see if they would be interested to purchase water from us. However, they declined as they draw off their own well. Therefore, we may want to try to find someone else to purchase water from us. At this time, it was brought up that if Nestle decides to build a water bottling plant here the plant should be built near the area of the tank. Commissioner Mauro then expressed his concerns that the Nestle may interfere with the aquifer in the Bleecker mountain area. Anthony assured him that Nestle is in looking at the aquifer in the Beech Street Area which should not affect areas in Bleecker. Anthony also stated that the area Nestle is monitoring is a few square miles that is showing most of the water located down below by the Dickson Reservoir.
- 3) **Cameron Wing Wall:** Gary and Jim Isabella went up to Cameron to look at damage to the wing wall. Gary had asked Anthony to reach out to Steve Miller to ask about a temporary fix to use Jersey barriers for now. Gary also stated that if they are worried about them washing away, they all have hooks and could be anchored. Anthony then stated that Millers will not do the barriers for 2 reasons first, Millers does not make them there and would have to get from secondary source and second, they are not anchored in they just sit there and could be washed away. Millers did suggest that they could install waste blocks which are 2x2x6 blocks that are mortared in, so they do not move.

The reason for a temporary solution is that Gary and Jim felt there was more damage that needed to be addressed and that this should be taken care of as a major capital project rather than applying a temporary band aid. They also felt that it needs to be fixed now. The other Board members are also concerned about spending \$80,000 and it still not being fixed permanently. Anthony then reminded the Board that he received 2 separate quotes from Dans Excavation one was for \$ 82,744.63 to fix the wingwall entirely to include epoxying all the seams and installing I-beams at each section. The second quote was just for fixing the broken section of the wingwall for \$30,380.49. This quote included pouring a new wall, installing a new I- beam at the lower section pinning it back in, and putting drainage behind it. Additionally, we got quotes from Millers for \$26,000 that included pouring a new wall with no I- beams or drainage. Millers also turned in another quote for a lump sum cost which includes the horizontal with them to build a 12x12 concrete curb behind the base of the Spillway for an additional \$32,000.

Gary then stated that the remainder of the spillway has also started to deteriorate as some of the other walls have moved and have holes that you could stick your foot under. Anthony then told the Board that he had Christine check the reserve account and gave the Board an update on our funds in Reserve and in our contingency fund. The Board then continued to discuss paying the total 82,744.63. The board was asking do we fix it now or do we fix the collapsed section for now and then plan for rest. Anthony reminded the Board that he is concerned because they have not announced any funding for CDBG yet this year which is usually announced in July. Anthony is worried that we may not get this funding this year for the Jackson Summit Spillway and knows that the City will probably not allow us to go for this grant next year. Anthony is also worried that we will have so much money going out for other projects that we have coming up. Anthony also reminded the Board that this is a non-hazardous dam that is not regularly inspected by DEC. He does not feel that we should neglect it, but it may not be worth taking on another million project at this time. Christine also suggested that because we are not sure how long this \$80,000 fix

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will last, maybe we do something temporary for now and have an engineer look at it and do a study on how it should be fixed long term. We would then be able to plan for the long-term solution to this over the next few years.

Anthony finally made the recommendation to fix what is broke now then address the issue in stages over next 5 years due to the fact that it is a low-level dam risk. Therefore, we should take either Dans bid at \$30,380.49 or millers at \$26,000. However, Anthony really prefers Dans quote as it comes with, the I- beam and drainage. Gary also stressed that we need drainage on both sides of the Spillway walls which we could probably do in house. Anthony also suggested that if we have any funds left at the end of the year, that we should put more money into our contingency fund to provide for issues such as this.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mauro to allow the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Dan's Excavation to repair the Collapsed section of the Wingwall at Cameron at a cost of \$30,380.49. With repair to include pouring a new wall, installing a new I-beam at the lower section pinning it back in and installing drainage behind it. The Motion was seconded by Commissioner Robinson.

Commissioner	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Robinson	X			
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Shell			X	

### Clerks Report:

- 1) Christine gave the Board an update schoolhouse pools. In 2018 we billed them \$10,853.63, in 2019 we billed them \$9,790.10 and so far, this year they have been billed \$6,704.46 for water to fill up their tankers at our hydrants. Commissioner Antonucci is still worried that something is still going on. Christine did tell the Board that she has billed them for 750,000 gallons so far this year. A few years ago, we also locked the hydrants up near their building to prevent them from getting free un-metered water. The Board is still worried they are tapping from somewhere else as they said they would pay 4 times amount rather than to use water from another hydrant that would draw off our Eagle Street tank. The Board suggested that maybe somehow, we could get into their building and make sure they are not tapping from somewhere else. They also suggested checking into locking up the hydrant at the old Hussmann's and putting a flow meter on the water line to see what water is coming out of there.
- 2) Christine wanted to again touch base with the Board and get their feeling on forgiving the labor portion of the \$15,000 Invoice we sent to Rozelle for having to re-fill the tank when they installed valves backwards. The Board does not want to forgive any of the invoice currently.

A motion was made by Commissioner Mauro to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Antonucci

Commissioner	Yes	No	Absent	Abstain
Robinson	X			
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Shell			X	

The next meeting will be held in the office on Monday August 10, 2020 at 6pm.