

GLOVERSVILLE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 12, 2021

The Regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held and brought to order at their office, 67-73 South Main Street, Gloversville, NY on October 12, 2021, at 6:00PM with President Antonucci presiding.

Roll Call

Commissioners-----

Antonucci	PRESENT
Isabella	PRESENT
Mauro	PRESENT
Robinson	ABSENT
Capano	PRESENT

Others in Attendance: Water Superintendent; Anthony Mendetta; Clerk of the Water Board; Christine Linart; Kent Koptiuch formerly with Nestle Water/Blue Triton Group

Christine explained to the Board that she had an Audit that she had to pull out of our regular audit list. This item must be voted on separately due to a conflict with Commissioner Capano. The Audit #21461 in the amount of \$79.86 payable to Gloversville True Value needed to be voted on with Commissioner Capano having to abstain from voting to approve.

Commissioner Antonucci made a motion to approve Audit #21461 in the amount of \$79.86 payable to Gloversville True Value. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Isabella.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Robinson			X	
Capano				X

Christine explained to the Board that she had an Audit that she had to pull out of our regular audit list. This item must be voted on separately due to a conflict with Commissioner Mauro. The Audit #21472 in the amount of \$111.03 payable to S & J Enterprises Inc. needed to be voted on with Commissioner Mauro having to abstain from voting to approve.

Commissioner Isabella made a motion to approve Audit #21472 in the amount of \$111.03 payable to S&J Enterprises Inc. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Capano.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro				X
Robinson			X	
Capano	X			

The remaining audited bills were presented and reviewed.

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Nicholas Heating & Cooling	-34,250.00
Bobcat of Gloversville-Johnstown LLC	-350.00
Cranesville Block Company Inc	-84.17
Florida Blue	-177.30
Frontier Communications Corporation	-91.95
JM Berry Enterprises Inc	-138.00
MVP Health Care Inc	-21,742.96
National Grid	-1,795.32
USABlueBook	-140.07
WW Grainger Inc	-100.96
Florida Blue	-444.80
Petty Cash	-151.44
Century Linen Service, Inc	-36.75
Christopher R Jablonski	-289.99
Commissioner of Finance	-1,738.79
Core & Main	-1,603.43
Daily Gazette	-12.46
Dig Safely New York, Inc	-36.00
Frontier Communications Corporation	-597.34
General Hydraulics Inc	-66.09
Hummel's OP Inc	-266.96
James Senzio DBA Fulton Co Electrical	-1,993.32
JH Consulting Group Inc	-711.00
Kingsboro Lumber Co Inc	-246.76
MVP Select Care Inc	-50.00
National Grid	-456.45
NBT Credit Services	-122.05
NBT Insurance Agency	-41,663.14
NYS Dept Environmental Conservation	-425.00
OSR Holdings LLC	-8,000.00
Santander Bank N.A.	-30,531.50
Telecon Wireless	-277.22
WW Grainger Inc	-39.48
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-1,317.14
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-16,790.39
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-1,223.19
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-18,018.31
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-18,385.22
Payroll Account NBT Bank	-1,345.28
	<u>-205,710.23</u>

CAPITAL PROJECT AUDITS:

Cranesville Block Co. Inc.	190.22
C.T. Male Associates	5,000.00
Orrick, Herrington, Sutcliffe	4,025.00

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

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Robinson			X	
Capano	X			

The minutes of the last meeting were presented and the minutes for the Special Meetings held on August 31, 2021, and September 28, 2021, were also presented. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Commissioner Mauro. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Isabella.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Robinson			X	
Capano	X			

At this time in the meeting Kent Koptiuch formerly with Nestle Water/Blue Triton Group, came to talk to the Board and give them an update on the access agreement with Blue Triton for our Dickson Reservoir Site where they are currently doing a study for potential spring water sources for development. The following items were discussed.

1) Kent explained that Nestle Water along with Kent have been exploring the Dickson Site for several years. The studies performed by Nestle look very promising for a good potential spring water source that could be developed for bottling selling etc. Blue Triton recently extended the access agreement for another year for the Dickson site.

2) Kent explained that Nestle Water was bought out in March by their parent company Blue Triton Brands. After the transition, Blue Triton laid off approximately 200 employees including Kent. Kent has since started his own company back up that he ran in the 14 years prior to working for Nestle. Blue Triton has hired Kent back as a consultant to handle Blue Triton's resources in New York.

3) Kent went on to explain that Nestle Water was always very focused on Spring Water development. Whereas, Blue Triton's focus is on producing as many bottles as they can be it spring water, purified water etc....Blue Triton is concerned with maximizing existing capacity and not really interested in continuing exploration of new sources. Kent wanted to inform us of this as Blue Triton may be looking to walk away from our Dickson Site.

4) Kent explained that according to the current access agreement, Blue Triton has agreed to pay us \$5,000 every 6 months for access to the Dickson Site for their research. Furthermore, because Blue Triton has not formerly notified us with a letter of their intention to cancel our agreement 60 days in advance, we should probably still receive our second \$5,000 installment for 2021.

Kent did have a couple of items to discuss with the Board if Blue Triton decides to walk away.

1) Kent is currently working with Alpha Geo Science to pull together all of the data that has been collected over the last several years and provide that in a package to us. Kent explained that this is our data, and we can still do something with this in the future.

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2) Kent wanted to ask the Board what they intend to do with the assets that have been installed on the Dickson Site by Nestle/Blue Triton/Alpha Geo Science. During the last several years they have installed several assets which include 3 groundwater monitoring wells, 2 6" pumping wells, 4 or 5 Spring Piezometers, and 3 temporary Wiers made out of plywood.

3) Kent explained that we also have to make a decision concerning the access road that was put in by Nestle. Apparently, when Nestle put the road in, we had to get a permit from the APA that was good for a period of four years. The permit was issued with the understanding that the road would be removed after the permit expired. This would include removal of the culverts and fill material. Kent and Anthony are due to have a meeting with the APA on November 5, 2021, to ask the APA if they would agree to allow us to keep the access road, culverts, and fill material and issue us a permanent permit.

4) If the APA will not agree to issue a permanent permit to leave the access road in at the Dickson Site, there will be an expense of approximately \$50,000 to \$60,000 to remove the road, culverts, and fill. Kent expressed to the Board that Blue Triton would like to know if the Board would like them to complete the removal of the road now, set money aside to complete the removal in the future, or pay the Water Board up front for the cost and have the Water Works complete the removal in the future. Kent does not need a decision right away; he just wanted the Board to be aware due to the meeting upcoming on the 5th with the APA.

5) Kent also stated that we could cut the cost of removal of the fill material if we wanted to keep it and stockpile it on our property for Water Works use. After some discussion, the Board was leading towards having Blue Triton setting the money aside until we get a determination from APA if we can keep the road. Kent also explained that they are going to make the argument that before Nestle put the access road in, trespassers were coming in regularly and mudbogging there tearing up the entire area. Now with the road we have enhanced the hydrology of the wetlands and protected them from the trespassers giving them an alternative to tearing up the area. Kent feels that we have restored the natural flow of the ground water system in the area by installing the access road.

6) Kent and Alpha Geo Science will be putting together a Data Package to present to the Board in December. We will probably have to make some sort of decision on the road after meeting with the APA in November.

7) The Board then discussed with Kent the possibility of us bottling our own water under our own label and Kent gave us some suggestions on who to contact for more information on this.

At this time, the Board thanked Kent for coming and he left the meeting.

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Mendetta discussed the following issues with the Board:

- 1) **Budget Amendments:** We recently had a major water main break and had to get a line stop company to come in so that we could shut the water down for repair. The bill recently came in at \$11,200.00. We had only \$10,000 in the budget for Line Stops so Anthony would like the following budget amendment.

The Clerk of the Water Board presented the Following Resolution and Moved for its adoption

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-19

WHEREAS, the Gloversville Board of Water Commissioners 2021 Budget Requires Modification.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE ITS RESOLVED, that the following budgetary transfers be authorized:

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Account Number	Account Description	Appropriation Increase	Appropriation Decrease
F8340.4	Other Exp/T&D - Meters (new)		1200
F8340.4	Other Exp/T&D - Emergency Line Stops	1200	

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon passage.

A motion was made by Commissioner Antonucci seconded by Commissioner Mauro that the above resolution be adopted

Votes Taken:	Yes	No
Commissioner Antonucci	X	
Commissioner Isabella	X	
Commissioner Mauro	X	
Commissioner Robinson	ABSENT	
Commissioner Capano	X	

Adopted : October 12, 2021

- 2) **Letter DOH Tour of Filtration Plant.:** Anthony read a letter to the Board from the Department of Health outlining a recent visit made to our plant on 9/24/21. Several employees of the DOH attended to assist with field training for their staff. They greatly appreciated the opportunity to tour our Plant and meet and talk with our operators. The letter stated that our staff provided them with a wealth of knowledge on Plant operations and were very welcoming.

- 3) **Wing Wall Repair:** Anthony reminded the Board of how we had Dan's Excavation repair one of the wing walls that had collapsed last year at Cameron. At that time, the Board expressed their desire to repair/replace the I-beams for the other wing walls in stages throughout the next couple of years. Anthony met up at the site with Dan's Excavation and he suggested an alternative to using I-beams for the replacements due to the shortage of steel and the price. Dan's suggest that on each side of the wing walls we plate and bolt the joints together. The cost will be \$1,625.00 per joint and we have a total of 12 joints to be plated. Anthony proposed that we get approval from the Board to complete ½ or 6 joints this year and budget for the remaining next year as we only have \$10,000 set aside in this year's budget for this. Anthony also told the Board that after looking at the I-beam option, because it would cover such a long span, we would have to put something in between each one. Anthony worries that this will provide a catch all for debris going over the spillway and worries that this will cause more rapid deterioration of the I-beam and walls.

Commissioner Mauro made a motion for the Superintendent to enter into a contract with Dan's Excavation to Plate and Bolt 6 Joints on the Wing Walls at the Cameron Spillway for a total of \$9,750.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Antonucci.

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

- 4) **Jackson Summit Reservoir Spillway Project:** Anthony informed the Board that he met with Jake from C.T. Male at the Jackson Summit Site to go over the project completely and make sure everything is included in the project plans. We would like to go out to bid on this project in December. In the original specifications/plans the wing walls and wing wall apron replacement were not included in the original plans. Anthony feels these should be addressed and asked that C.T. Male add this to the project as an Alternate bid for the Replacement of the Wing Walls and Wing Wall apron. If we do this and the price for the Wing Walls and Apron come in too high, we can reject the Alternate bid for this part of the project. Anthony went on to state that with adding this Alternate to the contract C.T. Male has come up with a high estimate of \$1.4 Million for this project. This amount is much higher than the original estimate of \$1.25 Million, that is why we want the Wing Walls in as an Alternate Bid that we can reject if we need to.

- 5) **DEC High Hazard Dam Grant:** Anthony received a letter from NYS DEC denying our application for a grant to reimburse us for the cost of having our Emergency Action Plans updated by C.T. Male for the Port Creek High Hazard Dam. Our application was denied because Fulton County’s Hazard Mitigation Plan had expired. We were aware that the Mitigation Plan had expired and wrote a letter to DEC that the County was working on getting a new plan approved. The county also wrote a letter on our behalf asking for an extension to allow their Mitigation Plan to get renewed and updated. We were still denied.

- 6) **NYS EFC WIIA GRANT ANNOUNCED:** Anthony informed the Board that the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC) announced within the last 2 weeks 400 million dollars for Drinking Water Infrastructure Projects through the WIIA Grant Program. This type of grant would be used to cover our Treatment Plant improvements to include the Conditioner and the proposed new Grandview Drive Pump Station. Anthony reached out to Nick Zabawsky the City’s grant writer to see if he could give us a proposal to prepare and submit our application for the WIIA Grant which is due by 11/22/2021. Nick stated that he would love to work with us again, but his workload at this time is too extensive and he would not be able to do this for us. This left Anthony to reach out to C.T. Male and ask for a proposal for their grant writer, Jim Thatcher, to take care of this for us. C.T. Male gave us a proposal to complete and submit the WIIA application on our behalf. The Project will cost approximately a total of \$5.1 Million dollars with the opportunity for us to receive a maximum grant amount of \$3 Million. According to our ranking on the State Intended Use Plan, we do not qualify for Hardship funding. However, DEC has classified a lot of the areas in Gloversville as Environmental Injustice Areas. If we can show that these projects will serve these areas, we may be able to get either low interest or no interest financing through the NYS Revolving Fund or EFC.

Commissioner Isabella made a motion to approve the proposal from C.T. Male to prepare and submit the WIIA Grant Application for our Water Treatment Plant Infrastructure Project. on behalf of the Gloversville Water Works at a cost of \$4,600.00. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mauro.

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

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- 7) **Meter Test Bench Repair:** While testing the meter for Marae Tesi for 74 N Main Street one of the Brackets snapped off from the end of the meter test bench. Anthony got 2 quotes for a new bracket and the lowest price was from Core & Main at \$455.45.

Commissioner Capano made a motion to approve the purchase of a new bracket for the meter test bench from Core & Main at a cost of \$455.45. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Antonucci.

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

Clerk's Report:

1) **22 E. 8th Avenue:** Christine informed the Board that she received a request for an adjustment for the property at 22 E. 8th Avenue. We estimated the current bill too high based on the prior owner's usage. Re-estimated the current bill based on what the new owner is using now.

Commissioner Antonucci presented the following motion: THAT, the Board of Water Commissioners authorizes the Clerk of the Board to adjust the Water Bill for 22 E. 8th Avenue located in District #2 for the following:

District #2 - Credit Water \$69.65; Credit Sewer \$58.13; and Credit Infra \$19.38. Estimated bill too high in error based on prior owners' consumption. To adjust bill for property located at 22 E. 8th Avenue.

A motion was made by Commissioner Antonucci, seconded by Commissioner Capano that the above motion be adopted.

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

2) **7 Grandoe Lane:** Christine informed the Board that there is a property at 7 Grandoe Lane that was purchased by the City of Gloversville from the County. It recently came to our attention that there was a major leak there. The city assessor contacted Christine when she received the most current water bill which was over \$2,000.00. Christine had Alvin do a Data Log and found that there was still a major leak going on and advised Joni the assessor. Joni stated that they City was trying to evict a squatter that was living in the house. The squatter refuses to let the city in to check for leaks and make repairs. Christine suggested that they contact the Fire and Police Chief to see if they could make the squatter let the city in for repairs. Joni wanted Christine to see if the Board would consider any kind of relief for this bill. After some discussion, the Board decided that they wanted to know what plans the City has for the property. If the City is going to sell the property and make a profit, the Water Board would like them to add the delinquent water bills to the sale of the house so that we may re-coup our revenue for water consumption. After discussion we will reverse late fees and postpone them however, we would like to be reimbursed for the rest.

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Christine received the following COVID relief Deferred Installment Plans: Homeowners must Self-Certify a Financial Hardship due to COVID-19.

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|
| 1) 27 Maple Street | - | COVID-19 Plan at \$476.36 for 6 months. |
| 2) 137 West Street | - | COVID-19 Plan at \$105.18 for 6 months. |
| 3) 37 West Street | - | COVID-19 Plan at \$26.92 for 6 months. |
| 4) 2 Fruit Street | - | COVID-19 Plan at \$17.83 for 6 months. |
| 5) 61 Union Street | - | COVID-19 Plan at \$185.95 for 6 months. |
| 6) 91 Grand Street | - | COVID- 19 Plan at \$227.55 for 6 months |
| 7) 4 N Water Street | - | COVID-19 Plan at \$328.25 for 6 months |
| 8) 6 N Water Street | - | COVID -19 Plan at \$215.06 for 6 months |
| 9) 72 Spring Street | - | COVID -19 Plan at \$223.84 for 6 months |

Commissioner Antonucci made a motion to approve the above noted Deferred Payment Plans for the Properties listed above. Deferred Payment Plans with no Interest and Penalties and no down payment required contingent on self-certification of Financial Hardship due to COVID-19. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Isabella

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Robinson			X	
Capano	X			

A motion was made by Commissioner Mauro to enter into Executive Session to discuss CSEA Contract Negotiations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Antonucci.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Robinson			X	
Capano	X			

A motion was made by Commissioner Antonucci to leave Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Capano.

<u>Commissioner</u>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Antonucci	X			
Isabella	X			
Mauro	X			
Robinson			X	
Capano	X			

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A motion was made by Commissioner Isabella to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Capano.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 6:00pm.