

**GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 11, 2026**

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board (GJJSB) held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, March 11, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Eric Parker	Vice Chair
Michael W. Stover	Secretary
John Rizzo	Member
Deanna Hitchcock	Member
Christopher Vose	Member
Harry Brand	Manager-Wastewater Programs
Robert Yaggle	Chief Operator
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician
Adrienne Slade	Account Clerk/Typist
Hilary Ruzycky	Consultant

ABSENT

Bobbi Trudel	Chair
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EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, all Board members in attendance, Manager Brand, and Lab Director Levendusky went into executive session at 6:09 P.M. to discuss NY Public Officers Law §105:1 – (f) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Vose, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of executive session at 6:42 P.M. No action was taken.

FEBRUARY 11, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the February 11, 2026 regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 1, 7, & 8.

PLANT OPERATIONS

**2025 Annual Report**

Manager Brand provided Board members with a copy of the 2025 Annual Report and reviewed highlights of the year's significant events.

1. COGEN electrical generation increased by 276% with excess power of 304% sold to National Grid. The large increase in electrical generation occurred due to completion of the High Yard Recovery Project, which followed a vehicle accident in February 2024 that caused damage to the High Yard Control Building and rendered Cogen Units from service.
2. The facility had eleven (11) noncompliance events due to equipment malfunctions, extreme weather events, leaking line, and permit exceedances for metals and WET testing. All events were reported to NYSDEC. No monetary penalties were enforced.
3. Several changes in staffing occurred due to retirement, filling open positions, and employees seeking other employment opportunities.
4. Three (3) reportable work related injuries occurred, with two (2) resulting in lost time.

5. Four (4) odor complaints were received from neighborhoods near the facility.
6. Work continued on upgrading the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system used for plant monitoring and process control. A proposal is under review to segregate the control network from the Wi-Fi network to meet the new NYSDEC requirements for cyber security.

The Total Industrial Flows decreased 7.26%, Total Suspended Solids (TSS) increased 32.58%, Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) increased by 23.6%, and Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) increased 15.38% for the calendar year 2025.

Copies of the 2025 Annual Report will be forwarded to Gloversville and Johnstown officials, NYSDEC, and the GJJSB legal counsel. The report will also be posted on the facility's website.

## PERSONNEL

### **Plant Staffing**

Manager Brand reported he received numerous applications to fill the Administrative Aide position. Eight (8) application had been approved by civil service and those interviews are underway. Once a candidate is selected and is appointed, Consultant Ruzycky will assist to train the new candidate.

Manager Brand reported newly appointed Principal Account Clerk Adrienne Slade is progressing quickly and successfully to learn the fiscal position. Slade will continue to train with Consultant Renda.

Manager Brand requested Board authorization to canvass and hire new employees for positions represented by the Collective Bargaining Agreement without prior Board action, when those positions become available. On a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved for the Plant Manager to conduct the full hiring process prior to Board approval for employees within the Collective Bargaining Agreement.

## BUDGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

### **2026-2027 Proposed Sewer Rates**

Manager Brand reported that the Budget Committee met on March 4, 2026 and again on March 11, 2026 to discuss the proposed 2026-2027 sewer rates. Board members were provided with a copy of the proposed Sewer Use Rate Schedule. Manager Brand gave an overview of a new rate setting process developed to calculate all rates based on actual loading and actual customer usage for both Industrial and Residential customers. Facility loadings consist of received flow, total suspended solids, BOD, and TKN. Sewer rates are used to cover the facility's operations and maintenance costs, capital projects, and debt service. A summary sheet was provided to Board members detailing the new rate setting process.

Manager Brand recommends using \$400,000 the 2025 Fund Balance to be transferred to the Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund to be utilized in the rate calculation. The total projected revenue from all Industrial customers utilizing the new proposed sewer rates will result in an increase of 2.11% over the total 2025 Industrial revenue. The new Residential sewer rates proposes to increase the average household by 1.8% per household. Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) fees are proposed to increase by \$1.32 per connection.

Manager Brand reported the rates for hauling sludge, septic, and food waste have not increased since 2021. An approximately 3% rate increase was recommended for Hauled Waste Rates, for those not established by existing contract..

### **Public Hearing Date**

On a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board accepted the proposed sewer rates as presented to be released for public notice and to hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, April 22, 2026 at Johnstown City Hall Council Chambers at 6:00 P.M. If adopted, the rates will become effective on May 1, 2026.

## **Resolution No. 2026-06**

On a motion made Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Rizzo, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2026-06. *Transfer the Fund Balance to the Capital and Equipment Reserve Fund & to the Rate Stabilization Reserve Fund.*

## INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

### **Consent Order – Adirondac Leather**

Manager Brand reported the plant received discharge of a non-permitted industrial discharge on Monday, 3/9/26. Plant operators detected a blood red coloring in the plant's Screening and Primary processes. Monitoring technicians confirmed upon inquiry that red pigment had been discarded at Adirondac Leather. In October 2025, Adirondac Leather discharged an aqua colored pigment no longer in use directly to the drain which also colored the plant's processes.

Lab Director Levendusky requested Board approval to issue Adirondac Leather an Oder On Consent for non-permitted pigment discharge, including a \$1,000 civil penalty and a requirement to provide an event report as stipulated in their Slug Discharge and Control Plan. On a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized issuing Adirondac Leather an Oder On Consent for a non-permitted pigment discharge, including a civil penalty of \$1,000 and requirement to submit a Slug Discharge and Control Plan within 5 days of receiving the written Order On Consent.

## ATTACHMENTS

Wastewater Programs Report, Annual Trends/Comparison Report, and 2026 O&M Expenditure Reports were reviewed per Attachments No. 2, 3, & 4.

### **Approve Abstract #3**

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$270,900.75 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Vose, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

## OLD BUSINESS

### **Southside Potable Water Line Freeze**

Manager Brand reported the city water line supplying the south side of the facility thawed out with no failures to the line after freezing last month. The shut off valve used for isolation is still not functioning. The heat trace breaker was replaced, which did not correct the issue, indicating the physical heat trace line on the pipe will need to be replaced. This will require 3<sup>rd</sup> party support to remove and reinstall the pipe insulation and possibly the heat trace installation. Facility staff will investigate having this repair completed prior to the next winter season..

### **2012 Mack Dump Truck Insurance Claim**

Manager Brand reported the Insurance Claim is settled for damages to the 2012 Mack Dump Truck following a tire blow out that destroyed the truck hood assembly and fender wall. Brown's Ford of Amsterdam ordered the repair parts. A \$1,000 insurance deductible payment is GJJWTF's responsibility.

### **Whey Capacity Upgrade Project**

Manager Brand reported that facility staff is working with the engineering firm to provide the data per the Requests for Information (RFI) to support the feasibility study. A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18, 2026 with Arcadis to discuss a conceptual plan and the practicality of potential engineering options.

### **Niagara Bottling Project**

Manager Brand reported updated utility drawings were received from Niagara Bottling showing the flume locations of the bottled beverage manufacturing facility in the Tryon Industrial Park, which were found to be agreeable. A request was made of Niagara for additional Flow Metering information, which was not

included in the updated drawings. Provided to Niagara the Baseline Reports Part I & II to be completed in support of issuing the facility discharge permit in the future.

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### **Biosolid Handling Assessment under EFC Engineering Planning Grant (EPG)**

Manager Brand reported that the Request For Proposal (RFP) was advertised in our publication of record and RFP was distributed to qualified Engineering Firms for development of the GJJWTF Biosolid Handling Assessment in accordance with the awarded EPG. Proposals are required to be submitted to the facility by March 31, 2026.

##### **Sludge Building Roof Repair Project**

Manager Brand reported six requests for quotes were sent to qualified companies to provide roof repairs to the Sludge Building. Two companies responded they will not participate, and no responses were received from the other four companies. Manager Brand will seek additional companies to provide the repairs.

#### MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:57 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Stover, Secretary  
Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board