

**GLOVERSVILLE-JOHNSTOWN JOINT SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
May 13, 2026**

The Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board held a meeting in the Boardroom of the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Wastewater Treatment Facility on Wednesday, May 13, 2026. The meeting was called to order at 6:09 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Bobbi Trudel	Chair
Eric Parker	Vice Chair
Michael W. Stover	Secretary
Deanna Hitchcock	Member
Christopher Vose	Member
Harry Brand	Manager
Nicole Benton	Administrative Aide
Mark Levendusky	Laboratory Director
Ian Colvin Marincic	WWTP Engineering Technician
Adrienne Slade	Principal Account Clerk
Hilary Ruzycky	Consultant

ABSENT

John Rizzo	Member
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EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried four (4) in favor, two (2) 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. Board Member Vose arrived at 6:24 P.M. Lab Director Levendusky departed Executive Session at 6:35 PM. On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board came out of Executive Session at 6:45 P.M. No action was taken.

April 08, 2026 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

The Board approved the April 08, 2026 regular meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

April 22, 2026 PUBLIC HEARING MEETING MINUTES – SEWER RATES

The Board approved the April 22, 2026 public hearing meeting minutes on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, for the proposed 2026-2027 sewer rates.

CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was discussed: No. 1 & 19.

PLANT OPERATIONS

Whey Tank Cleaning

Manager Brand reported that whey tank cleaning commenced on April 27, 2026, by Precision Industrial Maintenance. The cleaning process was conducted over a four (4) day period. Manager Brand stated that the average cost for tank cleaning is approximately \$25,000.00. Manager Brand further reported that a decision was made to avoid weekend operations during the cleaning process due to the inability to transport removed solids to the landfill. During the duration of the cleaning process, flow restrictions were implemented for FAGE and Euphrates, Inc. Manager Brand has implemented a modified operating process to ensure weekly tank turnover by controlling the pump rate based on whey discharge schedules, reducing

the tank level to approximately one foot on a weekly basis to minimize solids buildup. He advised that the modified process is hoped to extend the cleaning schedule from once annually to once every two (2) to three (3) years. Manager Brand reported that the cleaning process was completed successfully.

Consent Order of Adirondac Leather

Manager Brand reported that the Consent Order for Adirondack Leather was reviewed during the City of Johnstown Common Council meeting held on April 20, 2026. He further reported that the Consent Order was distributed by Lab Director Levendusky on April 30, 2026. The facility has since received the signed Consent Order, and Lab Director Levendusky has executed the document on behalf of the Joint Wastewater Board and has mailed a copy of the fully executed consent letter back to Adirondac Leather. Adirondac Leather has thirty (30) days to remit payment of the assessed fines. Manager Brand additionally reported that he was contacted by The Leader-Herald on April 23, 2026, requesting additional information regarding the Consent Order. Manager Brand stated that the inquiry related to the facility's environmental stewardship responsibilities concerning the creek. He noted that the related article was published on April 23, 2026.

Award Mini Bid – Rounds Truck

Manager Brand reported that a mini-bid was conducted through the New York State Office of General Services for the purchase of a gas-only rounds truck. A total of eight (8) bids were received. Of those submitted, five (5) bids did not fully meet the required specifications, while three (3) bids satisfied all bid requirements. Manager Brand recommended awarding the mini bid to the lowest responsive bidder for a 2026 Nissan Frontier. Upon a motion made by Mr. Parker and seconded by Mr. Vose, the motion carried with five (5) votes in favor, none (0) opposed, and one (1) absent. The Board authorized acceptance of the bid proposal submitted by Romeo Nissan for the purchase of a 2026 Nissan Frontier in the amount of \$34,681.19.

2012 MACK Dump Truck

Manager Brand reported that he is currently evaluating repair versus replacement options for the dump box and dump gate due to severe corrosion. He advised that, should a complete box replacement be necessary, a stainless-steel unit would be the preferred option, as it could be transferred to a new truck in the future if needed. Manager Brand stated that the estimated replacement cost of a complete box is approximately \$52,000.00 and noted that he wished to make the Board aware of the potential pending issue.

Harris Computers Update

Manager Brand reported that Harris software program, which is utilized for all of the facility's financial record keeping, check issuing, and payroll processing, is issuing a software upgrade that is not compatible with the facility's current server Operating System. He advised that a new server, along with the required software and data migration, is estimated to cost approximately \$28,000.00, offered by StoredTech, the IT Support vendor, but expressed hope that the current server can remain operational until next year's budget cycle. Manager Brand further reported that Harris has suggested transitioning to a cloud-based service as a potential option; however, he noted that such an option would include a \$1,000 transition fee and recurring annual fee of \$4,000 currently. He stated that the normal service life of a server is approximately five (5) to eight (8) years, while the facility's current server has been in service for approximately ten (10) years. He will continue to work with Harris to determine the deadline when we are required to transition to the latest software platform, which will drive the timing of the server upgrade. Chair Trudel agreed with attempting to postpone the upgrade until next year. Manager Brand suggested that, if required to move forward with the server upgrade, there is the option to utilize available fund balance from 2025 to assist with financing the upgrade.

INDUSTRIAL COMPLIANCE

Sewer Bill Protest: 101 Fonclair Street Johnstown

Engineer Technician Marincic reviewed a request for sewer bill adjustment for excess water usage for property located at 101 Fonclair Street in Johnstown. 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 denied a sewer bill adjustment due to the request was submitted past the thirty-day deadline.

BUDGET/PURCHASE/AUDIT

Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit by BST & Co. CPAs

Manager Brand reported an onsite audit is planned for the week of June 1st, 2026. Principal Account Clerk Slade reported that this would be a two (2) day audit.

PERSONNEL

Designate Administrative Aide to Records Management Officer

Manager Brand recommended the designation of Records Management Officer to Administrative Aide, Nicole Benton. On a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board authorized for the designation of Records Management officer to Administrative Aide, Nicole Benton.

WWTP Operator Trainee Hiring

As approved at the March 11, 2026 Board Meeting, Manager Brand was authorized to canvas and hire new employees for positions represented by the Collective Bargaining Agreement, without prior Board approval. Manager Brand reported that two (2) WWTP Operator Trainee positions were filled. Employment offers were extended to Mr. Zajackowski, who accepted the position effective May 11, 2026 and Mr. VanDeusen, who accepted the position effective May 26, 2026.

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution No. 2026-07

On a motion made by Mr. Stover, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed, the Board approved Resolution No. 2026-07, authorizing the amendment of the contract between Donna Renda and the Gloversville-Johnstown Joint Sewer Board. Amendment extends contract through December 01, 2026, allowing Ms. Renda to assist Principal Account Clerk Slade with upcoming audit and provide continued support on an as needed basis.

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

Approve Abstract #5

O&M purchase orders and disbursement sheets totaling \$319,077.90 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed. Capital disbursement sheets totaling \$78,800.00 were approved for payment on a motion made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. Stover, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

OLD BUSINESS

Whey Capacity Upgrade Project Update

Manager Brand reported that he distributed a draft report and met with Arcadis regarding the proposed Whey Capacity Upgrade Project. He stated that the project appears feasible; however, there are significant associated costs and several unanswered questions remaining. Manager Brand noted that the proposed phosphorus removal theory has not previously been utilized on whey at this scale and described the project as a cutting-edge initiative. Manager Brand advised that all projected figures are dependent upon the success of the phosphorus removal process enhancing the ability to dewater digested whey sludge, which has not yet been implemented on a project of this magnitude. He further reported that he suggested modifications to the proposed approach be better integrated into the current treatment processes. The original timeline for presentation of the final report was to be on May 26, 2026; however, Manager Brand stated that the final report is not expected to be completed by that date. He expressed a preference for extending the timeline to obtain a more accurate feasibility study and noted that many outstanding questions will likely remain unresolved until the design phase. Manager Brand recommended that Arcadis would first present the final report to a select Board committee vice the full Board, followed by its presentation to FAGE. He further stated that all determining factors must support the long-term sustainability of both the facility and the community's interest. Manager Brand also advised that operation and maintenance (O&M) costs associated with the project would need to be into the future Whey contract

and rates. Additionally, Manager Brand stated that the inability to achieve solids content of less than 20% of the waste sludge would constitute a hard stop for the project.

EFC Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) - Biosolid Handling Assessment

Manager Brand reported that the Engineering Service Agreement with Arcadis has been executed. EFC requires the approved April Board Meeting Minutes, documenting the Board's authorization of the project cost, be submitted in addition to the project budget, Engineering Service Agreement, and A/E Procurement Certification, for review and approval prior to the Scoping Call.

Fulton County Sewer District #5 (Mayfield) – Billing Update

Manager Brand reported an update regarding the billing meter malfunction. Following a meeting held on May 8, 2026, it was confirmed that the issue stemmed from improper equipment wiring. Prior to the wiring issue being identified, the County conducted a drawdown test to validate the pump flow rate, which was confirmed at 314 gallons per minute (gpm). Manager Brand reported that, on May 8, 2026, he met with Mr. Stankes and a billing meter technical representative. During the inspection, it was discovered that the wiring connection error resulted in improper operation. The representative corrected the wiring, after which the system pumps were operated twice to confirm proper meter operation and totalization of recorded flow. The totalizer was subsequently reset. Manager Brand advised that on May 11, 2026 the totalized recorded flow was compared to the calculated flow based on run meter, and the figures matched validating the flow meter and totalizer operation. He stated that the total billed flow for the current billing period shall be calculated based on the non-resettable pump run-hour meters using the flow rate of 314 gpm, plus the daily flow quantity from Patch Road (former Celeco Building), which is connected downstream of the pump station, for the period of the system was in service (March 23, 2026 thru May 8, 2026) prior to the Billing Meter being validated plus the Billing Meter totalized value at the end of this billing period (July 28, 2026).

NEW BUSINESS

Hudson River Article

Manager Brand reported that he was contacted by The Daily Gazette regarding an upcoming article concerning the Hudson River and regional water quality. He stated that the reporter advised that local newspapers would be publishing articles related to water quality issues beyond the Hudson River area. Manager Brand reported that he was asked to discuss the evolution of the Cayadutta Creek and the regulatory oversight of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding conditions affecting the creek. He explained that our primary focus remains ensuring that effluent discharges remain within permitted limits. Manager Brand further discussed the differences in treatment processes between the historical impacts of heavy leather mill operations and the current industrial environment, which now includes multiple dairy processing facilities in the area.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:47 P.M. until June 10, 2026 at 6:00 P.M. on a motion made by Mr. Vose, seconded by Mr. Parker, carried five (5) in favor, one (1) absent, and none (0) opposed.

The next regular meeting will be held on **Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

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