



PO Box 700
Jamestown, NY 14702-0700
Phone (716) 661-1680
Fax (716) 661-1617

**ELECTRIC
DISTRICT HEAT
WATER
WASTEWATER
SOLID WASTE**

November 23, 2015

For immediate release
Contact: Becky Robbins 661-1680

**Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) Approves Four-Year Agreement
with IBEW, Local 459**

The Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) board members today approved a four-year agreement reached with IBEW, Local 459 employees, representing the BPU's largest union. Members of Local 459, voted on November 2 to ratify the agreement which replaces the contract scheduled to expire on March 31, 2016.

The BPU Board had imposed a contract for the period April 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015, after IBEW Local 459 and BPU representatives failed to reach agreement on a negotiated contract. The contract also was extended from April 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016, with no changes.

The new contract covers the time period of January 1, 2016, through December 31, 2019, and affects 83 employees in the electric, water, wastewater maintenance and customer service areas of the five-division utility. The utility workforce totals approximately 149 employees.

Among other issues, the parties negotiated new health insurance plan changes effective January 1, 2017, with employee contributions of monthly health care premiums increasing to 17% in 2017, 18% in 2018 and 20% in 2019.

A wage progression schedule for newly-hired employees was agreed upon and several contract language changes were made.

The agreement provides wage increases for current full-time employees as follows:

(4/1/14	0.00%)
(4/1/15	0.00%)
Effective 1/1/16	2.25%
Effective 1/1/17	3%
Effective 1/1/18	3%
Effective 1/1/19	3%

"We are pleased to have reached an agreement with our employees of the IBEW, Local 459," said BPU General Manager David L. Leathers. "We believe that we have reached a fair contract with this excellent workforce, while keeping the well-being of our customers in mind."