GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

SPECIAL MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2025

The special meeting of the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority was held on the Second Floor City Hall Sewer Authority Council Chambers on Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 6:30 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Barry S. Dewitt, II, Chairman with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PRESENT

Dr. Barry S. Dewitt, II , Chairman

Charles M. Dries , 1st Vice Chairman

James T. Muldowney , 2nd Vice Chairman

Ronald C. Zimmerman , Treasurer

Henry J. Minnig , Assistant Treasurer

John G. Botto , Secretary

Edward M. Brennan , Solicitor

Christina M. Q. Herndon , Authority Secretary

William Orlowsky , Project Manager

GUESTS

Brian Dries , President - Borough of Palo Alto

Vince Riotto , Vice President – Borough of Palo Alto

Jean Towle , Executive Director, Pottsville Library

Josh Sophy , Coal Region Canary

Scott Price , Customer

Lynn Strausser , GPASA Pretreatment Coordinator

Brenda Schuettler , GPASA Billing Supervisor

James Quinn , GPASA Office Manager

 Chairman, Dr. Barry S. Dewitt, II stated this special meeting was called tonight on an unfortunate and emergency basis in order to consider a serious personnel issue and under the advice of our Solicitor, Attorney Edward M. Brennan he is under the opinion that this meeting due to its emergency nature is an exception to the Sunshine Act, however in order to be fully

transparent with our staff and the public we did post notice earlier today on the website advising of this meeting.

 At this time our Solicitor has requested an Executive Session in order for this Board to discuss a personnel issue, and after the Executive Session concludes the Board will continue with the public portion of this meeting and will adjourn with Public Comment at the end of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

 The Executive Session to discuss personnel matters began at 6:31 PM and reconvened at 6:52 PM.

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 Chairman, Dr. Barry S. Dewitt, II stated the Board met in Executive Session to discuss a serious personnel issue. Yesterday, April 2, 2025 the Board received credible information that our Executive Director, Joseph F. Spotts, III is facing criminal charges based on allegation of

theft from a local fire company. We called an emergency meeting immediately and as quickly and swiftest way as possible to address this very serious concern.

 The Executive Director is a position of great public trust and high public visibility, given the credible and serious nature of these allegations this Board, under the advice of the Solicitor,

Attorney Edward M. Brennan, wanted to act quickly and transparently.

 Yesterday, the Personnel Committee suspended Mr. Spotts with pay pending tonight’s Board Meeting. Earlier today, Mr. Spotts turned over all Sewer Authority property in his possession. When advised that the Board would be meeting tonight to consider the matter and take appropriate action, Mr. Spotts tendered his resignation effective immediately .

 The Board has that resignation in front of them and they will now consider that resignation.

 On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously accepted Mr. Spotts resignation.

 Chairman, Dr. Barry S. Dewitt, II stated with the Executive Director role now vacant, this Board is charged with appointing an Acting Executive Director. The current Project Manager who has also been acting effectively in the capacity as Assistant Executive Director is Mr. William T. Orlowsky, P.E. and is there a motion to appoint Mr. Orlowsky as Acting Executive Director.

 On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to appoint Mr. William T. Orlowsky, P.E. as Acting Executive Director.

NEW BUSINESS

 None.

OLD BUSINESS

 None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

 None.

 Chairman, Barry S. Dewitt, II addressed the audience stating this is an unfortunate evening and as the Solicitor stated before the Executive Director is a role that has been entrusted by the Board, staff, who we have here tonight and the public. This is a sad evening for us all and any additional questions we will refer to our Solicitor, Attorney Edward M. Brennan.

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ADJOURNMENT

 The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m. on the motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by

Ronald C. Zimmerman.

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 JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY