GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 26, 2026

The Board Meeting of the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority was held on the Third Floor City Hall, Sewer Authority Conference Room on Wednesday, August 26, 2026 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

PRESENT

Dr. Barry Dewitt	,	Chairman
Brian P. Dries	,	1st Vice Chairman
James T. Muldowney	,	2nd Vice Chairman
Ronald C. Zimmerman	,	Treasurer
Henry J. Minnig	,	Assistant Treasurer
John G. Botto	,	Secretary
Jonathan Morris, P.E.	,	Assistant Secretary
Edward M. Brennan	,	Solicitor
John R. Poff, P.E.	,	SDE Consulting Engineer
William Orlowsky, P.E.	,	Executive Director
Christina M. Q. Herndon	,	Authority Secretary
Lynn Strausser	,	Office Manager

GUESTS

Brenda Schuettler	,	GPASA Billing Supervisor
Jean Towle	,	Executive Director of Pottsville Library
Vince Riotto	,	Vice President of Palo Alto Borough
Mike Botto	,	GPASA Plant Operator
James Thomas	,	GPASA Strew Crew Supervisor
Timothy Schultz	,	GPASA Main Plant Chief Operator
Eric Tamalonis	,	Creek District Project
Scott Simmons	,	Axiom Sales Representative

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Eric Tamalonis discussed the potential Creek District Project.

Scott Simmons, Sales Representative for Axiom, INC., discussed the new 2026 proposal for replacement of the five (5) new catwalks at the Main Plant.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the proposal from Axiom to purchase the galvanized catwalks for $315,000.00.

The minutes of the regular meeting for July 2026 were approved by Jonathan Morris, P.E., and seconded by James T. Muldowney.

REQUISITION NO. 720

Payee	-	Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1
Amount	-	$ 248,310.69
Date	-	August 2026

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #720 in the amount of $248,310.59.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's report for August 2026 presented by William T. Orlowsky, P.E.:

1. Presented for Board's information on the Division Street Project construction update, Mr. Aungst crossed the double yellow line from East Side of Centre Street and now is on the West Side of Centre Street and will be entering Mrs. DiCello's parking lot after Labor Day.

Discussion followed.

2. Presented for Board's information on the City of Pottsville's Engineer Benesch report on the Stone Arches and they are in favor of using a pipe liner in the stone arch and fill the annular space with grout.

Discussion followed.

3. Presented for the Board's information a pedestrian fell at Second and Division Streets opened an insurance claim

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, added there was also a video of the fall that was given to the insurance company.

4. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated he had a meeting with the City of Pottsville and Schuylkill County Municipal Authority regarding the street opening Ordinance, and he recommends the Engineering Committee meets with the City of Pottsville on both of the projects Division Street and Mahantongo Projects and decide how to proceed.

Discussion followed.

Jonathan Morris, P.E., Chairman of the Engineer Committee, stated he will get something scheduled with the City of Pottsville to discuss the Mahantongo Street Project and the Division Street Project.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director's Report for August 2026.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for August 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor Brennan stated a meeting with the City of Pottsville included Executive Director, William T. Orlowsky, P.E., John R. Poff, P.E., SDE GPASA Engineer, City Solicitor, Gretchen Sterns, Pottsville City Mayor Tom Smith, Pottsville City Administrator, Rob Straebel, to discuss the street opening Ordinance and all utilities attended and it was a very productive meeting.

2. Solicitor Brennan stated we need to discuss a personnel matter in the Executive Session and depending on what happens in the Executive Session we may have to amend the agenda to take action on that item.

Also, Solicitor Brennan wanted to compliment Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, and Michele Pryce, Billing Clerk during this last month. We collected $12,000.00 in liens. People are buying houses at the tax sales and sheriff sales and if our liens are on record we get paid and they are very helpful.

Solicitor Brennan stated last month and a few days ago he asked the City Solicitor, Gretchen Sterns and Eric Prock, Solicitor for Palo Alto, to dismiss the 2022 Intermunicipal lawsuit null and void. He recommends we amend the agenda and just ratify the prior decision to declare the 2022 Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Pottsville null and void since there has been no activity since 2022 when Judge Goodman denied the injunction.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minning, the Board approved to amend the agenda to ratify the prior decision to declare the 2022 Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Pottsville null and void.

Brain Dries abstained from this motion.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board approved to ratify the prior decision to declare the 2022 Intermunicipal Agreement with the City of Pottsville null and void.

Brian Dries and Ronald C. Zimmerman abstained from this motion.

On motion of Jonathan Morris, P.E., and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for August 2026.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer's Report for August 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Mr. Poff updated the Board he is working on the UV disinfection system design and the sampling plan for the Pretreatment Program.

2. Mr. Poff informed the Board on the Division Street Project Change Orders:

Change Order 1 was to do the work in the DiCello property and the Board approved this in May 2026 for $174,900.00.

Mr. Aungst has made Change Orders due to delays and unmarked and unknown utilities within Centre Street and the trolley tracks.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated if the Verizon lines are not marked and we damaged the lines the bill should go to Verizon. And he has plenty of clients who do utility work and PA ONE calls laws are to protect the contractor or whoever is digging.

Change Order #2: $79,838.14 for additional work in PennDOT ROW due to unknowns, etc. Mr. Poff's recommendation is that the Board pay this Change order because Mr. Angst is significantly under the second bidder for the work bid in the fall.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked how much the original bid was for this project.

Mr. Poff replied $308,098.00 in May the Board approved an escalator because of the delays for Mr. Angst to start of $14,617.00 and as of right now with Change Order #2 it is at $498,000.00.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated with all four (4) change orders we will be at 724,000.00 and we budgeted $600,000.00 for this project so we are already over budget.

Mr. Dries requested the Agenda for the Board meeting be sent to all Board members on the Friday before the Wednesday Board meeting.

Mr. Orlowsky stated this will be completed by Friday and send to all the Board members from now on and will not change anything on Monday morning.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt added since we are discussing the budget, we are approaching September and Health Care expenses last year totaled $481,763.00. This year we budgeted $540,000.00 and as of now the price is $550,000.00 in August and by the end of the year it will be $800,000.00 and that will be a quarter million dollars over budget on health care.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved Change Order #2 in the amount of $79,838.14

Change Order #3: $88,714.00 for additional work at Second & Division Streets: pipe, inlets, paving.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked if the paving is normally procedure.

Mr. Poff replied its basically mill and overlay the intersection from 2 feet outside the limits of work and the middle.

Discussion followed.

Brian Dries asked Mr. Poff this is stopping at the Good Intent fire company now, so from the fire house to the Pottsville Library nothing is going to be done.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Dries asked Mr. Orlowsky why that part of the project was dropped. Jean Towle, Executive Director of the Pottsville Library, has been at every meeting stating the Pottsville Library is flooded during every rainstorm. And now the project that was supposed to help the library is dropped.

Mr. Orlowsky replied because there are a lot of utilities buried in the alley behind the Pottsville Library that we would have to navigate and that intersection we needed to do more exploratory digging to avoid these utilities and we should be focusing on the separation side of the project not the storm water side so the City of Pottsville can pick up where we left off and complete the project.

Discussion followed.

John R. Poff, P.E. added Mr. Aungst filed a complex PA One Call which means all the utilities must mark their lines. Everyone marked their lines but Verizon and this area is full of Verizon lines.

Brain Dries asked Mr. Orlowsky if the project we are doing now if we go to the fire house would it alleviate flooding from 2nd to 3rd.

Mr. Orlowsky replied yes because what is happening is the water has nowhere to go and there are some existing inlets. Mr. Orlowsky explained the answer on the map.

Mr. Poff added the City of Pottsville should at least mill out the alley behind the Pottsville Library and put a reverse crown on it because there is not gutter line in the alley since they have paved on top of it over and over again.

Discussion followed.

Brian Dries stated this project has been going on for years and since 2020 Jean Towle has been at all of the meetings saying tje library is flooding and the sewer authority has done nothing about this and now all of a sudden, we are doing something but the Authority is stopping a block before the library and we are spending boocoo dollars on these projects but ultimately in the end we are stopping a block from her building and please make this make sense to me.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky replied he told Andy Wollyung about Jean Towle's issues at the Pottsville Library and he thought the water was coming thru the Arch in the basement of the library he did not realize it was coming in underneath the back door of the library in the alley.

Jean Towle stated you are not addressing the water coming through the Arch. So, you made the decision not to go all the way up to 3rd Street. Did you have that decision approved by this Board?

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated Jean Towle is correct there are two (2) areas where you get flooding the old Stone Arch goes through the library and we are ultimately going to replace this during the Market Street Project, but until that happens we still are stuck with the loop where the Arch goes underneath Discovery Park down Division Street and a hard left down 2nd Street and on to Market Street and in addition to that you have the surface water that comes down feeds into our combined system and backs up on 2nd Street and all the flooding backs up due to the Norwegian Creek. And if there is a combined system, we are obligated to separate the lines where ever whether it is Pottsville, Palo Alto or Port Carbon. And going down Division Street there is a combined line which is part of that Arch in order to dig that up and separate it will take a lot more money for that one block. Now with what we are doing with the Division Street DiCello line, we are trying to get some temporary relief now until the massive project begins. The Archway going down Division Street will disappear. The Archway going under the library will disappear. So in the meantime, as Mr. Poff suggested, the City of Pottsville should just reverse the crown on the alleyway behind the library and this should direct the flooding from the backdoor and run to Centre Street and pickup that line. This may be a good temporary solution rather than spending a ton of money now to separate a line that will eventually disappear.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff explained the flooding on Division Street by showing the Division Street map.

Discussion followed.

Jean Towle asked Mr. Orlowsky again when you made this decision to stop at 2nd Street did you bring that decision to the Board for approval.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated there was no decision or approval just a discussion.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approved Change Order #3 in the amount of $88,714.00.

Change Order #4: $57, 820.00 for additional work to pave the DiCello parking lot.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated we originally were going to follow our normal procedure but at the last meeting we were told it would be cheaper if we paved the whole parking lot.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated we have to dig up the parking lot to replace the Archway, but we got the property owner to give us an easement without spending any money and once we put that line in no one can build on that property. We should do what Mrs. DiCello asked because we got this for free.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approved Change Order #4 in the amount of $57,820.00

3. Mr. Poff informed the Board of Application for Payment No.1 in the amount of $141,898.85.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated this is for Mr. Aungst first installment.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to pay Application of Payment No.1 in the amount of $141,898.85.

4. Mr. Poff informed the Board at the Engineering Committee meeting we furnished them with the Professional Services Agreement to prepare a task activity report for the 537 Plan, to prepare a general document to itemize the detailed long term control plan, activities we will do, scheduling, etc. in conjunction with the long-term control plan and the Act 537 plan. The long-term control plan needs to be filed by April 30, 2028, this is to how we are treating the flows from the CSO's and 85% of the total flow through CSO plus flow at the plant has to be treated at the plant. Tim Schultz, Chief Operator, has provided us with good flow data from the CSO's. The new devices are working. We need this information as part of the plan. The cost is $36,000.00.

Jonathan Morris, P.E., stated we have to do this, this is part one of many parts.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Jonathan Morris, P.E., and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the proposal for SDE Professional Service Agreement in the amount of $36,000.00.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked if this will be for this year or next year that we are paying that just trying to think for the budget.

Mr. Poff replied it will come out in monthly installments so about a third would come out this year 2026, and the rest would be early 2027, it will take about five (5) or six (6) months.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated the long-term control plan will be a lot of work and we must figure something out for the budget.

Mr. Poff stated we are working on the UV design at the Main Plant. When we get that farther along and apply for the permits, will the Board consider looking for a grant or low interest loan.

Brian Dries stated Jonathan Morris, P.E. and himself spoke about this in the Engineering Committee meeting. We have to come up with a list from Tim Schultz, Chief Operator, and maybe James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor, can give us a list of things needed at the Main Plant and West End. The heat exchanger is on its last legs, and the UV design and you are looking at millions of dollars, where is the money coming from but these are things we need, to me the most important thing is the Main Plant.
Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the people are the most important.

Discussion followed.

Brain Dries added the Main Plant has to be upgraded and has been neglected for years and that is where DEP will fine the Main Plant.

Discussion followed.

Tim Schultz replied the last upgrade was in 2006, the heat exchanger is great shape it is the heater for it that needs replacement it may cost $30,000.00.

Brian Dries stated we must come up will a plan to look and say in 2027 we will be getting a UV system which will cost $1.5 million dollars as the finance report we do not have the money and it has to come from somewhere and at the next Engineering Committee meeting we get Tim Schultz to see what is needed at the Main Plant, and safety issues are the number one priority. We have to do what is right for this Authority. We cannot continue to over shoot the budget, and we cannot pay bills for the City of Pottsville and why are we doing this.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated we must prioritize.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated just for the record, Jonathan Morris, P.E. and myself toured the Main Plant and we prioritize some of the things and immediately added them to the

agenda. We certainly paid attention to our staff and we appreciate what they do. So, for the first time in a long time this Board is paying attention and he is certainly proud of it.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approve the Engineers Report for August 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 6:37pm and reconvened at 6:56 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to approve a new temporary position for an Accountant recommended at $30 an hour. The recommendation is Cheryl Fuss.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board approved to hire Cheryl Fuss, Accountant.

2. Discuss adding a new structure at the treatment plant to shelter the roll-off container containing dewatered biosolids from precipitation.

Mr. Orlowsky stated John G. Botto thought this would save us money because the roll-off containers become heavy. This will require a revision to our permit with DEP. They want to know exactly what we are doing at the Plant.

Brian Dries asked Timothy Schultz if this is something he needs at the Plant.

Mr. Schultz replied is this a building, we would not have a loading dock then that is the only access to the heat exchanger and the three compressors, two return pumps, and two booster pumps pretty much everything and you would need a crazy high roof if you wanted to do anything. He would be have to decommission our gravity belt. We do not use it anymore or you could move the container inside and put a garage door on the back end and fence the container and that is what he would do with the container.

Discussion followed.

James T. Muldowney asked Mr. Schultz if he can give the Board a detailed report and on what his recommendation would be for this issue.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by, the Board unanimously approved to table this issue until the September Board Meeting.

3. Replace the main breaker at in Train 1 at the Main Plant in the amount of $30,269.00 CoStar Bid.

Brian Dries asked what the cost to get a new main breaker.

Mr. Schultz replied anywhere from $60,000.00 to $80,000 quote from Seamen's Recondition.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to pay $30,269.00 for the replacement of the main breaker at the Train 1 Main Plant.

4. Discuss the City of Pottsville's proposed amendments to Chapter 194 Street Excavations, Article III Excavations.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated there was good information exchanged. The City of Pottsville tabled this proposal and they are not going to act on this at the next meeting.

Mr. Morris stated he added some comments and he would be interested in seeing Solicitor Brennan's comments.

5. Post the Pretreatment Coordinator position internally.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney.

James T. Muldowney wanted to withdraw his vote to second the motion.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt explained the position was to post the Pretreatment Coordinator internally or continue to search for a Pretreatment Coordinator/Plant Manager.

On motion of Brian Dries, there was no second motion.

Chairman Dr. Barry Dewitt stated we need to amend the agenda to add to the agenda what was discussed in Executive Session regarding personnel.

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board approved to amend the agenda to accept a Separation Agreement for one of the Authority's staff members.

Brian Dries abstained.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan recommend the Board accept this Separation Agreement to allow Mr. Joseph Devine to voluntarily leave employment at the Authority with the understanding he would get paid an additional eight (8) weeks with health insurance as well as the Authority would not oppose an unemployment claim and give him a neutral reference. He recommended the Board authorize him to prepare the necessary documents and that the board accept that agreement.

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, a vote of 5 yes, 1 no and 1 abstention, the Board approved to accept a Separation Agreement from the Teamsters Union for employee Joseph Devine.

James T. Muldowney voted no. Brian Dries abstained.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Brian Dries stated he voted last month not to pay the $11,000.00 bill for the City of Pottsville, how and why did that come about.

Mr. Orlowsky replied he was asked by City Administrator, Mr. Straeble, if the Authority would share the cost of the bill from Benesch Engineering to do a study so the Authority can turn Division Street and Mahantongo Street over to the City of Pottsville, and he thought it would be a good idea to show goodwill, so he agreed. It was a discussion between Mr. Staeble and himself.

Brian Dries asked Mr. Orlowsky if there are any bills from Palo Alto Borough or Port Carbon Boroughs' engineers he can ship them over to the Authority. We are paying the City of Pottsville bills. Why is the Authority paying these bills. We can work with the City of Pottsville but we should not pay their bills. We have to start standing up to the City of Pottsville or they will take all of the Authority's money.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt disagreed with Mr. Dries that this bill is the City of Pottsville bill. This was a joint effort and whether the money comes from sewer rates or water rates, property taxes in the City of Pottsville, Palo Alto or Port Carbon, we are all separate entities but we need to be acting cohesively as one unit if we want things to progress.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt replied he is one Board member and he is now working with a third Executive Director and this is the first Executive Director that he has worked with who has taken issues seriously. For example the City of Pottsville downtown flooding, he is the first Executive Director who has come up with solutions.

Solicitor, Mr. Brennan stated if Palo Alto or Port Carbon has a similar issue either the Authority has to do a study or Palo Alto or Port Carbon has to do a study that is the issue as Dr. Dewitt stated. Someone has to verify this line. The Authority is going to give to the City of Pottsville is acceptable either the Authority Engineer's do it or the City of Pottsville's Engineers do it so we split the cost and if Palo Alto had a similar issue the Authority would also split the cost.

Discussion followed.

2. Discuss and approve re-advertising to a wider audience for the position of Plant Manager/Pretreatment Coordinator.

Dr. Dewitt stated we advertised locally and we were unsuccessful in our search.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board approve to re-advertise for the position of Plant Manager/Pretreatment Coordinator.

Brian Dries opposed the motion.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager asked the Board where do you want to advertise, the Pottsville Republican cost was $1,500.00 for two (2) day.

Discussion followed.

Brian Dries stated he is in the minority but Timothy Schultz should be in the union as Plant Manager like Dave Kraft was in the union.

3. Update on contract negotiations.

John G. Botto stated the first meeting took place and the Teamsters Union presented proposals, and at the second meeting the Authority presented proposals and the only issue was the health insurance to separate the family and the single plan and the next meeting is September 9, 2026.

4. Update on the West End signs.

John G. Botto reported there will be two (2) signs put up tomorrow.

Ms. Strausser added there are two (2) more signs from Child Development and Diakon.

Mr. Strausser asked when does the Separation Agreement for Mr. Devine take effect.

Solicitor Brennan replied the Agreement has been approved today and it can happen immediately.

Timothy Schultz recommended if the Authority is going to advertise, PA Rural does a free advertisement and EPWA.

John Poff recommended Mr. Orlowsky and any of the certified operators become members of EPWA for continuing education, seminars as a member there is a discount.

Brian Dries requested this be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Brian Dries thanked Tim Schultz and Jim Thomas for coming to the meeting it helps the Board make more informed decisions and it would be recommended for them to show up more at the meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m. on the motion of Brian Dries, seconded by James T. Muldowney.

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JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY