

## GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

### REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

The regular meeting of the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority was held on the Third Floor City Hall, Sewer Authority Conference Room on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Barry Dewitt, III, Chairman with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Barry Dewitt	,	Chairman
Charles M. Dries	,	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Chairman
James T. Muldowney	,	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman
Ronald C. Zimmerman	,	Treasurer
Henry J. Minnig	,	Assistant Treasurer
John G. Botto	,	Secretary
William Deangeles, Jr.	,	Assistant Secretary
Edward M. Brennan	,	Solicitor
John R. Poff, P.E.	,	Engineer, Light- Heigel & Associates
Christina M. Q. Herndon	,	Authority Secretary
William Orlowsky, P.E.	,	Executive Director
Lynn Strausser	,	Pretreatment Coordinator

#### GUESTS

Brian Dries	,	President - Borough of Palo Alto
Vince Riotto	,	Vice President- Borough of Palo Alto
Jean Towle	,	Executive Director, Pottsville Library
Brenda Schuettler	,	GPASA Billing Supervisor
Andy Wollyung	,	City of Pottsville Councilman

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Wollyung, Pottsville City Council, stated the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street flooding has always been an issue even when he was involved with Rosenberger Plumbing and growing up in this environment working on the sewer separation of Mahantongo Street with his grandfather in the summers. He thanked William T. Orlowsky for guiding the City of Pottsville on the right direction. He stated he would like a better relationship with all the Boards and if he can do anything to help it's done.

Mr. Wollyung thanked the Board.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 27, 2025, were presented for approval.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the August 27, 2025 meeting minutes.

REQUISITION NO. 709

Payee	-	Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1
Amount	-	\$ 352,736.73
Date	-	September 24, 2025

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved Requisition No. 709 for September 24, 2025.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's report for September 2025 presented by William T. Orlowsky, P.E.:

1. Presented for the Board's information and update of the Main Plant. The headworks is still not functioning properly because the bar screen is still out-of-service. The bar screen repairs should be completed in about a week's time. Also, the Grit Pump is still out of service but Axiom has a short-term fix planned that should be installed in about a month. After the bar screen and grit pump are back in-service, the headworks equipment will be online and operational. Also, Axiom provided an estimate of \$190,000.00 to replace the decking on the bridges of six (6) clarifiers (approximately \$30,000/clarifier). This decking work has not yet been publicly advertised.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan, stated this project to replace the decking of clarifier bridges will have to be Bid publicly.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky also stated the communications at the West End Plant have been restored. As a result, the Main Plant can now monitor the West End Pump Station again. This has been out of service for five (5) years.

Mr. Orlowsky also stated ProMax will be installing motorized gates at the Main Plant and the West End Pump Station and the cost estimates will be given at the October meeting.

2. Presented for the Board's information PAPUC- Public Utility Commission sent us a fine from the PA ONE CALL in the amount of \$1,250.00 for not addressing call in a timely manner. The Emergency PA ONE CALL came in on the weekend and due to poor communications at the West End, Jim Thomas was not able to respond within three (3) hours. A laptop was purchased for Jim Thomas and now he can log into the emergency PA ONE CALLS on the weekends.

3. Presented for the Board's information received a surplus check from Benecon Insurance for \$17,871.75.

4. Presented for the Board's information on the urgent need projects, Mahantongo Arch and Division Street being emergency projects. Mr. Orlowsky spoke with Mr. Scott Navatnik of DEP he stated if these projects are emergencies, you must have all the plans and specs finalized.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated he would like to discuss this issue in the Executive Session.

Mr. Orlowsky stated Division Street Project should be finalized and funded by the G.P.A.S.A. funds because this project is a small piece of the puzzle financially. Mahantongo Arch Project should be a good candidate for the LSA Grant, but we need time to contact the property owners and take care of other issues.

Discussion followed.

5. Presented for the Board's information on the Street Crew Truck began construction on October 6<sup>th</sup> and we have a VIN number.

6. Presented for the Board's information on the LSA Grant, Ronald C. Zimmerman stated he received a quote from (M & L Associates) Mullin and Lonergan Associates. Their fee to prepare the application grant is \$6000.00 and there is a \$100.00 application fee.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to hire M & L Associates to prepare the application for the LSA Grant.

7. Presented for the Board's information on the Energy Broker Update Solicitor Edward M. Brennan will discuss this in his report.

8. Presented for the Board's information on the Comcast Easement and Solicitor Edward M. Brennan will also discuss in his report.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director's Report for September 2025.

## SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for September 2025 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board on the Energy Broker update New Energy had a lawsuit filed in 2023 against them and it settled two years ago. The agreement is for only one (1) year and the savings for one year would be \$25,000.00.

Discussion followed.

2. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board setting up a meeting with Mr. Orlowsky to discuss the financing on some of the big projects.

3. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan spoke with Mr. Richter and he will meet with him at a later date.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for September 2025.

## CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. John R. Poff, P. E. presented his report in written form. Refer to the attached report from Light- Heigel & Associates, Inc. for September 2025.

1. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information we are working on the Act 537 Plan update and the Market Street Sewer Separation Project, we attended the September 11th meeting with the Authority, City, and Senator Argall's Office to discuss the urgent need projects, Market Street Sewer Separation Project and Division Street Project.

Mr. Poff spoke with Scott Navatnik, DEP and he expressed that these projects are not emergencies.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt also spoke with Mr. Navatnik and again expressed these projects are not emergencies. Dr. Dewitt strongly disagreed with Mr. Navatnik.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff stated last month we provided a mapping contract to survey for traffic control for the Market Street Separation Project, the mapping length is 42,270 linear feet and the estimated cost is \$245,555.00.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky also requested surveys for Port Carbon Borough and Palo Alto Borough.

Mr. Poff stated the mapping length in Port Carbon Borough is 66,175 linear feet the estimated cost is \$351,646.00. Palo Alto Borough is 28,010 linear feet the estimated cost is \$176,238.00.

The grand total for all projects is \$773,438.00.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated he will look into other Grant information.

2. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information on the Norwegian Creek Culvert, the subcontractor had requested to look into a manhole that is in the back yard of 506 North Centre Street owned by Gemni Lake. This manhole cannot be accessed and we need approval from the property owner, but he has refused to comply.

Mr. Poff showed the map of Norwegian Creek Culvert.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Authority has a right to access this manhole and there must be an easement to access this manhole or we can file a court order but it will take at least thirty (30) days.

Discuss followed.

3. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information on the Port Carbon manhole investigation, still waiting to hear from the contractor.

4. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information on the Arch Street Collapse, working on the drawings and bid documents and on the Division Street Project both of these projects will need H.O.P. s because of the work being done on Centre Street.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, Board unanimously approved the Engineer's Report September 24, 2025.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Orlowsky stated the Bohorad's Clothing Store is connected to our sewer system not the closest Arch. Jim Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor dye tested to prove they are on our system.

Micky Pallas was sent a letter regarding the Career Link Building not connected to our sewer system. Jim Thomas will meet with Mr. Pallas and dye test the property.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 6:23 pm and reconvened at 7:29 pm.

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chairman of the Personnel Committee, Henry J. Minnig stated regarding the Billing Clerk position we interviewed three people and we are hiring Allison Campion as Administrative Assistant to work with the Executive Director on special projects, and we are also hiring Michele Pryce as the Billing Clerk.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated we must amend to agenda to fill two (2) positions.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to amend the September Agenda to fill two (2) positions.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by William Deangeles, the Board unanimously approved to hire Michele Pryce as Billing Clerk at the salary of \$40,000.00.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approve to hire Allison Campion as Administrative Assistant at the salary of \$40,000.00.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the legal issues and pleased to report we have recommendations from our Engineer and our Executive Director and our Solicitor that we can forgo the bidding process because it does satisfy the requirements of an emergency. We need a motion to authorize the Engineer and the Executive Director collaborate to receive not fewer than three bids to handle the excavation work required outside our own personnel so we can finally address the solution for the downtown flooding.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to have at least three (3) bids to handle the excavation work required outside our own personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m. on the motion of John G. Botto, seconded by Henry J. Minnig.

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JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY