GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 27, 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, August 27, 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	,	1st Vice Chairman
Ronald C. Zimmerman	,	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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on July 30, 2025, were presented for approval.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by William Deangeles, Jr., the Board unanimously approved the July 30, 2025 meeting minutes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

None.

REQUISITION NO. 708

Payee	-	Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1
Amount	-	$ 413,120.70
Date	-	August 27, 2025

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved Requisition No. 708 for August, 2025.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Presented for the Board's information at Main Plant and the West End Pump Station upgrades to the security systems, new lighting and motorized gates, for safety reasons, from Pro Max Fence Company from Reading will be installed.

Discussion followed.

2. Presented for the Board's information I attended the Port Carbon Borough Council Meeting.

Discussion followed.

3. Presented for the Board's information spoke with BAMR (Borough of Abandon Mine Reclamation) of DEP regarding the mine drainage in Palo Alto. BAMR was working on this project but they are pumping the water directly in our system. Mr. Snyder of BAMR will revive the project as soon as possible.

Brian Dries, Palo Alto Borough President, stated the house that held up the project on West Savory Street, the owner would not sign the easement that would allow BAMR to access the mine.

Discussion followed.

4. Presented for the Board's information Blu Crue tree removal completed the project at the Main Plant in conjunction with Weiner Iron & Metal. Mr. Orlowsky appreciated the cooperation from Weiner Iron & Metal.

5. Presented for the Board's information J & S Instruments will supply the Kron meters and the Area Velocity flow meters because Tim Schultz found a few of these Kron flow meters that were not working properly.

Discussion followed.

6. Presented for the Board's information I met with Mike Gellepsie of EnviroRep Company, they represent the manufacturer who supplied the Grit Pump at the Main Plant and that pump has an electric motor that is dying every time there is a substantial rain event. That pump has been out of service, so that means all the grit, rags etcetera is going into our system. Mr. Gellespie gave us a quick fix to keep the motor out of the water temporarily. Mr. Gellespie will work with Light-Heigel Associates to provide us with a permanent solution.

The staff also said there is some decking on the clarifier bridges that is severely corroded, and we are working on getting that upgraded and replaced.

7. Presented for the Board's information on the Street Crew Truck. Lynn Strausser, Pretreatment Coordinator, stated she and Jack Botto met with Sands Ford and signed the contract, but will the Street Crew truck be paid in full or are we going to finance the truck? And the 2025 Budget for the truck was only $55,000.00 so we have to amended the Budget.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked if Ford Credit does their own financing?

Lynn Strausser replied she called and emailed Sands Ford numerous times with no call or email returned.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the Authority should pay the truck out right.

On motion of Dr. Barry Dewitt, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman the Board unanimously approved to pay for the truck by check with the available funds.

John G. Botto stated with the new truck from Sands Ford will have a lot of new options and accessories.

On the motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to amend this 2025 Budget accordingly.

8. Presented for the Board's information on 305 5th Street, Port Carbon.

Discussion followed.

9. Presented for the Board's information on the Harris software upgrade will begin in January 2026 and may take four (4) months to complete.

Lynn Strausser stated the Harris software update for our billing system will be available in 2026 and if the Authority signs the contract by the end of August, 2025 and we will receive a $2000.00 savings and the Authority will not be invoiced until 2025

Discussion followed.

On motion of Charles Dries, and seconded by William Deangeles, the Board unanimously approved to sign the Harris contract at the end of August 2025 to invoke the saving of $2000.00.

10. Presented for Board's information Lynn Strausser contact Senator Argall's and Representative Twarzik's office to schedule a meeting to discuss Federal Funding for the Market Street Separation Project. The meeting is scheduled for September 11, 2025 in the Authority office at 11:00 am and everyone is invited to come to the meeting.

11. Presented for Board's information on the flooding in the downtown solution. Mr. Orlowsky demonstrated the solution on the Pottsville City maps.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Authority will be digging up Bonnie Dicello's parking lot. We must repair and pave the lot.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Board should authorize Mr. Orlowsky to begin the test pit and have a discussion with Mrs. Dicello.

On motion of Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the authorization.

John G. Botto thanked Mr. Orlowsky for the tour of the Main Plant, Board members and Pottsville City Council it was very informational and we discussed issue that need to be fixed, but overall the tour was great. He thanked Mr. Orlowsky for the tour.

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director's Report for August 2025.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for August, 2025 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board this Resolution must be signed tonight finalize the Civil Penalty and it was in good order and Chris Herndon prepared the final Resolution copy and mailed.

2. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board Grants and looking for money. The Redevelopment Authority will cooperate with this entity if the Authority applies for any Grants. They will be a co-applicant and send a letter of support. Craig Shields, Executive Director of the Pottsville Housing and also Barefield will send a letter of support if it is authorized by the Board.

Ronald C. Zimmerman sent an e-mail to the Board. Port Carbon applied for USDA Flood Mitigation Plan a few months ago, we have St. Clair, the County, East Norwegian Township, The Schuylkill Conservation District, New Philadelphia, Blythe Township and the only place that did not reply was Middleport and Port Carbon would like the Sewer Authority to be a co-sponsor.

Discussion followed.

Edward M. Brennan, Solicitor would advise the Board to authorize the Chairman to sign the necessary paperwork to be a co-sponsor for Port Carbon application.

On motion of William Deangeles, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved to co-sponsor Port Carbon.

Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, asked the Chairman if she can speak with Solicitor, Edward Brennan, the Eagle Tavern had a leak and they would like a reimbursement for two (2) months.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Brennan stated the water is not going into our system.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt made a motion to reimburse the Eagle Tavern for the two (2) months and John G. Botto seconded the motion and the Board approved the reimbursement.

On motion of Charles M. Dries and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for August, 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 August 27, 2025.

1. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information on the scan of the Norwegian Creek Culvert this scan is a draft.

Mr. Poff displayed to the Board a scan of Norwegian Creek Culvert.

Discussion followed.

2. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information about the Market Street Sewer Separation Project & the Corrective Action Plan/Act 537, we have a proposal to update the whole West Market Street basin.

Discussion followed.

Light-Heigel & Associates will produce cost estimates with the City of Pottsville and also the Authority will file for Grants. But, if we do not get any Grants, there will have to be rate increase discussed.

Mr. Orlowsky stated the rate increase would come because based on the Engineers cost DEP and PennVest need to see the cost estimates and that is why there is a discussion about rate increase.

Mr. Brennan stated we do not know what funding we will get and this proposal is the beginning and once you get the cost estimate. The cost will not exceed $52,249.00.

John R. Poff, P.E. stated they will have the cost estimate by the September meeting.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approve Light Heigel & Associates to proceed with this plan and not to exceed $52,249.00.

Mr. Poff stated Mr. Orlowsky would like us to survey and map the rest of West Market Street Basin. We only surveyed the downtown area, and also the mapping for Palo Alto Borough and Port Carbon Borough. Mr. Poff has a contract for survey control for the project which is $9078.00

Discussion followed.

On motion of Dr. Barry Dewitt, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved proposal from Light Heigel & Associates the survey control at the cost of $9078.00.

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

Discussion followed.

4. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information on the Pretreatment Ordinance penalty costs, Thomas W. Schreffler, P.E will set up a meeting with Mr. Orlowsky and Lynn Strausser to discuss the Pretreatment Ordinance.

5. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information on the Arch Street Collapse, working on the bid documents and the plan is to bid this by the fall of this year.

Mr. Poff stated he really enjoys working with Mr. Orlowsky and James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor, and you have a lot of great employees. The Street Crew has been very accommodating to me and my personnel and really appreciate that, and thank you for the additional work.

Mr. Orlowsky stated James Thomas is 100% professional with customers who are extremely upset about their sewer issues, and Mr. Thomas handles these complaints in a fantastic way.

Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the Authority has a great staff and Engineering firm, and our Board is not bad either and Charles M. Dries seconded that statement.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, Board unanimously approved the Engineer's Report August 27, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Brenda Schuettler, told the Board she received a call from Mr. Wojciechowski, Hope Center on Mount Hope Avenue to thank Mr. Orlowsky and the Street crew for all their help and what a wonderful job they did for the Hope Center.

Mr. Orlowsky explained the issue at the Hope Center. A issue with a line in front of the property. They fixed the issue fast and very respectful and site is perfect and the improvements are like night and day. Mr. Orlowsky added he is thankful Mr. Wojciechowski took the time to express his gratitude.

Dr. Barry Dewitt stated to send Mr. Wojciechowski an e-mail that we appreciate his call.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m. on the motion of John G. Botto, seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman.

JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY