GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING OF JULY 29, 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, July 29, 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

Jean Towle	,	Executive Director of Pottsville Library
Vince Riotto	,	Vice President of Palo Alto Borough
Mike Botto	,	GPASA Plant Operator
Jarett McCabe	,	GPASA Plant Operator
Brenda Schuettler	,	Billing Supervisor

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The minutes of the regular meeting for June 2026 were approved by James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Brian P. Dries.

REQUISITION NO. 719

Payee - Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority
Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1

Amount	-	$ 396,689.38
Date	-	June 2026

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #719 in the amount of $396,689.38.

Chairman Dr. Barry Dewitt requested the Board move the Executive Session to the end of the Meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Presented for Board's information for a N.O.V. (Notice of Violation) was submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection for failure to renew the Air Quality Permit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It expired in March 2025. The new permit was issued in April 2026 and expires in 2031.

Mr. Brian Dries asked what this violation was for.

Mr. Orlowsky replied we neglected to renew our Air Quality Permit at the Main Plant.

Mr. Orlowsky asked for a Motion for authorization to pay $9900.00 for the N.O.V. (Notice of Violation)

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked what happens if we do not pay the fine.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan replied the fine would increase, and you cannot negotiate.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. asked do we have any action on addressing that or renewing the Permit.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Jonathan Morris, P.E., and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to pay $9900.00 for the N.O.V. (Notice of Violation).

2. Presented for Board's information on 3B Services to repair/replace heat exchanger at the treatment plant.

Discussion followed.

3. Presented for Board's information the City of Pottsville is proposing an ordinance regarding the excavation of the streets and sidewalks requiring all utilities to do a mill and overlay for at least half of the road or one travel lane.

Discussion followed.

James T. Muldowney stated the City of Pottsville cannot do this and asked the Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan if this is even legal.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan replied PennVest will not reimburse you for a full paving of the road.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated this was the first reading of the City of Pottsville's ordinance and they stopped the reading and tabled it until the next Council Meeting. The City of Pottsville was waiting for comments from the utilities.

John R. Poff, P.E. stated he replied to the City of Pottsville and the Board, Solicitor and SDE should have a meeting with the City of Pottsville to discuss this Ordinance and other issues.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved John R. Poff, P.E.'s recommendations, comments and advisements to the City of Pottsville.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. added regarding the comments on the Ordinances some Municipalities have added a clause for emergency excavations so we do not have to wait for permits, and maybe the City of Pottsville can add this clause or language to the Ordinance so we can do our work without waiting for a permit.

Discussion followed.

4. Presented for Board's information on the Division Street Project which began on Monday, July 27, 2026. They are trying to locate the water lines in the travel lanes of Centre Street so we can avoid the lines and working with Andy Aungst has been very nice and easy.

Discussion followed.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated SDE will provide a schedule for the Division Street Project.

5. Presented for Board's approval to pay Telco Group $2275.00 for the replacement of vehicle loop sensors at the intersection of Mahantongo and Centre Streets. During the Arch repair in front of the Necho Allen, we excavated and pulled up vehicle loops that work with the traffic signals and they must be replaced.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to pay Telco Group $2275.00.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for July 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor Brennan stated regarding the Division Street Project the Easement Agreement with Bonnie DiCello (Carmen DiCello Estate) is completed and signed and it is kind of relevant because the Authority will be digging up the entire parking lot so we will have to pave the entire parking lot rather than digging up the middle of the lot and also it will be cheaper because it is a narrow parking lot with the big Arch. Mrs. DiCello requested that the entire parking lot be paved so there will not be a gap in the middle of the her parking lot.

Discussion followed.

2. Solicitor Brennan stated he prepared a Resolution to raise the Sewer rates in January 2027, the 1973 Sewer Authority rate Ordinance is very detailed and this should be revisited and updated.

Discussion followed.

Brian Dries asked about the new Miners 1928 Hotel which was the Miners Bank in Pottsville and how many EDU's (Equivalent Dwelling Unit) did the bank have and did the Authority get a Tap-In fee.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan replied the developer should have submitted a land development plan to the City of Pottsville.

Discussion followed.

John Poff, P.E. asked if this property is billed on consumption.

Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, replied yes and the pipe size first and then the usage and it is metered by the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority.

Solicitor Brennan request the Engineering Committee and Mr. Orlowsky to discuss with the developer and the City of Pottsville about how many EDU's will be used for this project.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan gave the Board a Resolution to update the rate ordinance since the last Resolution was done in the 90's and he recommends John R. Poff, P.E., and SDE to update the Ordinances.

John R. Poff, P.E. stated this can be completed by the end of the year.

Ronald C. Zimmerman added we should contact the Housing Authority, Barefield, Schuylkill County Community Action, Servants to All and any other non-profit customers because they need this information for applying for Grants.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated everyone should be notified of the rate changes.

Discussion followed.

Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, replied Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, can post the new sewer rates on the Authority website and the Authority Facebook page. She has been very good with that stuff and we can also notify customers by putting a message on the bill.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan added we should put that due to the increased cost, the Authority is considering a rate increase.

Chairman, Dr Barry Dewitt stated we should wait to get the report back and the final numbers before notifying anyone.

Discussion followed.

On motion James T. Muldowney, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approve to amend the Agenda to allow consideration to adjust the rates beginning January 1, 2027.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the rate increase would be $9.00 per quarter for residential customers and 147% of water bill for commercial customers, Cliffside Housing would be 7% of the current rate and Yuengling, Honeywell and JFK Swimming Pool would be 7% increase of the current rate. The last rate increase was in 2010.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. asked John Poff, P.E. how long would it take to do the report.

Mr. Poff replied probably at the September or October Board Meeting, the bulk of our report will address Tap-In Fees.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig the Board unanimously approved to pass the Resolution.

Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, asked the Board when she should notify the customers of the rate increase.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt replied right away notifying the customers of the increase as of January 1, 2027.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, stated she will notify everyone on her end.

3. Solicitor, Brennan updated the Board on the property on MacKenzie Alley. This is on a residential section and appears to be a grassy lot and it is a quarter acre corner lot. The Authority can sell this property if so desired.

Discussion followed.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, stated a neighbor is interested in buying the property but we are waiting for an appraisal from Ed Barket so the neighbor can be contacted and see if they are still interested.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked does this have to be put out for bid.

Solicitor Brennan replied this is not like a Borough, City or Township this is a Authority, you just need to get fair value for the property.

Ronald C. Zimmerman added we should not just only give it to one person maybe other people should have the opportunity.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt added this property is in proximity to the Elementary School and it could be used for parking or playground or rec area and if it is transferred to a School District does that change the rules at all.

Discussion followed.

4. Solicitor Brennan updated to the Board he has been working with Brenda Schuettler with the Liens and we have Bankruptcies that have to be sorted out also we received $5000.00 for liens paid this month.

Solicitor Brennan added the old Chinese Restaurant across from the Pottsville Library went up for Sheriff Sale and the Authority had liens on the property and we got paid for those liens and the owner of record filed an Objection to the Sheriff Sale and Judge Goodman agreed and overturned the Sheriff Sale, so we may have to return some money.

Lynn Strausser asked Solicitor Brennan if he had the Resolution for Dave Shrom regarding naming the current trustees to the American Funds Plan.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan stated this can be done by motion so we need to amend our trustees for the American Fund Plan.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to amend the trustees as follows to remove Charles M. Dries and add Brian P. Dries to the American Fund Plan.

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

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer's Report for July 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Mr. Poff updated the Board there was an Engineering Committee meeting on Monday, July 27th in which we discussed the rules, regulations and standards and we presented a proposal to the Engineering Committee. Matthew Pelachick, P.E. SDE put the proposal together so he will explain the proposal.

Matthew Pelachick stated Jonathan Morris, P.E. did not find any rules, regulations or standards for the Authority.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approve the Engineers Report for June 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 6:14 pm and reconvened at 7:13 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Henry J. Minnig, Chairman of the Personnel Committee congratulated Jarett McCabe on getting his license and as a reward for that he will immediately get raise starting the next pay period, 100% full rate at $31.99.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved Jarett McCabe raise.

2. William T. Orlowsky, P.E., Executive Director discussed hiring Mel Cooksey, Risk Management Services for Human Resources related manuals for the Authority, the proposal was for $2250.00 for the first year.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the proposal to hire Risk Management Service.

3. Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, requested approval of the McGriff Insurance for August 8,2026 to August 8, 2027 a premium increase of 2%.

Discussion followed.

Amy Miller, CIC, CISR, Assistant Vice President of McGriff Insurance recommended Motor Vehicle Reports on all drivers at the time of hire and annually.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated this must be negotiated with the Teamsters Union before this is implemented.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Brian Dries, the Board unanimously approved the McGriff Insurance proposal.

4. John G. Botto, Chairman of the Negotiation Committee, discussed an update on the Teamsters contract negotiations. The union members asked for a substantial increase in pay and we will come back with a counter proposal at the next negotiation meeting on August 17, 2026 with James Thomas, Union Stewart, Marty Davis, Teamsters representative, and Timothy Schultz, Main Plant Chief Operator.

5. Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the Board is going to maintain their position on advertising for a Plant Manager/Pretreatment Coordinator.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, asked if the Authority is advertising for a Plant Manager/Pretreatment Coordinator and can someone get the job description for adverting.

6. Mr. Orlowsky discussed hiring Ronald Deramo as Maintenance Trainer.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan stated the hourly rate will be in the collective bargaining agreement and he recommend if there is a motion to hire Mr. Deramo as Maintenance/Trainer the same rate under the collective bargaining agreement for Maintenance Man on a temporary basis to train the new Maintenance Technician at a temporary basis not to exceed the end of the year.

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board voted 6-1 to hire Ronald Deramo as Maintenance Trainer to not exceed the end of the calendar year or as the Executor Director seems fit.

Jonathan Morris, P.E., voted nay.

7. Brian Dries stated in the Engineering Committee meeting file sharing drive(s) such as Dropbox or Google Drive would be helpful to the Board Members and Engineers to collect documents from the Authority.

Discussion followed.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated he is concerned about and he is all for this to be able to go back and research the old Resolutions to help with decision making for the Board, but we should be careful about security.

Discussion followed.

Brian Dries requested we contact the Authority IT company, CopyCat and see what they say and we can table this till we get the answers.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, stated she will contact CopyCat and get the answers and report to the Board at the next Board meeting.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated in Executive Session we discussed labor issues regarding two of our staff members and the Agenda must be amended.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approved to amend the Agenda to consider request salary increases for Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, and Christina Herndon, Executive Secretary.

Henry J. Minnig, Chairman of the Personnel Committee is offering a salary increase of $2,500.00 per year which comes out to $1.37 an hour.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the salary increases.

<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>

1. Mr. Orlowsky discussed the Axiom Hydraulics Inc. updated proposal to install 5 (five) new catwalks at the Main Plant at the cost of $315,250.00 this is an increase of $100,000.00 from the 2025 proposal.

Discussion followed.

John Poff, P.E., stated this proposal say galvanize c channel so how much more would aluminum cost.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. asked if this must be bid.

Brian Dries stated Axiom Hydraulics Inc. is a Costar company contract number 016119 and costar member number 345229.

Discussion followed.

Jonathan Morris, P.E., and John Poff, P.E. requested the Executive Director to see what aluminum price would cost.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated if we awarded the contract to Axiom they would be locked into that number but you can always do a Change Order and if we wait the cost of material will increase and it is a safety issue.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Axiom Hydraulics Inc. proposal at $315,250.00 also a second bid for the aluminum price and have John R. Poff, P.E. review proposal and report to the Board to make a change.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman, Budget Committee the budget for this project was $250,000.00 the original quote was $200,000.00 we raised it $50,000.00 and we were not prepared for this increase, the Authority Budget was $466,000.00 to the good but spent that and more.

2. John G. Botto reported on the West End Pump Station signs 2 new signs were purchases bringing the total to $35,000.00 and two more signs in the works.

Mr. Botto also updated the Board on the Railway Park project was completed, the Authority donated the pipe, Dallago Backhoe donated and Pottsville Materials.

<u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u>

Mr. Orlowsky stated he spoke with the new City Administrator Mr. Strable regarding a meeting with the City of Pottsville Mayor requesting the Authority to use Gunite on the Stone Arches before the City takes over the Stone Arches. City of Pottsville Engineer's Benesch estimated cost would be $11,000.00.

City Administrator, Mr. Strable requested the cost be shared by the City of Pottsville and the Sewer Authority and Mr. Orlowsky agreed to split the cost.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan added the Authority has to transfer all the old arches to the City of Pottsville because they only convey storm water.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky stated the inspection of the Stone Arches is scheduled for August 5, 2026.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Agenda must be amended for the City of Pottsville to share the cost of $11,000.00

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approved to amend the Agenda to share the cost with the City of Pottsville.

Mr. Orlowsky added the City of Pottsville would like the Authority to provide employees to serve as traffic control.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board voted 6-1 to share the cost of the Engineering studies with the City of Pottsville.

Brian Dries voted nay.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. on the motion of Henry J. Minnig, seconded by James T. Muldowney.

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JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY