

GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 25, 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, February 25, 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
Charles M. Dries	,	1 st Vice Chairman
James T. Muldowney	,	2 nd 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
William Orłowsky, P.E.	,	Executive Director
Christina M. Q. Herndon	,	Authority Secretary
Lynn Strausser	,	Office Manager / Pretreatment Coordinator

GUESTS

Brian Dries	,	President - Borough of Palo Alto
Vince Riotto	,	Vice President- Borough of Palo Alto
Jean Towle	,	Executive Director of Pottsville Library
James Quinn	,	Office Employee
Brenda Schuettler	,	Billing Supervisor
John R. Poff, P.E.	,	SDF Engineering
Matthew Peleschak, P.E.	,	SDF Engineering
Mike Emery	,	Pennsylvania Rural Water Association
Dave Shrom	,	Shrom Associates

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The minutes of the regular meeting for January 2026 were approved by Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman.

REQUISITION NO. 714

Payee	-	Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1
Amount	-	\$ 492,427.57
Date	-	February 25, 2026

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved Requisition No. 714 for February 2026.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt welcomed Mike Emery from the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association to discuss the GIS system.

Mr. Emery displayed maps to the Board.

Discussion followed.

William T. Orłowski, P.E., Executive Director stated he met Mr. Emery at a seminar he and Lynn Strausser, Office Manager attended.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Emery stated this system is easy to learn and use and the cost is based on the population.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated in order to get a quote, Mr. Orłowski will get the precise number of manholes and by the next Board Meeting we will have the cost and the Executive Director will let Mr. Emery know if the Board takes any action.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt welcomed Dave Shrom of Shrom Associates, he takes care of the retirement plan.

Mr. Shrom stated the issue is an employee having started late in the plan. According to the plan, all full-time employees must enter the plan at their six (6) month mark. Employees must contribute a minimum of 4% and G.P.A.S.A. will match 7%.

Mr. Shrom explained that due to the error, G.P.A.S.A. is responsible for repaying the 7% contribution, a portion of the employees 4% contribution and an estimated value of the lost dividends.

The amounts will be confirmed by ATR.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orłowsky asked if he can work with Mr. Shrom to make these payments retroactively.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated that legally the Authority must pay the employees retroactive amounts because an employee was not added and should have been.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved to retroactively correct and reimburse the retirement fund for the approximant amount of \$3,900.00 consisting of both employer and employee missed contributions.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 5:32 pm and reconvened at 6:38 pm.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated last month the Board tabled the appointment of Committees and the Committees have been developed as follows: Chair of the Streets is Charles M. Dries, Chair of Budget is Dr. Barry Dewitt, Chair of Personnel is Henry J. Minnig, Chair of Engineering is Jonathan Morris, P.E., Chair of Negotiations is John G. Botto, Chair of Insurance is James T. Muldowney, and Chair of Finance is Ronald C. Zimmerman.

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

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated next will discuss the payment to Light-Heigel & Associates for their invoices.

Mr. Orłowsky replied new invoices were received today and he spoke with Keith Heigel and asked him to send all outstanding invoices which are around \$100,000.00.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the Board should table payment of these invoices until they are reviewed.

Discussion followed.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager stated she has a total of \$127,992.73 for the invoices from Light-Heigel & Associates.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Board can table the payment of invoices and Light-Heigel & Associates must release all data for the Authority.

James T. Muldowney asked if we voted on it contingent on the review of the invoices then Light-Heigel would not have to wait to be paid.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky asked if he could go over the invoices.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt requested a motion to hold the final invoices and if the final invoices look appropriate disburse the check.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to table the payment and hold the final check until the final invoices are reviewed.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Presented for the Board's information on the Mahantongo Arch Replacement Project will be on a holding pattern until the 2026 Consulting Engineer is appointed.

Solicitor Brennan added the downtown bathrooms will be removed and possible filled in the underground bathrooms so it does not impact our new sewer lines, and the concrete handicap ramp must be removed by the Authority and the plaque will be removed.

2. Presented for Board's information and update on Division Street Project he would like to start immediately and start discussion with Pat Ungst about the bonding and with Solicitor Brennan about the easement with Mrs. Dicello's property which is required before we begin the project.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan spoke with Attorney Gretchen Sterns, Solicitor for the City of Pottsville, and this will not be a problem, the tie up with easement is because Mrs. Dicello requested extra parking for her customers and the City will work with the Parking Authority on this request and City Council will approve the parking.

3. Presented for Board's information regarding the Comcast Easement.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Comcast Easement is ready to go and recommend to approve the easement for Comcast to do the internet.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the Comcast Easement.

4. Presented for Board's approval to hire an intern. Mr. Orlowsky was contact by Emma Clark, a student at Virginia Tech, and her course of study is in Water Resource Policy Management. She would be a great fit and she is taking classes in GIS, and using an intern to do

the data entry for GIS will save the Authority money. Miss Clark can work from mid-May to mid-July.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to review the internship and monies to be paid.

5. Presented for Board's approval to reimburse Alice Ricketson owner of 210 North Fourth Street Pottsville, for the bill from Rotto Rooter for a clogged main in the road behind the Luthern Church. Our Street Crew repaired the clogged main because it was the Authority's responsibility.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved to pay Rotto Rooter bills for 210 North Fourth Street in the amount of \$900.00.

6. Presented for Board's approval for a Grinder Pump at the West End Pump Station.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orłowsky stated a new Grinder Pump costs \$32,000.00.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked if this company Axiom is Costar company.

Mr. Orłowsky replies Axiom is a Costar company.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to purchase a new Grinder Pump for the West End Pump Station.

7. Presented for the Board's approval is the tabled Budget for 2026.

Mr. Orłowsky explained the expenses are about \$300,000.00 less than our revenue.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked what are some of the biggest projects.

Mr. Orłowsky replied the decks on the clarifier must be repaired.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked Mr. Orłowski about the UV system that is another big expense and there would be most likely be long term chemical savings.

Mr. Orłowski explained the electrical expenses may increase because the UV system runs on electricity, but the Authority would not pay for chlorine, sodium bisulfite which takes the chlorine out after you kill the microbes and the Department of Environmental Protection will eventually require the Authority to treat for Chlorine byproducts.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked what the Authority pays for chemicals yearly and did we get any quotes of the UV system.

Mr. Orłowski replied the cost for yearly chemicals are \$100,000.00. James Moyer the sales representative from Cappy explained they are a Costar company and offer term key services for small projects as the Authority's and if it is a retro fitting UV system the Authority can avoid going through the bid process, more like a design build. Mr. Moyer also suggested that there is a number of contractors they work with are also Costar contractors. Mr. Orłowski stated this can make the project go nicely together, and one of the contractors is Quandel, so Cappy, Quandel and Trojan are all Costar companies and we can do this project inhouse and he would still ask the Authority's Engineers what to do.

Mr. Matthew Peleschak, P.E. from SDE (Systems Design Engineers, Inc.) addressed the Board. This project is a permittable activity and needs to be permitted with D.E.P. so you may not need construction drawings but you need permitting.

Brian Dries, Palo Alto Borough President, asked a few months ago we were shown the Chlorine room which was really bad shape at the Main Plant will this UV project help the Chlorine room.

Mr. Orłowski replied it would stop it from deteriorating and the wall must be sparshed the walls and repaint the room.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt added he and Jonathan Morris, P.E. were down at the Main Plant and deck repair is a must and in rough shape.

Mr. Orłowski stated the GIS, sewer separation and repairs of arch collapses are hard to estimate, the miscellaneous expense is for Street Crew, manholes, pipes, stone and backfill.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated the UV system needs engineering on this type of projects and Cappy is great, and there is so much involved in the UV system and would recommend an Engineer to review this before the Authority makes any decisions.

Mr. Orłowski stated that Cappy will have these plans by December 2026 and construction will begin in the spring of 2027.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked how much money do we have in the bank aside from projected revenue.

Mr. Orłowski replied 9 million dollars.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated some things in the Budget are significantly lower than last year.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved to table the approval of the Budget until the March 2026 meeting.

8. Presented for Board's information, the homeowner of 1511 Mahantongo Street, Pottsville, was having back up in their yard. 1514 Howard Avenue, located above 1511 Mahantongo Street, has their lateral going through the yard of 1511 Mahantongo Street and also into the house. Somewhere between the homes the line is broken and is causing a leak in the yard and basement of 1511 Mahantongo Street. Justin Trefsgger, City Zoning, the property owner of 1514 Howard Avenue, and the property owner of 1511 Mahantongo Street, met and agreed to let the landlord dig up the yard to replace the broken pipe. The Authority Policy is we service from the curb out to the street.

9. Presented for Board's information Pete Keitsock, Executive Director of Avenues, asked about their building on 1755 West Market Street, Pottsville because during every rain storm their sewer backs up into their property. James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor, explained to Mr. Keitsock that all of the roof drains are connected to the lateral so they must disconnect the roof drains because the water from the roof is providing pressure from the head to push the water up and above the floor on the building causing the backup.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for February 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan, presented to the Board on proposal from Barley & Snyder they have an office in Schuylkill Haven and Atty. David Rattigan and Atty. Mike Fox work at this office. This firm is from Lancaster and they have a lawyer in Lancaster, Nikolajs V. Gaikis, who specializes in Employee Benefits. There are a number of issues to be discussed and the proposal is for \$325.00 an hour and bill us for a \$1000.00 retainer which is fair and reasonable.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked if there is a rough estimate on the cost for billable hours.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan replied the Authority's issues are not bad and will be less than \$10,000.00

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved to hire Barley & Smith to review the Authority's Employee Benefits.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for January 2026.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Keith Heigel Light- Heigel & Associates, Inc., was absent for his report for February 2026.

Mr. Orlowsky stated there was an Engineer's report submitted in writing.

Mr. Orlowsky spoke with Keith Heigel. He is sending out the Act 14 notification for this project which alerts all the host municipalities and counties of what the Authority is doing and Mr. Heigel will mail these notifications.

Mr. Orlowsky added we will have to go back and discuss with Light-Heigel & Associates about Division Street Project, because there is a bank of Verizon conduits across that whole way and Verizon said most of the banks are dead, empty and over 100 years old and it may not be too difficult to extend the storm water line from 2nd up to 3rd which we really need to do to keep the water away from the Pottsville Library.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approve the Engineer report for February 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Orlowsky stated all of the newer employees at the Main Plant are coming up to the Office once a week for classes to pass the test for their Operators License. They should be recognized for trying to improve themselves. Whenever the employees are here he would like to buy them lunch. All employees are welcome to attend the lunch

The Board approved the lunch.

John G. Botto stated there is no update on the signs at the West End Pump Station. There is \$25,000.00 in the Budget for the selling of the signs and thanks to Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, again for her help.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the appointment of the Engineer for 2026 was tabled last month and there is a proposal for Systems Design Engineering, Inc. (SDE).

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved to appoint SDE as the Authority Consulting Engineer.

The Board welcomed John R. Poff, P.E. back to the Authority. Mr. Poff thanked the Board and SDE is very excited to be working for the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority. Mr. Poff introduced Matthew Peleschak, P.E. who is a professional Engineer, a shareholder in the company and on the Executive Board of SDE, and a resident of Forest Hills, Pottsville and a rate payor and Mr. Peleschak is also the assistant department manager of our wastewater team, and SDE has 13 (thirteen) P.E.'s on staff.

Matt Peleschak, P.E. thanked the Board, and SDE has been around since 1986. SDE was started by Mike Pernesi and Mr. Unger who is retired, some of our employees have worked at SDE for almost 40 (forty) years we retain a lot of knowledge. SDR provides full service inhouse and SDE has a Wastewater group, Municipal group, a Mechanical and Electrical and Plumbing department and all the departments work closely especially dealing with treatment plants and pump stations, and also have a Construction Administration group so SDE covers a wide range and keep most things inhouse. Within the last 18 (eighteen) months SDE started a GIS department and the gentleman in charge of this department has over 35 years of experience with GIS.

Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. on the motion of Charles M. Dries, seconded by Henry J. Minnig.

JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY