GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 28, 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, May 28, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Barry Dewitt, II, Chairman with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PRESENT

Dr. Barry Dewitt, II , Chairman

Charles M. Dries , 1st 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. , Acting Executive Director and Project

 Manager

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

Josh Sophy , Coal Region Canary

Amy Marshiano , Republican Herald

Brenda Schuettler , GPASA Billing Supervisor

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PUBLIC COMMENT

 Brian Dries, Palo Alto Borough President asked the Board if there would be a forensic audit regarding the entire time when Mr. Joseph F. Spotts, III worked as the Executive Director, because as a customer I would be concerned that funds were misappropriated.

 Discussion followed.

 Acting Executive Director, William T. Orlowsky responded the Authority is looking into all purchases, expenditures in house and our yearly Audit begins on Monday, June 9th, 2025 with Jones & Co. This issue has been discussed with our Auditors.

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

 On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved the April 30, 2025 meeting minutes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

 Henry J. Minnig stated we should advertise for the position of Executive Director.

 Mr. Orlowsky stated there was an existing advertisement on file for an Executive Director and if the Board would like to revise this advertisement.

REQUISITION NO. 705

Payee - Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority

Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1

Amount - $ 238,000.00

Date - May 28, 2025

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On motion of Charles M. Dries and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved Requisition No. 705 for May, 2025.

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

 Acting Executive Director’s report for April 2025 presented by William T. Orlowsky, P.E.:

 1. Presented for the Board’s information we received a refund check from Benecon Insurance for $17,855.00.

 2. Presented for the Board’s information a tree collapsed on the West End Pump Station during a rain storm, contacted Blue Crue Tree Trimming and Removal owned by City of Pottsville Police Officer Charles Webber.

 3. Presented for the Board’s update of Arch Collapse at Quality Hotel spoke to Dr. Akbar about project and he is pleased that the bathrooms will be removed and the sidewalk repair.

 4. Presented for the Board’s update on the purchasing of a truck from Costars for the street crew, Lynn Strausser, Pretreatment Coordinator has been working with Costar and there is good news will be able to order the truck this summer now instead of waiting till next Spring, the application will be submitting in June 2025 and receive the truck in early Spring.

 5. Presented for the Board’s information on the Norwegian Creek Culvert and the downtown flooding we have been working with Historical Society, and the City Administrator, Ian Mahall and Becky his secretary.

 6. Presented for the Board’s information on the Port Carbon Borough issue

of the Arch collapsing at Krebs and Coal Street, I meet with Frank Messina a neighbor and discussed the problems and we will research maps at Port Carbon Borough Hall.

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 On 2nd Street behind Borough Hall that issue has be resolved and on

 3rd Street and Brown Street in Schoentown there supposably was an old manhole next to a new man hole but that was not a man hole it is just an indentation. James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor, James Tohill, P.E. Port Carbon Borough Engineer and myself agreed this is not an old man hole.

 7. Presented for the Board’s information we are trying to improve relations with our neighbors and people we work with so we had a luncheon with the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority’s Office Manager, Mark Smith who is retiring in July 2025 and his replacement Rich Garrity. It was very beneficial and a good step in improving our relationship.

 8. Presented for the Boards’s information our website has not been updated and Lynn Strausser has offered to manage the website and posting updates.

 As of right now we have Comcast, Verizon and ATT and we would like to have only one company and get a package deal and make it streamlined.

 9. Presented for the Board’s update Office Service Company will be installing the blinds on Monday, June 2nd and Tuesday, June 3rd.

 Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II asked the Solicitor Edward M. Brennan if there should be a motion to hire one IT company.

 Discussion followed.

 On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to have the Acting Executive Director hire one IT company.

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

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor’s Report for May 2025 Board Meeting.

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 1. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board that on June 11th, 2025 we will be meeting with the City Administrator, Ian Mahal, Mike Hummel, P.E. City Engineer, and William T. Orlowsky, P.E. Acting Executive Director and Thomas Schreffler, P.E. Light-Heigel Associates to discuss the storm water project.

2. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board that the City Council has agreed to the demolishing of the old bathroom by the Quality Hotel,

 and this will have to be included in the Bid Secs plus the removal of the fountain and the steps.

 Discussion followed.

3. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board that Mr. Orlowsky be authorized to arrange the City of Pottsville for a presentation on the information he has found on the downtown flooding and show them the maps and ideas he has come up with for the flooding by the Pottsville Library and the ultimate problem Norwegian Creek.

Charles M. Dries has asked Jean Towle, Executive Director of the Pottsville Library, and Jeff Driscol from Driscol Karate Institute on South Centre Street if they get water during the rain storm and they answer yes, every time it rains.

Acting Executive Director, William T. Orlowsky, P.E. also added Joanne Weres, from the Historical Society who is working with him on the Norwegian Creek Culvert is elated we are finally working on the flooding issues downtown.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky added he and Lynn Strausser attended a PMMA Seminar and we spoke with people from Derry Township, serving the Hershey area and they had a Storm Water project similar to our project and we discussed many issues. We meet with PennVest and received information on state funding.

 Ronald C. Zimmerman stated he was at a seminar and that PennVest gives a loan but there also is a grant and a loan together and there also local share money if you invest you will receive money back. Mr. Zimmerman also stated he is willing to help you in anyway with the County or in any way he can help.

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 Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II stated that the Solicitor recommended we take action to authorize our engineer to develop a proposal and a cost estimate for the long-term solution of the Norwegian Creek.

 On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved Light-Heigel Associates to develop a proposal and a cost estimate for the long term solution for the Norwegian Creek.

 4. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented for Board’s information prepared a memo to John R. Poff, P.E. Light-Heigel Associates on the Pretreatment Ordinance to research what our penalties could be due to many businesses not paying the pretreatment fees. EPA can allow 10% cost for a monthly billing penalty.

On motion of James T. Muldowney and seconded by Charles M. Dries the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor’s Report for May 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 May 2025.

1. 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 will be meeting with the City of Pottsville on June 11th, 2025.

 2. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board’s information on the Port Carbon manhole investigation which is still on hold due to the drought. James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor will contact me when work can be completed.

 3. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board’s information that Thomas W. Schreffler, P.E and I attended a conference on Thursday, May 22, 2025 regarding new technology to capture PFAS containments that is put on by the Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Association in which we received information on the PGAS restrictions.

 Discussion followed.

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 4. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board’s information on the Arch Street Collapse field survey works are done we have a base map and design. Mr. Orlowsky and I met and spoke with ENT Doctor and staff, and there are various tenants and entrances which may be an issue during the project. A preliminary plant will be completed by next week and will go out for bid soon, construction to begin in the fall the only issue may be the stone arch which goes all the way across Centre Street and we will need a PenDot Utility Permit to cross Centre Street.

 Discussion followed.

 Mr. Orlowsky stated he reached out to Jim Tohill, P.E. Benesh to see who his contact is at PenDot he gave me three names and I will call them as soon as possible. The utility HOP process is only three months.

 Discussion followed.

 On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved the Engineer’s Report for May 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

 Ronald C. Zimmerman stated with the high rains we had a couple of the man holes are collecting debris in the creek. Charles M. Dries spoke to James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor and he will take care of it as soon as the creek goes down.

OLD BUSINES

 None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

 The Executive Session to discuss personnel matters began at 5:43 PM and reconvened at 6:46 PM.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

 Jean Towle, Executive Director of the Pottsville Library stated that the last two rain storms we did have water again, but the bigger issue now is not inside it is outside. The water is coming down the alley behind the Library, and the water is gushing in the back door of the Library.

 Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II state he owned a home at 413 West Market Street in Pottsville which is up from the Library. And when it rained, we would

get flooding in our basement. Never got any resolution from Mr. Yingling or Mr.

Lipton so I understand and take this flooding very seriously.

 James W. Quinn, Office Manager asked the Board if he can clean out Mr. Spotts’s office and return his items.

 Mr. Orlowsky said we can put everything in a box and Mr. Quinn can call Mr. Spotts to pick of his items.

ADJOURNMENT

 The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m. on the motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Charles M. Dries.

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 JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY