GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING OF MAY 27, 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, May 27, 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	,	1st 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

Brian Dries	,	President - Borough of Palo Alto
Jean Towle	,	Executive Director of Pottsville Library
Brenda Schuettler	,	Billing Supervisor
James Pugh	,	Former Employee
Jeff Dunkel	,	Customer
Emma Clark	,	GPASA Intern
Mike Likwak	,	Customer
Cat Mahon	,	Customer

PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Dries, Palo Alto Borough President, stated he had two things. First Mr. Dries asked William T. Orlowsky, P.E., Executive Director if he could read the legal document he had circled. Mr. Orlowsky read the document aloud.

Discussion followed.

Second Mr. Dries asked about the issue on Mahantongo Street in front of Fanelli, Evans and Patel (FEP) law firm.

Mr. Orlowsky replied there was a gas line break, and our arch was collapsing and we repaired the collapse.

Mr. Dries asked if this area was separated 20 years ago during the storm water separation project.

Discussion followed.

Jean Towle, Executive Director of the Pottsville Free Public Library, asked why her emails were not answered and no one called her back about the water coming in the back door of the Pottsville Free Public Library last week. She would like the Board to know about these issues every time they occur, because this happens every time it rains.

Chris Herndon, Executive Secretary, asked Jean Towle to call her so a complaint can be filed and reported to the Street Crew and the Executive Director, then there will be a record of the rain event issue.

Discussion followed.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated there will be an Engineer Committee meeting on June 4th and he would like to come down to the Pottsville Library and see the issue.

Brian Dries asked if the Board ever passed the Budget.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, replied there is a preliminary Budget that continues to be under review and Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan will discuss the legal issues.

Solicitor Brennan replied there is no deadline and there are a few questions and they are refining it. We have a working budget.

Chairman Dr. Barry Dewitt added one of the reasons it has not been finalized is because of the all the active projects going on and we need to make sure the projects are budgeted accordingly.

The minutes of the regular meeting for March 2026 were approved by John G. Botto, and seconded by Charles M. Dries.

REQUISITION NO. 717

Payee	-	Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1
Amount	-	$ 344,682.75
Date	-	April 2026

Ronald C. Zimmerman would like to table this because he was not given the financials to review.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman., and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E. request to table the motion to approve the Requisition for April 2026 until the June meeting due to further review.

William T. Orlowsky, P.E., Executive Director introduced Emma Clark the new intern. Emma started on Monday, May 18, 2026. She attends Virginia Tech and just completed her sophomore year. She is helping us establish the GIS program and has begun scanning plans of our system and we are fortunate to have her.

Emma Clark replied thanks for taking me on and she is excited.

John G. Botto asked Ms. Clark when she will be starting in the field.

Mr. Orlowsky replied next week and tablets were purchased but need to be programmed and set up in the GIS program.

Jim Frank from SDE has been working with Emma, and in two weeks she should be out in the field.

John G. Botto asked if Emma Clark will be in the field alone because that would be a major safety issue.

Mr. Orlowsky replied his plan is to begin on the West side of Pottsville and work East and Ms. Clark will have someone with her at all times.

Discussion followed.

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 May 2026 presented by William T. Orlowsky, P.E.:

1. Presented for Board's information on the Division Street Project. The contractor, Pat Aungst, will be starting sometime between this meeting and the next meeting. Before Mr. Aungst finishes the work on Centre Street, we should have the Bonnie DiCello easement in hand.

2. Presented for the Board's approval for a Change Order to do the additional work for the Bonnie DiCello property.

Discussion followed.

Jonathan Morris asked if the Authority has a signed contract for this project because you need that first before you approve a Change Order in the amount of $175,000.00.

Discussion followed.

John R. Poff, P.E., added to put the inlets in the large diameter pipe on the Bonnie DiCello property and get it to Second Street the price was not included because the Authority did not have the soft dig, (water hose used to loosen soil), information.

Mr. Poff showed the Board a map of the Bonnie DiCello property.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked who is going to own the inlets when the project is completed, and what the Authority does for Pottsville the same should be done for Port Carbon and Palo Alto Borough.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan, explained it is a combined system and the Authority is responsible for the stormwater separation, but once all stormwater separations are completed the Authority will deed the stormwater pipes to the City of Pottsville, Port Carbon Borough and Palo Alto Borough

Discussion followed.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved the Change Order for Aungst to do the work on the DiCello property at a cost of $175,000.00.

3. Presented for Board's information on the Mahantongo Arch Replacement Project a small section collapsed in front of FEP (Fanelli, Evans and Patel) Law Firm, and during the repair the Authority was issued an Emergency Permit from PennDOT District 5-0. All the utilities were great to work with and the repair area will be removed from the contract for the Mahantongo Arch Replacement Project.

Mr. Zimmerman stated that anything prior to the grant approval cannot be reimbursed.

Jonathan Morris stated with the collapse of the Necho Allen Mahantongo Street Arch it is important to acknowledge what was avoided. The Authority was notified about the collapse on April 29th and the Engineer Committee met the next day and it is already backfilled.

Willam T. Orlowsky, P.E., Executive Director, added the thanks should go to the Street Crew who are top notch and Dallago Backhoe.

4. Presented for Board's information of the GIS program. We are scanning the As-Built plans and tracing them into the GIS files. The field data will be obtained in the next two weeks and also, there has been good coordination among GPASA, SDE and Copycat (IT consultant) and this software will be set up both on the Cloud, the server, tablets, mobile devices and we are working through this step.

5. Presented for the Board's information on the new NPDES permit issued on May 1, 2026. Within this permit the Authority must capture and see if we are treating 85% of all stormwater flow at the main plant and if not, we must develop a plan and submit to DEP within two (2) years explaining how the Authority plans on treating 85% of all the stormwater flow. The limit of Stormwater flow for the Authority is 15 million gallons.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky added some of the CSO Flow Meters will be replaced in June 2026.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the CSO Flow Meters must be fixed so the Authority can measure to stormwater flow numbers and this can be discussed at an Engineer Committee meeting.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked Mr. Orlowsky how many Flow Meters are not working.

Discussion followed.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, stated she received a text from Tim Schultz, Chief Operator at the Main Plant. Mr. Schultz said diversion AB Flow Meters were purchased and will be installed starting tomorrow, May 28th

John G. Botto added this expense of the repair to the Flow Meters is because nothing was done for years at the Main Plant.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated this expense is not on our Budget.

Mr. Orlowsky added the NPDES permit requires a Pretreatment Coordinator.

Ms. Strausser received another text message from Tim Schultz and he stated the diversion AB meters are less and the Board approved to purchase ten (10) meters which arrived last week. The total cost for installation and programming was $100,650.00.

Discussion followed.

6. Present for the Board's approval the City of Pottsville requested the Authority repair the Arch Collapse and allow for unencumbered pedestrian traffic between the two buildings and purchase materials to secure the entrance to above-ground bathrooms at Mahantongo and Centre Street.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked Mr. Orlowsky why does the City of Pottsville want the Authority to beautify the bathrooms, this is the City of Pottsville issue.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Authority will repair the Arch collapse and secure the area but the Authority cannot spend any money to beautify the area.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Zimmerman stated the City is expecting this project to be completed by June 5th so is the City expecting the Authority to pay for this work and the Authority should not be on the deadline of June 5th and also is surface restoration is only for the area we worked on is that correct.

John R. Poff, P.E., stated there is a hole in the sidewalk with a wood cover over it and a new arch must be created and backfill with stone and Dallago will pour four (4) inches of concrete on the sidewalk.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, stated in regards to the June 5th deadline she spoke with the Street Crew Supervisor, Jim Thomas, and he said there is no way that deadline can be met and tentatively the project will begin on June 8th.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Authority's response to the City of Pottsville is the June 5th deadline is not realistic. The Authority also needs numbers for the restoring of the sidewalk because it is a tripping hazard and someone can get hurt.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to restore the sidewalk around the Arch Collapse.

7. Presented for the Board's approval of the SDE's professional services agreement to assist with the UV system design at the wastewater treatment plant.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. stated there was an Engineer Committee meeting to discuss the UV system design and the proposal from SDE was in line with what he would expect as an Engineer and he would recommend the approval.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the cost of the UV project is $1.6 million.

On motion of Jonathan Morris, P.E., and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved SDE's professional services agreement for $125,000.00.

8. Presented for the Board's approval for SDE proposal for the decking upgrades on clarifiers at the main plant.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked how many decks must be upgraded and when he toured the Main Plant there were a total of three (3) decks to be replaced.

Mr. Orlowsky requested he get the map for the correct information.

Mr. Orlowsky stated we have seven (7) clarifiers and 5 will need the decking replaced.

Discussion followed.

John R. Poff, P.E. stated he would have a professional service agreement for the replacement of the decking at the June meeting.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated this should be tabled till the June meeting.

8. Presented for the Board's approval of a relief of billing from a water leak for Account # 760291, Home Concept, 536 North Centre Street, Pottsville in the amount of $905.78.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, if this owner is current on his properties.

Mrs. Schuettler replied no.

Mr. Zimmerman stated if the owner pays his bills and they are current we can make a decision.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt requested the Board table this till the June meeting.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board agreed to table this decision.

9. Presented for the Board's information People Share is interested in assisting with personnel searches.

10. Presented for the Board's information there was a high lead concentration found in the lab analysis results of the plant effluent which in violation of our permit.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. spoke with Tim Schultz, Chief Operator, at the Main Plant and he said it was from runoff or ground water and carried with the solids.

Discussion followed.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for May 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor Brennan stated the Teamster contract is up at the end of this year, and the Negotiating Committee will meet in June with Marty Davis, Teamster representative.

Discussion followed.

2. Solicitor Brennan stated after a personnel Committee meeting, he recommended a Loudermill Hearing due to employee infractions that must be addressed.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Charles M. Dries and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approved to have a Loudermill Hearing.

3. Solicitor Brennan stated there is a lawsuit from Mr. Richter and our insurance company will handle this lawsuit.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for May 2026.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer's Report for May 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. stated the CSO report solutions may be extensive, costly and take many years to accomplish this issue.

On motion of Jonathan Morris, P.E., and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approve the Engineers Report for May 2026.

NEW BUSINESS

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, stated the she met with Mr. Kirby of Mid Penn Bank to discuss moving money into three (3) month CD's at the rate of 3.75 % apy.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board approved to move the Capital Improvement Fund and one (1) million dollars from the Revenue Fund into two (2) different three (3) month CD's at the rate of 3.75% apy.

2. Ms. Strausser presented to the Board two (2) letters from Matthew Harrison the President of the Pottsville Area Little League and also the cost of the installation of the sewer lateral at Railway Park Batting Cages. The Little League is asking for assistance with the cost of the sewer installation.

John G. Botto asked if the Little League asked Dallago Backhoe to donate his cost.

Discussion followed

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated everyone would agree this is a great organization and we should be good partners and help them in any way we can.

On motion of Dr. Barry Dewitt, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board approved to donate $2,500.00 and not to exceed to Pottsville Area Little League.

Discussion followed.

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, to amended the previous motion.

Dr. Barry Dewitt voted Nay, Charles M. Dries voted Nay and Henry J. Minnig voted Aye, Jonathan Morris, P.E. voted Aye.

John G. Botto stated he will contact Mr. Dallago to request he donate his cost.

On motion of Dr. Barry Dewitt, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approve to donate the total cost of $2,500.00 and not to exceed to the Pottsville Area Little League if Dallago Backhoe Services do not donate their costs.

Discussion of hiring Bookkeeper and Plant Manager will be discussed in the Executive Session.

Discussion of retaining KAM Strategies a consultant to assist with grant monies and their fee is $3000,00 monthly with no contract.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated the Authority has been working with Mullen & Lonergan and their cost is less and he would donate his time to help with the Grants.

Rate increases for Mike Botto and Brice Brazinsky will also be discussed in the Executive Session.

Ms. Strausser added Mike Botto also received his Collection License.

Charles M. Dries stated he will be resigning from the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Board as of tonight, May 27, 2026. He thanked everyone and it has been a great experience and he hopes people know what we do here and this is not an easy job.

Mr. Dries commended Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan on his work and advice over the years.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt thanked Mr. Dries for his many years of service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 6:41 pm and reconvened at 8:07 pm.

Henry J. Minnig, Personnel Committee Chairman, stated the bookkeeper position will be appointed to Lynn Strausser. Ms. Strauser will go from the Pretreatment Coordinator to the bookkeeper position in addition to her role as Office Manager. Ms. Strausser will receive an immediate raise of $5,000.00.

Ms. Strausser's raise will be retroactive to when she began the work after the departure of the last bookkeeper.

The Plant Manager position will be tabled till the June meeting.

Mr. Minnig added raises for Mike Botto and Brice Brazinsky for passing their license exam. The Board decided to move them up to 90% of the operator's rate which will be $28.79 started at the next pay period, and the final 10% of the 100% operator's rate would be on their anniversary dates of hire.

Mr. Minnig would like to make an amendment of the agenda, to advertise for the Pretreatment Coordinator since Ms. Strausser is no longer the Pretreatment Coordinator.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved Ms. Straussser as bookkeeper and Mike Botto and Brice Brazinsky's raises.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the Budget Committee will be meeting on June 9th to discuss the 2026 Budget and report at the June meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Dunkel asked the Board why so many of the things on the agenda are repetitive and gone over at every meeting and no action is every taken. Also why doesn't Mr. Orlowsky know how many decks are at the Main Plant. It is hard to make a motion to pay for something when you do not have the correct information. Also, not having contacts is not a good business practice either. Mr. Dunkel asked why there were multiple police departments at the Main Plant.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan replied there was a personnel issue at the Main Plant and we are addressing this issue.

Brian Dries asked Mr. Orlowsky since you wanted Ms. Clark to do this GIS system safely why are you starting the GIS information on the westside of Pottsville when he told the Palo Alto Borough Council, he was beginning in Palo Alto.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Dries stated the safest spot for Ms. Clark to begin the GIS system would be Palo Alto Borough due to low traffic and she can work the kinks out and then Port Carbon also low traffic and then Pottsville which is mostly congested area should be easier.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky replied most of the flooding issues are from the West End of Pottsville and he thinks this is a safe area to begin.

Discussion followed.

Brian Dries added there will be big shoes to fill since his dad is resigning from the Board.

Dr. Barry Dewitt congratulated Mr. Dries and wished him the best.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m. on the motion of Charles M. Dries, seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman.

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JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY