GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

The Board Meeting of the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority was held on the Third Floor City Hall, Sewer Authority Conference Room on Wednesday, September 30, 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 (via phone)

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

Brenda Schuettler, GPASA Billing Supervisor

Jean Towle, Executive Director of Pottsville Library

Vince Riotto, Vice President of Palo Alto Borough

James Pugh, Customer/former GPASA employee

Todd Richter, City of Pottsville Planning Commission

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Todd Richter from the City of Pottsville Planning Commission. They are working on their five (5) year plan and he asked if the Sewer Authority is still under a moratorium, and how many EDU's (Equivalent Dwelling Units) are left.

Discussion followed.

William T. Orlowsky, P.E., Executive Director, asked Mr. Richter for the list of questions and he will get the answers he is requesting as soon as possible.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2026 MEETING MINUTES

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

REQUISITION NO. 721

Payee: Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority

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

Amount: $ 330,292.08

Date: September 2026

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved Requisition #721 in the amount of $330,292.08.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Presented for Board's information on the Division Street Project construction update,

there was a meeting with the City of Pottsville, Benesch Engineers, John R. Poff, P.E., SDE,

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, Jonathan Morris and Brian Dries to discuss the Stone Arches. The City of Pottsville is requesting a pipe in a pipe.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt stated the meeting with the City of Pottsville was very productive.

Jonathan Morris, P.E., stated he will send the minutes for the meeting with the City of Pottsville out as soon as possible.

Ronald C. Zimmerman asked is this part of the contract we already have or is this pipe in the pipe additional work and will we put it out for bid.

John R. Poff, P.E. stated this would be additional work.

Brian Dries replied since this pipe in the pipe was not on the original contract, we would have to ask Solicitor Brennan.

Solicitor Brennan replied the Board must make a motion to pause the Division Street Project because going forward with the City of Pottsville will depend on the negotiations regarding the pipe in the pipe and also this work will have to be re-bid. The meeting with the City of Pottsville was productive and the City of Pottsville agreed to talk with the Authority's Engineering Committee to find out what that want to accept.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff stated to date the original contract amount to work in the PennDOT Right of Way was $326,648.00.

Arthur "Pat" Aungst has requested an additional $24,523.56 due to delays and utility conflicts on Centre Street. Mr. Poff recommends the Board pay this additional amount and then the total contract amount would be $752,443.70.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan stated if Mr. Aungst cannot hold the price until next year (2027) we would have to re-bid.

Mr. Poff showed the Board a map describing the construction.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Zimmerman added Arthur "Pat" Aungst Contracting is an excellent company and is used for the County.

Jonathan Morris, P.E., added we must come to an agreement with the City of Pottsville before we do anything and we should get a submittal from Mr. Aungst to send to Benesch Engineering to look at and come to terms.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt asked when would we have the plans to submit to the City of Pottsville and Benesch Engineering.

Mr. Poff replied he is waiting on materials from Mr. Aungst.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan stated the City of Pottsville and this Board must make a decision at a minimum the Board should make a motion to pause the Division Street Project and maybe next meeting Mr. Aungst may have an answer that will dictate what we bid in addition to the pipe in pipe (slip line) and if Mr. Aungst cannot wait until next year he will bid on the whole thing.

Mr. Poff replied we would have to pay Mr. Aungst for the materials he has purchased.

Mr. Zimmerman asked Mr. Poff if we paid Change Order Number One and Two.

Mr. Poff stated the Board approved Change Order Number One and Number Two. Change Order Number Two has been paid minus ten 10% retainage with the first payment application.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff stated the Authority has paid Mr. Aungst to date $142,000.00 and tonight there is a pay Application for $108,382.32 which is for work completed to date including $24,523.56 due to delays and utility conflicts on Centre Street.

Mr. Morris stated if Mr. Aungst is immobilized and if he is shutting down for the winter, we have to make sure the paving is not damaged by the snow plows.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff stated SDE Engineering is submitting the plans to PennDOT for the permit.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt stated he thought when we submit the plans to the City of Pottsville and PennDOT because we need approval from both and if the City agrees we can take action and if we agree Mr. Aungst would not have to pack up for the winter.

Mr. Dries added if we modify the HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit) which Mr. Orlowsky estimated forty-five (45) days give or take Mr. Aungst was not going to demobilize and if we got the HOP and the winter was mild, he would work and if the pipe in pipe (slip line) was approved for $360,000.00 or up to $400,000.00 per Mr. Poff.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt stated if there is a way to keep Mr. Aungst at the site without demobilizing and get approval from PennDOT and the City of Pottsville we should proceed.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff stated if we proceed with the pipe in pipe the permit must be amended and it must be reviewed by PennDOT, but if we spray something such as gunnite we do not need to amend the permit.

Mr. Dries stated the City of Pottsville wants to see the specs. Give them to Benesch Engineering to approve and then go to PennDOT for the HOP and Mr. Aungst would not demobilize and if the winter was mild if would be done and if not, he would demobilize and begin early next year.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt agreed.

Mr. Poff stated he will get a package together with information from Mr. Aungst and work on the permit amendment and file the permit within two to three weeks but if will be at least 45 days till we get the permit.

Mr. Morris suggested we get a number from Mr. Aungst because the Board must approve this before anything and that will be next month.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff requested there be an Engineering Committee Meeting next week to discuss these issues.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan stated this should be on the October Agenda to make decisions on Mr. Aungst and the City of Pottsville.

Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, asked the Board if this also means putting the Pay Application on hold until the October Board Meeting.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Brian Dries, the Board unanimously approved the pay Application for $108,382.32 for Mr. Aungst.

2. Presented for the Board's approval to retain a 3rd party engineering firm to provide an independent review of options to rehabilitate stone arches for stormwater conveyance.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt stated we should not pay another 3rd party.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to table this approval to retain a 3rd party engineer.

3. Presented for the Board's information on the Mahantongo Street Project the LSA grant money has an eighteen (18) month window.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approved to authorize the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Director as needed to sign for the LSA grant.

Solicitor Brennan asked if the Mahantongo Street Project be included in the Engineering Committee meeting and meeting with the City of Pottsville.

Discussion followed.

4. Presented for the Board's information on the progress on proposed plan to meet new NPDES requirements due in 18 months.

Mr. Poff stated you authorized SDE to prepare a task activity report. Matthew Pelachick is working on this and hopefully next month will we report on the progress and Tim Schultz, Chief Operator, is providing the new accurate flow meter data from the CSO's.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt asked what the penalty or an extension.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Brian Dries and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director's Report for September 2026.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for September 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor Brennan stated he has been working with Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, and Michele Pryce, Billing Clerk, on new liens, sheriff sales and in one month we received $4,000.00. Staying on top of the liens pays off.
2. Solicitor Brennan met with the Engineering Committee and it is a great system to addresses the issues and report back to the Board and we are making headway with the City of Pottsville.
3. Solicitor Brennan stated we need to discuss a personnel matter and Teamster labor negotiations in the Executive Session

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Brian Dries, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for September 2026.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer's Report for September 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Mr. Poff updated the Board Matt Pelachick is working on the task activity report for the long-term Control Plan and the Act 537 Plan.

2. Mr. Poff informed the Board the SDE design team has 35% of the engineering design work on the UV disinfection system completed.

3. Mr. Poff informed the Board he met with Tim Schultz, Chief Operator, working on the sampling plan required by EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) for the pretreatment program. A Pre-Treatment Coordinator is needed as soon as possible because there is a lot of work to get this program back on track.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approve the Engineers Report for September 2026.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 5:53pm and reconvened at 6:56 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss the company truck used by the Executive Director.

Mr. Dries stated the truck is full of dents and since the new decal is on the truck he should be driving a nicer vehicle it is an appearance issue. Maybe get three (3) quotes from body garages and get the truck fixed.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Dries asked is there a company car policy.

Mr. Morris stated the recent Employee manual maybe the car policy can be added to this manual.

Discussion followed.

2. Discuss and approve reimbursement of $3,315.02 to Robert Evans for 209 Cherry Street, Port Carbon.

Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor, explained to the Board the Authority was never notified that the water meter was removed from Mr. Evan's property.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to reimburse Mr. Evans $3,315.02.

3. Discuss and approve obtaining three (3) quotes for HVAC improvements in office/lab of the treatment plant. Mr. Orlowsky retained quotes from Sommers HVAC Company in the amount of $12,000.00.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Zimmerman asked if this quote is for cooling/air conditioning because this is not budgeted for this year.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approve to table this quote until 2027.

4. Discuss and approve either repairing or replacing the water booster pumps at the Main Plant. Mr. Orlowsky stated these pumps are at least twenty (20) years old.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to replace the water booster pumps from Martin's Electrical with a warranty for $60,000.00.

5. Discuss Talia Campbell, GIS intern candidate from HACC.

Mr. Zimmerman stated we need more information from HACC to make a decision.

6. Discuss invoices from the City of Pottsville to repair damages to unmarked traffic signal utilities within a designated PA One Call area at the intersection of Centre and Market Streets totaling $4958.37.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt stated this is not the Authority's fault so the City of Pottsville must pay the $4,958.37 bill and this is a Board decision.

7. Discuss and approve General Service Agreement with Harrisburg University for scanning of maps.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Zimmerman stated we need more information from Harrisburg University to make a decision.

7. Discuss and authorize SDE to apply for an LSA Grant for UV lighting at the Main Plant.

Ms. Strausser spoke with Brian Dries about getting SDE to apply for a LSA Grant for the UV lighting project at the Main Plant costing 1.6 million dollars.

Mr. Poff stated SDE would have to provide all the technical information, Pamela Stevens at SDE does a lot of the grant writing and SDE and has obtained 2.2 million dollars for various clients.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Dr. Barry Dewitt, seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved SDE apply for a LSA Grant and fee not to exceed $5,000.00.

Mr. Poff suggested at the October meeting SDE may have a letter prepared to commitment letter.

Discussion followed.

8. Discuss Workers Compensation Insurance.

Ms. Strausser stated NJM Insurance has dropped the Authority as of December 31, 2026, because of the Authority's high claims. Amy Miller from McGriff Insurance is trying to get the Authority Workers Comp Insurance, if we do not get an insurance company the Authority will have to have State Workers Insurance Fund.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff stated he received a text message during the executive session from Jim Risler of Arthur "Pat" Aungst and Sons, he is his right- hand man, and he sent him rough numbers to shot creek the culvert. They gave two (2) options.

1. Full restoration of the inside of the culvert $660,000.00

2. Spotting in as needed $300,000.00

Mr. Poff stated Benesch Engineering would have to make a decision and see if this is acceptable.

Discussion followed.

9. Chairman, Dr Dewitt stated we must amend the Agenda to add a sub-committee to the Finance Committee.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T, Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to add a sub-committee to the Finance Committee.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt stated now we need a Motion to add a sub-committee for advertisements and signs to the Finance Committee.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to add a sub-committee to the Finance Committee.

Ms. Strausser asked the Board is the sub-committee for the Finance Committee the same members.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt replied yes.

Mr. Dries stated he was contacted by Sherrie from Representative Twardzik's office, someone from the City of Pottsville who resides on Race Street said they were not getting proper service from the Authority or the City of Pottsville.

Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss and approve Plant Operator/Engineers to join EPWA (Eastern Pennsylvania Wastewater Association.)

Ms. Strausser stated this was to be added to this month's agenda to see if the plant operators and Mr. Orlowsky can join the EPWA.

Mr. Poff added they provide continuing education and can tour other facilities and can get a discount of the classes for continuing education.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Zimmerman stated do we want make a motion when we do not how much it is to join EPWA.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved to table the Plant Operators/Engineer to join EPWA.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt added put this on the Agenda for October under Old Business.

2. Discuss Patton & Lettich, Forensic Auditors.

Ms. Strausser stated back in December we contracted Patton & Lettich to do a Forensic Audit and as of today we still do not have any results from Patton & Lettich so do we still want to continue and we have not paid them.

Mr. Dries added Patton & Lettich is not in existence anymore.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor Brennan stated we should refer this to the Finance committee.

Mr. Zimmerman added Patton & Lettich did Port Carbon Borough's DCD audits and when he got on council, they were in arears from 2017 and we had to go to someone else.

On motion of Brian Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to refer this to the Finance Committee.

3. Discuss any updates regarding Barley & Smith to review the Authority's Employee Benefits.

Solicitor Brennan stated he would take care of this.

4. Discuss Authority's office lease with the City of Pottsville.

Mr. Dries asked if we have a lease, when we did the office renovations Solicitor Brennan was going to draw up a new lease.

Discussion followed.

5. Discuss the Plant Manager/Pretreatment Coordinator position.

Chairman Dr. Dewitt stated we are scheduling interviews as we speak.

Mr. Poff stated going back to EPWA (Easter Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association) membership is $55.00 a year per person.

Chairman, Dr. Dewitt asked how many employees are joining.

Ms. Lynn Strausser replied 6 employees are joining.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved to enroll six (6) employees to EPWA at the cost of $55.00 per employee.

Mr. Botto asked where are we with the catwalks at the Main Plant.

Mr. Orlowsky replied as far as he knows, Axiom is working on the design and will begin before the winter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Vince Riotto, Vice President of Palo Alto Borough, this has to do with a bet with someone on the Board who is on Palo Alto Borough Council. The lawsuit, last meeting we adjusted the budget and was there a vote taken.

Solicitor Brennan replied we confirmed the Resolution to get out of the lawsuit and we are waiting for Mr. Erick Prock, Solicitor of Palo Alto Borough, and asked the City of Pottsville to do the same but did not receive an answer.

Solicitor Prock requested the Board minutes regarding this lawsuit.

Mr. Riotto replied he has been coming to a lot of meetings and this was not voted on.

Solicitor Brennan stated in the August Board meeting minutes the motion by James T. Muldowney and seconded by Henry J. Minnig to ratify the prior decision to clear the 2022 Intermunicipal Agreement null and void, and Mr. Dries abstained.

James Pugh owner of 208 Wallace Street, Pottsville stated he has two (2) questions.

1. To Solicitor Brennan and Mr. Orlowsky, during the past two (2) weeks he has had Dallago Backhoe working at his house. Mr. Dallago made a PA One Call- and the Sewer Authority never came to mark my lines and why, a PA One Call means every Municipality has to come out and mark their lines.

Mr. Orlowsky explained we are notified and the street crew is notified.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff explained the owner of the utilities in the vicinity where indicated, the contractor should paint a white box around where they want the utilities located. If Dallago was working on your private property and not impacting the lateral within the street right-of-way or doing anything with the sewer main they may not have needed to mark the line. James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor is very familiar with the PA One Call law and he knows what he is required to do.

Mr. Pugh stated the second question is you hired a guy to teach the new maintenance guy down at the Plant, how did you hire him and if he got hurt is he covered under the insurance.

Solicitor Brennan replied yes, he was an employee and would have been covered under Workers Compensation Insurance.

Mr. Pugh asked why William "Rock" Haley informed about it and asked him if he wanted to do it or myself, we worked at the Plant for forty (40) years.

Mr. Orlowsky stated it was no offense to anyone.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m. on the motion of Brian Dries, seconded by James T. Muldowney.

JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY