GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 30, 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, April 30, 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

Ian Mahall , City Administrator, Pottsville

Josh Sophy , Coal Region Canary

Amy Marshiano , Republican Herald

Brenda Schuettler , GPASA Billing Supervisor

Candi Atkinson , Customer

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PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on March 26, 2025, were presented for approval.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved the March 26, 2025 meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Executive Session to discuss personnel matters began at 5:02 PM and reconvened at 6:25 PM.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II apologized to the guests about the long session and stated the Executive Session will be held at the end of the meeting in the future.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to advertise for an Executive Director in multiple locations.

REQUISITION NO. 704

Payee - Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority

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

Amount - $ 481,726.06

Date - April 30, 2025

On motion of John G. Botto and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved Requisition No. 704 for April, 2025.

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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 update on Yuengling Pennvest Loan. Lynn Strausser, Pretreatment Coordinator and Solicitor Edward M Brennan is working on this issue.

2. Presented for the Board’s information on the GPS Tracking and Dash Cams for Street Crew that Mr. Spotts was looking into for the Street Crew.

Discussion followed.

3. Presented for the Board’s information working with Mid Penn Bank and the different investment opportunities such as laddering CD’s and removing Joseph F. Spotts from all bank statements and accounts and William T. Orlowsky, P.E., Acting Executive Director will be added. The investment accounts are currently at1.3% and if we invest in a three (3) month CD it will increase to 4.25%.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to move money at Mid Penn Bank for the purchasing of the CD’s.

4. Presented for the Board’s information on the GIS mapping system which is a smart mapping of our collection system. Pat Caulfield, Executive Director of the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority, offered to work with the Sewer Authority and explain the GIS mapping system they use and will help us in any way.

5. Presented for the Board’s information on the Norwegian Creek Culvert and the downtown flooding. There is a very strong chance the downtown flooding is intrinsically related to the capacity of the Norwegian Creek Culvert.

Discussion followed.

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Acting Executive Director, William T. Orlowsky, P.E. offered to do a capacity analysis for the Norwegian Creek Culvert, and would like Light-Heigel & Associates to also do a capacity analysis so we can compare findings.

On motion of Charles M. Dries and seconded by Henry J Minnig, the Board unanimously approve to authorize Light-Heigel Associates to do a capacity analysis of the Norwegian Creek Culvert.

6. Presented for the Board’s information the Kubick property at 6th Street in East Norwegian Township was connected to our system, and the neighbors are also interested in connecting.

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

of the Arch collapsing at Krebs and Coal Streets, we may have to put in a storm water line to take the water out of the arch and put it into the appropriate collection system.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated he drove by the storm water inlet on 2nd Street behind Borough Hall after GPASA Street crew worked on inlet and there were no further issues.

Discussion followed.

On 3rd Street and Brown Street in Schoentown there is an old manhole next to a new man hole. James Thomas, Street crew Supervisor, will look into this issue.

Charles M. Dries stated James Thomas asked if he would bring up to the Board if he can keep Jason Calabrese on the Street Crew and it would make a total of five (5) street crew employees.

Discussion followed.

James Thomas stated that Jason Calabrese worked with the Schuylkill County Municipal Authority Street crew for years and he knows how to do the work. He is a good worker and we would like to keep him on the street crew.

The Board unanimously agreed to keep five (5) employees on the street crew.

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8. Presented for the Board’s information our website information needs to be updated and changed. Lynn Strausser will be updating the GPASA Website as soon as possible.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Charles M. Dries the Board unanimously approved the Acting Executive Director’s Report for April 2025.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Solicitor’s Report for April 2025 Board Meeting.

1. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board that the old Leader nursing home went through a bankruptcy and he is working with Brenda

Schuettler, Billing Supervisor on the billing and as of February 1, 2026 there will be a new owner and we may get some money back that is owed from the bankruptcy court.

Discuss followed.

2. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board on the Yuengling

Pennvest loan, he will be working with Lynn Strausser on the paperwork and he talked to Dave Rattigan to transfer formal ownership of the pretreatment facility to Yuengling Brewery. The Authority was a financing conduit many years ago and the loan is paid off and basically it is their equipment.

2. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board the separation project. He working with the City of Pottsville, Light-Heigel Associates and Port Carbon Borough, and Benesh Engineers will set up another meeting.

Regarding Port Carbon arches, they are still our equipment so at this point we have to repair them before we can return them to the Borough.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated if anyone needs to speak with Jim Tohill, P.E., from Benesh Engineering feel free to contact him anytime.

3. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board about the 2nd Street

flooding problem. He will be working with Mr. Orlowsky on the Norwegian Creek Culvert Mr. Orlowsky drew a detailed map which is enlightening and instructive.

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Attorney Brennan’s recommendation is for Mr. Orlowsky to put together a presentation and have it at a City Council meeting. The Authority should also apply for grants for this project.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by John G. Botto the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor’s Report for April 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 April 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. I reattached the schedule provided on December 18, 2024 and we are obvious behind schedule now because the planning documents must be ready to present to the City of Pottsville to begin project.

Discussion followed.

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 stated the street crew will be working with mobile dredging

next week, and will be working on the Port Carbon manholes.

Ronald C. Zimmerman added that our street crew will be working on a project near Mill Creek and where the Schuylkill River meets near the old bank and we will be repairing the wall.

Discussion followed.

3. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board’s information that Thomas W. Schreffler, P.E and I are attending 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.

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4. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board’s information the survey crew was in last week and they got the information Mr. Orlowsky requested on the

entrance and exit geometry of the Norwegian Creek Culvert and they also scanned

the arch area collapse and we are now drawing the maps so we can do the design and put it out to bid and it can begin by the fall of 2025.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated there is an abandon bathroom on Centre Street and we should talk to the City of Pottsville about removing the bathroom and steps near the bathroom.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff stated he really enjoys working with Mr. Orlowsky and appreciates his input and thinks he is a real asset to the Authority.

Christina M. Q. Herndon agreed.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the Engineer’s Report for April, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II requested to review the Committee members list. William Deangeles will replace Ellen Micka on the Personnel committee and the Finance committee.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved to appoint William Deangeles to those two committees.

OLD BUSINES

Charles M. Dries asked the Board about the new truck and has anything been done.

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Mr. Orlowsky stated he spoke to James Thomas and other employees

and since there will now be five (5) people on the street crew and we think they need a crew cab with four doors.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II stated the Executive Session will be moved to the end of the Board Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. on the motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by John G. Botto.

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JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY