

GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

The regular meeting of the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority was held on the Third Floor City Hall on Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Barry S. Dewitt, II, Chairman with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

PRESENT

Dr. Barry S. Dewitt, II	,	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
Ellen M. Micka	,	Assistant Secretary
Joseph F. Spotts, III	,	Acting Executive Director
John R. Poff, P.E.	,	Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc.
Edward M. Brennan, Esquire	,	Solicitor
Christina M. Q. Herndon	,	Authority Secretary

GUESTS

Brian Dries	,	President - Borough of Palo Alto
Vince Riotto	,	Vice President - Borough of Palo Alto
Jean Towle	,	Executive Director of Pottsville Library
Josh Sophy	,	Coal Region Canary

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 28, 2024, were presented for approval.

On motion of Ellen Micka, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved the August 28, 2024 meeting minutes.

The Statement of Disbursements and Outstanding Bills due the month of September 2024 were presented and distributed for approval.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Statement of Disbursements and Outstanding Bills for September 2024.

Dr. Barry Dewitt, II, Chairman presented Requisition No. 698 for expenses incurred the month of September, 2024 from the REVENUE FUND at MID PENN BANK, Trustee, as authorized under Section 6.02 of the Trust Indenture.

REQUISITION NO. 698

Payee	-	Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1
Amount	-	\$ 688,847.03
Dated	-	September 25, 2024

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved Requisition No. 698 for September 2024.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Henry J. Minnig, Chairman of the Personnel Committee informed the Board that the applications for hiring of Assistant Plant Operators had been reviewed and Mr. Minnig requested an Executive Session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session began at 5:04 pm and reconvened at 5:36 pm.

Henry J. Minnig stated the committee interviewed five (5) applicants and there is currently two (2) employees who will be out long term, but one employee may not be able to come back to work. So, the committee recommends the Authority hire three (3) Assistant Plant Operators which are as follows:

Michael Botto, Bryce Brazinski and Joseph Devine, Jr. They will be hired in two (2) week intervals so that the plant is not overwhelmed and due to background check and drug test results.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II stated there will be a motion on the first recommendation to hire for the position of assistant plant operator Michael Botto.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ellen Micka, the Board unanimously approved to hire Michael Botto.

John G. Botto abstained his vote for this motion.

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Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II stated the second recommendation to hire for the position of assistant plant operator is Brice Brazinski.

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to hire Bryce Brazinski.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II stated the third recommendation to hire for the position of assistant plant operator is Joseph Devine, Jr.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ellen Micka, the Board unanimously approved to hire Joesph Devine, Jr.

Mr. Minnig also stated the personnel committee will be meeting to discuss the Executive Director position and will report on it at the October meeting.

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

III: Acting Executive Director's report for September 2024 presented by Joseph F. Spotts,

1. Presented for the Board's update on the Doc House Agreement and the billing issues.

Discussion followed.

2. Presented for the Board's approval to purchase the \$50.00 Boyers Holiday Gift Cards for all employees.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Ellen Micka, the Board unanimously approved to purchase the \$50.00 Holiday Gift Cards for all employees.

3. Presented for Board's update of the meeting with the owners of the Laurel Street Deli, Mr. Poff, P.E., Light & Heigel Associates and the City Code Office to discuss the Laurel Street hookup for the construction of the new deli. They were given proper documents and correct instructions from the Authority and the Department of Environmental Protection for the construction of the deli.

Discussion followed.

4. Presented for Board's update of the Office Services Proposal for the office renovation. There was a reduction of \$16,000.00 for a total cost of \$135,770.87.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II stated this will be funded by the Authority's Capital Improvement Fund.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II requested a motion to approve the office renovations and the asbestos abatement because we must consider the health and safety of our staff that works in this office on a daily basis.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the office renovations and the asbestos abatement.

5. Presented for Board's update on the Progress Avenue Arch Collapse between the Ramada Hotel and Mahantongo Street. The area was safe and secured and the Arch was cleared of all the debris.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney the Board unanimously approved the Acting Executive Director's Report for September 2024.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Edward M. Brennan, Solicitor's Report for the September 2024:

1. Presented for the Board's information on the tax claim upset sales, there were 39 liens filed in August for the upset sales in September. The reason this is done is because when these properties are sold the Authority will be paid for all old delinquent liens which is generating money for the Authority.

2. Presented for the Board's update on the Progress Avenue Arch Collapse there was a formal opinion from council which was issued due to the emergency situation, no bids are needed to secure the area of the collapse. Dallago Backhoe covered the collapse with a metal plate to secure the area.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for September 2024.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. John Poff, P. E. presented his report in written form. Refer to the attached report from Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc. for September 2024.

1. Mr. John Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information an update on the Corrective Action Plan/ Act 537 Plan, working with Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan and the City of Pottsville.

2. Mr. John Poff, P. E. presented for the Board's information an update on the Market Street Sewer Separation Project status.

Discussion followed.

3. Mr. John Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information an update on Progress Avenue Arch Collapse this Arch should only be a Storm Water only line at the point it was separated because a sanitary sewer line comes down into the Arch and is incased in concrete. The Sewer

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Authority Street crew found four (4) laterals and they are still discharging into the Arch between Centre and Progress, so these will have to be repaired. Mr. Poff added the bigger issue is the hole and we are missing 12 feet of Arch, I approached Mar-Allen regarding this issue and they prepared a proposal and a map showing the area on Progress Avenue. The cost will be at least \$200,000.00 to repair this small area.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated the Authority should have Light & Heigel Associates prepare the studies for the entire block instead of just the area at Progress Arch Collapse.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved to have the studies completed by Light & Heigel Associates.

4. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's update on the downtown flooding project we are working on a scope of work to get some bids for contractors.

5. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's update on the Port Carbon man hole inspections. Mobile Dredging will be there on November 13th and 14th.

6. Mr. John R. Poff, P. E. presented for the Board's information Thomas Scheffler, P.E. is working on the updating of the pretreatment ordinances.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the Engineer's Report for September 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

Joseph F. Spotts, III, Acting Executive Director stated the Authority received a report from Benesch Engineering representing the Borough of Port Carbon, in which there was a sink hole on Coal and Krebs Street in the Borough, and upon investigation the GPASA street crew discovered that the main collapsed. The repairs were made and because it is a combined sewer and storm line it is our responsibility for some of the cost of the work. The total bill is \$14,000.00. The Port Carbon Borough will pay \$8,178.00 and the Authority will reimburse \$5,507.00 for the pipe and \$1,675.00 for the road repair for a total of \$7,182.00.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the reimbursement of \$7182.00 to the Borough of Port Carbon.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m. on motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by James T. Muldowney



JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY