

GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING OF APRIL 22, 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, April 22, 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	,	1 st Vice Chairman
James T. Muldowney	,	2 nd 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.	,	Consulting Engineer
William Orłowski, P.E.	,	Executive Director
Christina M. Q. Herndon	,	Authority Secretary
Lynn Strausser	,	Office Manager, Pretreatment Coordinator

GUESTS

Brian Dries	,	President - Borough of Palo Alto
Vince Riotto	,	Vice President- Borough of Palo Alto
Jean Towle	,	Executive Director of Pottsville Library
Brenda Schuettler	,	Billing Supervisor
James Pugh	,	Former Employee
Jeff Dunkel	,	Customer
Kurt Massser	,	President, KAM Strategies
Robert Slaby	,	Government Relations Associate, KAM Strategies
Robert Filbert	,	PeopleShare by PROMAN

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The minutes of the regular meeting for March 2026 were approved by James T. Muldowney, and seconded by John G. Botto.

REQUISITION NO. 715

Payee - Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority
Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1

Amount - \$ 346,087.48

Date - March 25, 2026

On motion of Jonathan Morris, P.E., and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the March Requisition #715 in the amount of \$346,087.48.

REQUISITION NO. 716

Payee - Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority
Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1

Amount - \$ 560,410.17

Date - April 22, 2026

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the April Requisition #716 in the amount of \$560,410.17.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt requested the Board move the Executive Session to the end of the Meeting.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt introduced Kurt Masser President of KAM Strategies (funding opportunities)

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt introduced Robert Filbert, PeopleShare by PROMAN (employment services)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Presented for Board's approval of SDE's Professional Services Agreement for Headworks Evaluation which was tabled last meeting. This service is to evaluate deficiencies in order to prevent a reoccurrence of what happened last month.

Discussion followed.

John R. Poff, P.E., SDE was asked to propose a plan to avoid this situation and the cost was \$35,000.00.

Executive Director, William T. Orłowsky, P.E., explained the headworks is the front end of the Main Plant which is everything that happens prior to the biochemical treatment.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated so it is an inspection of those components and any deficiencies.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated when the Budget Committee met this proposal was not going to happen until 2027.

Discussion followed.

Jonathan Morris, P.E. requested to see the proposal from SDE before a motion is approved, and the Engineering Committee can review the projects and prioritize each project and work with the Budget Committee.

Discussion followed.

James Pugh, former plant operator, stated he worked at the Main Plant for 40 years and he should know a little bit about the Plant. Mr. Pugh stated each and every one on this Board should be at the Main Plant after a storm, there are two pumps that should be raised because they flood out the headworks every storm, and then we had to pull the motors each time and buy a new motor each time.

2. Presented for the Board's information on a potential litigation with Palo Alto Borough and its impact on the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Orłowsky attended the Palo Alto Borough Council Meeting to inform them of the GIS system and wanted to start in Palo Alto, and due to the small size of the Borough it would be a good place to start.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated there is no potential litigation. It is just a misunderstanding and Mr. Brennan will discuss this issue with the Palo Alto Borough Solicitor, Eric Prock, and we should work with all our municipalities.

Charles M. Dries, Palo Alto Borough and GPASA Board Member, stated we were under the impression that Pottsville would be the first to begin this project, and who is paying for this project?

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan replied this is just to map out the entire system in Palo Alto not separate the storm water.

Mr. Jeff Dunkel, customer from Palo Alto, was at the meeting and there was a discussion about the storm water project costing like 3 to 5 million dollars in which scared the tax payers who attended the meeting and they wanted to know who is paying for this project.

Discussion followed.

3. Presented for the Board's information on the agreement with the City of Pottsville regarding the ownership of the separated stormwater sewer.

Discussion followed.

4. Presented for the Board's information on the Division Street Project the City of Pottsville issued approval at the Council Meeting on April 13, 2026.

Mr. Orłowsky requested a change order for "Pat" Aungst to work on Mrs. DiCello's property.

Discuss followed.

5. Presented for Board's information on the Mahantongo Arch Replacement Project we are continuing with the pedestrian portion design, plans and specifications are being performed. And the LSA Grant decision is expected at the end of the Summer.

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

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated we need a time line. we wait until September till we hear about the grant and do the design work in the meantime but construction will not go out to bid until we have the decision on the LSA grant.

Discussion followed.

6. Presented for the Board's information the new NPDES permit was issued by D.E.P. effective May 1, 2026.

The new requirements are due to flow rate and reporting issues, grab samples and analysis must be performed and reported (7) seven days/week previously it was only business days only.

7. Presented for Board's update on the MCSA Godwin pumps. We are waiting to see if the pump is worth buying and a good fit for our system.

8. Presented for the Board's update on Leiby Pilot Project. Mr. Reigel the contact from Leiby's would like to come to Pottsville.

9. Presented for the Board's information Mike Botto and Brice Brazinsky obtained Wastewater Operators Certification Licensure. They put in the hours of studying and they passed the test. The Board would like to congratulate them.

10. Presented for the Board's approval to post in house for a Plant Manager and the Bookkeeper positions.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated this will be discussed in the Executive Session.

11. Presented for the Board's approval to add Ms. Lynn Strausser, Office Manager, Pretreatment Coordinator to the signature list.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman stated Mr. Quinn did not sign any of the checks, and it was always (2) two Board Members or (1) Board Member and the Executive Director and he thinks it should stay that way, and from an Accounting stand point you will have problems with the Auditors because the person writing the checks cannot sign the checks.

The Board stated there are (7) Board Members and the Executive Director that is enough people to sign the checks.

12. Presented for the Board's approval Mr. Bortolis from 814 West Norwegian Street, Pottsville requested a reprieve from paying his \$13, 251.20 commercial sewer bill, which is usually \$42.50, due to frozen water pipes that broke in February.

Brenda Schuettler, Billing Supervisor explained a commercial sewer bill is based on 140% of the water bill.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Bortolis request to adjust the sewer bill to \$42.50.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director's Report for April 2026.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for April 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Solicitor Brennan stated the property at 1511 Mahantongo Street and the property behind it on Howard Avenue had a common sewer line that needed to be repaired and the Street Crew and Mr. Orłowsky were on site and we facilitated them fixing the problem and it is resolved and it was a good customer service move on the sewer authority's part.

2. Solicitor Brennan stated he spoke to Gretchen Sterns, Solicitor for City of Pottsville, about the Division Street Project.

3. Solicitor Brennan stated Brenda Schuettler had a good point. We have been very active with placing liens on properties and collecting them when they go on tax and sheriff sale and in one month, we collected \$6,000.00.

4. Solicitor Brennan received a memo from Mr. Orłowsky regarding the Yuengling Brewery Pretreatment Tank Permit. The permit is still in the Authority's name and should be changed. The Authority should do a bill of sale for all the equipment not just the tank with the understanding that Yuengling will assume the cost to change the tank registration.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for April 2026.

CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer's Report for April 2026 Board Meeting:

1. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. stated SDE personnel will meet with Bill via Microsoft Teams this Friday morning regarding the kickoff of implementation of the GIS program.

2. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. stated on the 10th of April there was a meeting with SDE, Mr. Orłowsky, Tim Schultz, Chief Operator and Jack Botto to discuss the Leiby's Dairy Pilot Program to treat their wastewater sludge and SDE will provide any assistance needed for this project.

3. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. stated the Professional Services agreement to assist the Authority with the design permitting and installation of the UV disinfection system. This system will replace the existing Chlorination System at the Main Plant, the estimated agreement cost will be \$125,000.00 for the structural engineering work, modification to the tankage, electrical work, drawings, part (2) two construction permit and anything that may be bid.

Mr. Poff stated the estimated construction and equipment cost will run from 1.5 to 1.7 million dollars.

Discussion followed.

Ronald C. Zimmerman would like Jonathan Morris, P.E. to review the agreement and would like to table this motion.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approved to table this decision until the May Meeting.

4. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. has been working with the 'Pat' Aungst on Division Street Project with shop drawings and we anticipate construction beginning in early June, 2026.

Mr. Poff, P.E. asked the Board moving forward should all of SDE's Professional Service Agreements go to the Engineering Committee before they are presented to the Board.

Jonathan Morris, P.E., Chairman of the Engineering Committee agreed.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Jonathan Morris, P.E., the Board unanimously approve the Engineer report for April 2026.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated Mr. Brian Dries, Palo Alto Borough President, would like to address the Board.

Mr. Dries stated at the Borough Meeting Mr. Orlowsky discussed the GIS program and the Authority will begin in Palo Alto but then Mr. Orlowsky stated that if he had his way and the Board does not know this yet, the whole system would be separated. Mr. Dries asked Mr. Orlowsky is this part of the Act 537 Plan? Mr. Orlowsky replied no. Mr. Dries replied it is incumbent upon the municipality to be in charge of the storm water, so you are going to do 50 million dollars of sewer work for the Act 537 Plan, all new sewer pipes in and the old sewer pipes would be for storm water.

Mr. Orlowsky replied we need to separate and the original thought was the raw sewage would be taken out of the combined line and that line already has all the storm water inlets tied in and after the sanitary is taken out of the combined line it would be inspected and provided it meets the satisfaction of your Engineers it would then be excepted, and if it is not excepted then there may have to be improvements to that pipe or section of the sewer before it would be excepted.

Mr. Orlowsky apologized if he came off in a mood, we are trying to find our sewers they are covered and old arches without an access, and we have to be careful not to disrupt other utilities. The City of Pottsville probably does not want a stone arch for the storm water and Palo Alto or Port Carbon either.

Mr. Orlowsky stated he is just trying to execute what is asked by the Board and not cause any waves. Last summer Mr. Orlowsky said he spoke with Mr. Navatnak, D.E.P., he believes that the Authority is stonewalling.

Mr. Dries replied the Borough thinks they will be walloped with higher rates.

John G. Botto stated we are only talking about taking pictures not the Stormwater Project that is maybe (5) years from now.

Mr. Dries replied he has to tell his residents about these issues, and when Mr. Orlowsky left the meeting everyone was worried about their rates going up because its Authority wide project.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated discussing things that are going to happen unnecessarily years from now alarms people, but we want to work together and we are all on the same team.

Discussion followed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive Session began at 6:51 pm and reconvened at 7:20 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to post the Plant Manager position at the Main Plant, West End Pump Station and the Office.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to post the Bookkeeper position at the Main Plant, West End Pump Station and the Office.

OLD BUSINESS

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved to advertise for a Plant Maintenance position.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m. on the motion of James T. Muldowney, seconded by Charles M. Dries.

JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY