

GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING OF DECEMBER 18, 2024

The regular meeting of the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority was held on the Second Floor City Hall Conference Room on Wednesday, December 18, 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
Joseph F. Spotts, III	,	Executive Director
John R. Poff, P.E.	,	Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc.
Thomas Schreffler, P.E.	,	Light-Heigel & Associates, Inc.
Edward M. Brennan, Esquire	,	Authority Solicitor
Christina M. Q. Herndon	,	Authority Secretary
William Orlowsky	,	Project Manager

GUESTS

Brian Dries	,	President - Borough of Palo Alto
Vince Riotto	,	Vice President – Borough of Palo Alto
James W. Quinn	,	G.P.A.S.A. Office Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting held on November 20, 2024, were presented for approval.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Executive session began at 5:01 pm and reconvened at 5:19 p.m.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

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

1. Presented for the Board's information the office renovations began on December 2, 2024 and the abatement process has been 90% completed in the areas where the staff is not occupied.

Discussion followed.

2. Presented for the Board's information on the 333 Coal Street, Port Carbon issue regarding the cleanout policy. Owner of property is requesting payment of bills for damages to her home.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II requested the Board table this issue until the January 2025 Board Meeting when we have the total amount owed for 333 Coal Street, Port Carbon repairs.

3. Presented for the Board's approval of the 2025 Bids.

Organic Polymer Flocculent

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by Charles M. Dries, the Board unanimously approved the 2025 Bid for Organic Polymer Flocculent to Polymer, Inc.

No. 2 Fuel Oil

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the No. 2 Fuel Bid Oil Bid to Jack Rich, Inc.

Mobile Cleaning & Equipment

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved the 2025 Mobile Cleaning & Equipment Bid to Mobile Dredging Inc.

Removal and Disposal of Dewatered Sludge and Grit

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the 2025 Removal of Dewatered Sludge and Grit to Disposal Management Services, LLC.

Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite and Sodium Bisulfite - NO BID

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved to RE BID the 2025 Bid for Liquid Sodium Hypochlorite and Sodium Bisulfite.

December 18, 2024

4. Presented for Board's approval to hire Jones & Co. for the 2024 Audit.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by John G. Botto, the Board unanimously approved to hire Jones & Co. for the 2024 Audit.

5. The Authority is still going to proceed with the LLC Policy.
6. The Pre-Treatment program did not receive any money this month for the permit fees. The 2025 invoices will be mailed on January 2, 2025.

7. Presented for the Board's information regarding grant money discussed in the November meeting. The agencies are H2O PA Flood Grant through PA DEP, PA Small Water and Sewer, and the Community Development Block Grant.

Discussion followed.

Mr. John Poff, P.E. stated the H2O PA Flood Grant is up to \$1,000,000.00 for smaller projects and he suggested the Authority pursue the H2O PA Grant to replace the damaged section of Arch next to the Quality Hotel.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II asked Mr. Spotts, "If there are any Grants available that would help with the separation project and would it be premature to start the application process?". Mr. Spotts replied, "It would be premature, and the only Grant would be the H2O PA Flood Grant for the partial repair of the Arch Collapse."

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II requested Mr. Spotts reach out to Mullen & Lonergan Grant writing company to set up a meeting with them and let them know the future projects and see if they have any other Grants and a rough cost structure, and also Mullen & Lonergan can come to a meeting and explain the process to the Board.

Ronald C. Zimmerman, Treasurer stated he would like to attend the meeting with Mullen & Lonergan to discuss the grant process.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for December 2024 Board Meeting.

1. Mr. Brennan presented for the Board's information regarding the Air Quality Fine \$20,000.00 due to record keeping issues. This was approved last year and the agreement must be signed and paid to avoid litigation.

Discussion followed.

December 18, 2024

2. Mr. Brennan presented for the Board's information Workers' Compensation Claim case and the NJM Insurance company will provide an Attorney for this case.

3. Mr. Brennan presented for the Board's information regarding the Jeremy Smith Lawsuit filed in Dauphin County.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James Muldowney, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approve the Solicitor's Report for December, 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 December 2024.

1. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's update on the Port Carbon man hole inspections are still on hold due to the drought.

2. Mr. Thomas Schreffler, P. E. presented for the Board's information on the pretreatment ordinances and he will meet with Pretreatment Coordinator, Lynn Strausser, tomorrow December 19th to discuss these issues.

Mr. Schreffler also stated that there is an issue with the new EPA regulations for certain PFAS chemicals, which never break down, and the level of testing that will affect the Authority's Pretreatment Ordinance, and there will be a rough draft for the next meeting.

Discussion followed.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan requested there must be enforcement of payments and fines included in the Pretreatment Ordinance.

Mr. Schreffler also announced he will be retiring as the Engineer for the Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority. Light - Heigel Associates is transferring the title of Authority Engineer to John R. Poff, P.E. who is more than capable for this position.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt, II and the Board congratulated Mr. Schreffler on his retirement and thanked him for his years of service.

3. Mr. John R. Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's update on the downtown flooding project, all the inspections are complete and we will be sending the property owners their reports by the end of the year.

December 18, 2024

4. Mr. John Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information on the Market Street Sewer Separation Project we provided you with an attachment of the implementation schedule this would be for all three (3) phases and would be based on having the Act 537 document completed by March 2025 and also based on the maximum amount of time for Department of Environmental Protection to review the submissions under the law. The construction would tentatively begin November, 2026. Light-Heigel suggests the City of Pottsville and the Authority have a meeting to discuss the storm sewer ownership issues and the costs, the city must make a decision on the storm water lines as soon as possible.

Mr. Brian Dries asked the Board if the City of Pottsville is doing anything about the storm water.

Discussion followed.

5. Mr. John Poff, P.E. presented for the Board's information an update on the Progress Avenue Arch Collapse, there is an attachment from Mar Allen to repair the Arch Collapse on an emergency basis, the proposal was for \$197,000.00. Mar Allen also gave a second proposal for \$157,000.00 this proposal is to repair 28 lineal feet only where the arch collapsed.

Discussion followed,

Mr. Poff estimated the total repair of the Arch will be around \$1,300,000.00.

On motion of Henry J. Minnig, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Engineer's Report for December 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:01 p.m. on the motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney.


JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY