

## GREATER POTTSVILLE AREA SEWER AUTHORITY

### REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 29, 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, October 29, 2025 at 5:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order by Dr. Barry Dewitt, III, Chairman with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

#### PRESENT

Dr. Barry Dewitt	,	Chairman
James T. Muldowney	,	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman
Ronald C. Zimmerman	,	Treasurer
Henry J. Minnig	,	Assistant Treasurer
John G. Botto	,	Secretary
William Deangeles, Jr.	,	Assistant Secretary
Edward M. Brennan	,	Solicitor
Keith Heigel	,	Light- Heigel & Associates
Christina M. Q. Herndon	,	Authority Secretary
William Orlowsky, P.E.	,	Executive Director
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
Brenda Schuettler	,	GPASA Billing Supervisor
James Quinn	,	Office Manager
Rachel Wallace	,	Guest
Barb Bainbridge	,	Guest

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Brian Dries, President of Palo Alto Borough asked the Board why did they approve the Division Street Project and isn't that City Storm Water work?

Executive Director, William T. Orlowsky explained that it is a blend of both, we have to move a sanitary line to connect a proposed storm water line pipe.

Mr. Orlowsky showed the map for this project and explained the work to be completed.

Mr. Orlowsky explained there is a small amount of sanitary work but that is only to allow access to the storm arch, the lion share of the work is storm water.

Brian Dries asked if the City of Pottsville is going to pay for this project?

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan explained we are separating the combined system, as we have done for decades. A new storm line must be built to give it to the City of Pottsville. We are taking storm water out of our system. The Authority is handling storm water now as we speak and we will for 30 years until it is all separated.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky demonstrated on the project map where the storm water will go into the dedicated storm line.

Discussion followed.

The minutes of the regular meeting for September 24, 2025 were approved by James T. Muldowney and seconded by John G. Botto.

The minutes of the special meeting for October 9, 2025 were approved by Henry J. Minning, and seconded by James T. Muldowney.

#### REQUISITION NO. 710

Payee	-	Greater Pottsville Area Sewer Authority Mid Penn Bank A/C #56-185-1
Amount	-	\$ 760,357.49
Date	-	October 29, 2025

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by Ronald C. Zimmerman, the Board unanimously approved Requisition No. 710 for October 29, 2025.

#### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director's report for October 2025 presented by William T. Orlowsky, P.E.:

Mr. Orlowsky introduced Keith Heigel of Light-Heigel & Associates. John R. Poff, P.E. has left Light-Heigel Associates and Keith is replacing Mr. Poff.

Mr. Heigel responded he will be here as long as the Authority will have him and we have other players we will introduce as we go and it is important for me to be here.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated we appreciate you being here.

1. Presented for the Board's information and update that D.E.P. rejected our request for emergency permit for the Division Street Project.

2. Presented for Board's information and update of the Main Plant catwalk issue. The catwalks are dangerous and they are only going to get worse. Mike Botto and Jarett McCabe bought plywood and tried to secure it to the decking and painting it with sand casting and non-slip strips everywhere and it will last till the Spring.

Mr. Orlowsky stated he would need help from Light-Heigel & Associates to create bid documents to replace the catwalk, due to the cost estimate from Axiom of \$100,000.00, this is well above the minimum of the bids.

3. Presented for the Board's information on the Resolution of Statewide for the LSA Grant. There was a meeting with myself, Lynn Strausser, Pretreatment Coordinator and Ronald C. Zimmerman, we discussed the grant information which must be completed by November 30, 2025.

Mr. Orlowsky stated the Authority will use the LSA Grant money for the Mahantongo Street Arch Project.

Discussion followed.

4. Presented for the Board's information on the sources of water issue on Arch Street. James Thomas, Street Crew Supervisor showed a video of the Arch Street Collapse and there is a sizeable flow coming from the mine shaft. This issued must be addressed when we are doing the Market Street Separation Project.

5. Presented for the Board's information on Solar Panels, John G. Botto suggested this to subsidize the electric bills.

Discussion followed.

John G. Botto stated we should table this because we can get other companies to come in and give an estimate.

6. Presented for the Board's information on the cost estimates from ProMax for motorized gates for the Main Plant and the West End Pump Station. ProMax cost is \$21,420.00 for each gate totaling \$42,840.00.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated we should get other Costar bids.

Discussion followed.

7. Presented for the Board's information on the Division Street Project's Pre-construction Agreement and the Right-of-Way Easement for the parking lot owned by Bonnie DiCello.

Discussion followed.

8. Presented for the Board's information the Authority received approval for the Worksite Safety Committee and we will receive a 5% discount on our Workers' Compensation Insurance.

9. Presented for the Board's approval to purchase \$50.00 holiday gift cards from Boyer's for the employees.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved to purchase of the holiday gift cards.

On motion of John G. Botto, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Executive Director's Report for October 2025.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor's Report for October 2025 Board Meeting:

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan introduced Rachel Wallace from Pottsville She is running for Congress, she was an intern for Tim Holden.

1. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board on the East Mahantongo Street handicap ramp which is built on top of the Arch. The City of Pottsville agreed that we can tear down the bathroom.

2. Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan presented to the Board on Comcast Easement. He is working with Mr. Orlowsky fixing minor things and that will allow Comcast to run the internet lines to both Plants.

On motion of Ronald C. Zimmerman and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously approved the Solicitor's Report for October 2025.

### CONSULTING ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Keith Heigel presented his report in written form. Refer to the attached report from Light- Heigel & Associates, Inc. for October 2025.

1. Mr. Heigel presented for the Board's information we are continuing to work this Mr. Orlowsky on the phasing for the Act 537 Plan revisions and then we will coordinate a meeting with the City of Pottsville.

2. Mr. Heigel presented for the Board's information on the Port Carbon replacement of a retaining wall and the Authority will be replacing the manhole, but we cannot get in touch with the contractor, asked Jim Tohill, P.E., Engineer for Port Carbon Borough is also trying to get in touch with the contractor because they need a Change Order to be approved.

Mr. Heigel explained there is two (2) options: we can remove some of the rings in the manhole, replace them and reset them. The second option is to remove the manhole and replace the entire manhole.

Discussion followed.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board approved the estimate not to exceed \$20,000.00 for the replacement of the manhole in Port Carbon.

3. Mr. Heigel presented for the Board's information on D.E.P. is requiring some counties to monitor their PEFA's in their biosolids once a year but E.P.A. put a pause on this and we will continue to report on this issue.

4. Mr. Heigel presented for the Board's information on the LSA Grant, he attended a meeting with Mr. Orlowsky, Lynn Strausser and we now know what to do to move forward.

5. Mr. Heigel presented for the Board's information we should meet with D.E.P. to discuss the permit because there are sewer extensions that are allowed without a permit if you are under particular E.D.U's.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Heigel added we do expect the PennDot permit by the end of the week.

6. Mr. Heigel presented for the Board's information the Norwegian Creek Culvert scan has been completed, this scan is for everything underground. There is a 24 x 36 size plan, Mr. Heigel's passed it around to the Board. This is also available digitally.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Heigel stated Mr. Orlowsky asked if Light-Heigel can provide a survey for the top of the Norwegian Creek Culvert. The cost of this survey is \$37,000.00.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky stated this project will assist with the G.I.S. (Geographical Information System) the Authority may purchase.

Mr. Orlowsky demonstrated on the Division Street Project map the work to be performed by the contractors.

Bidders for Division Street Project:

1. PACT TWO, LLC
2. Arthur "Pat" Aungst, Inc.,
3. Miller Brothers
4. Heim Industries
5. AH Moyer

John R. Poff stated Miller Brothers and AH Moyer did not submit a bid because of their schedules, and Heim Industries gave the work to LEW Site Construction.

Mr. Orlowsky explained there are two parts to the bid the first part was to do all the required work underground and the second was to do temporary pavement restoration.

Bids for Division Street Emergency Project as follows:

Arthur "Pat" Aungst, Inc.	Base Price \$210,388.00	Permanent Restoration \$97,710.00
PACT TWO, LLC	Base Price \$650,500.00	Permanent Restoration \$159,200.00
LEW Site Construction	Base Price \$929,879.58	Permanent Restoration \$350,038.78

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated in the opinion of our Engineer and our Executive Director this emergency repair will greatly reduce the flooding impact that some of our downtown properties and businesses have been experiencing.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan introduced Christine Verdier of Senator Argall Office.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated it is his formal opinion that given the circumstances, the detailed research of our Engineer, our Executive Director and the City of Pottsville Street Superintendent it is pretty clear it is a definition of an Emergency under the competitive bidding.

On motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Henry J. Minnig, the Board unanimously approved the bid of Arthur "Pat" Aungst for \$308,098.00.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Poff asked Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan since this project was not publicly bid are we obligated to provide the contractors with the prices.

Mr. Brennan replied it is public record so they are entitled to see the bid.

Mr. Wollyung stated since the press, Coal Region Canary, is here, can Mr. Orlowsky explain how he discovered this solution.

Mr. Orlowsky explained he started at the Historical Society and researched the flooded issues in downtown Pottsville and this problem has been around for over 150 years and color coded the downtown Pottsville Map to understand how the water flowed through downtown.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Orlowsky asked Lynn Strausser to discuss the LSA Grant Application for the Mahantongo Street Project. Ms. Strausser spoke to Karen and Katie from M&L Associates along with Ronald Zimmerman, John R. Poff, and William Orlowsky. Karen and Katie asked if the Authority plans on matching the LSA grant amount?

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated in order to strengthen the odds of getting the grant the Authority should match the Grant.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan, stated if the project is a million dollars some municipalities have given 25% match.

Christine Verdier, Senator Argall's secretary added the grant application also up to a million dollars the awards are not usually a million dollars. Realistically, give what you think the project would cost. The Authority's' commitment to match the grant money at this moment is nearly as valuable as it is after a month or two that the grant is awarded.

Christine Verdier stated it is more likely to ask for half million or under to get a shot at the grant and getting your application in committing to what you have and closer to the award amounts we can discuss the commitment further.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt stated the Board appreciates the support of Senator Argall and Representative, Tim Twarzick.

Discussion followed.

On motion of Charles M. Dries, and seconded by James T. Muldowney, the Board unanimously tentatively agreed a 25% match for the LSA Grant.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan stated he spoke with Mr. Orlowsky about the Mahantongo Street Project is not an emergency and we have time to work on this issue. The City of Pottsville is willing to let us tear down the bathroom because it is built on the Collapsed Arch.

Discussion followed.

Chairman, Dr. Barry Dewitt asked when will we break ground and when will we wrap up for the emergency project?

John R. Poff replied the H.O.P. will be filed electronically tomorrow, early November.

Mr. Orlowsky stated the City will have their Street Crew, the Authority's Street Crew, and Dallago Backhoe will all be working on the Division Street Project.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

NEW BUSINESS

John G. Botto stated he sold six (6) signs for the West End Pump Station with Lynn Strausser help . The cost of the signs totaling \$2,725.00. We brought in \$15,500.00 for the purchase of the signs. The profit right now is \$12,725.00.

Mr. Orlowsky asked the Board if we should have a press release regarding this meeting.

Solicitor, Edward M. Brennan agreed with Mr. Orlowsky.

Lynn Strausser, Pretreatment Coordinator stated she had the press release ready and would the Board like to review the release.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m. on the motion of James T. Muldowney, and seconded by Charles M. Dries.

  
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JOHN G. BOTTO, SECRETARY