

The April 27, 2020 regular monthly meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Chairman Sherrock at 6:30 PM via videoconference. All participating in the videoconference gave a pledge of allegiance.

April 22, 2020 Work Session Roll Call:

Ammon – Absent**	Fayock – Present*	Gallagher – Present*
George – Present*	Grink – Present*	Milot – Present*
Sherrock – Present*	Sullivan – Present*	Zola – Present*

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

*Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	*Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
*Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming	*Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor
*Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering	

April 27, 2020 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

Ammon – Present*	Fayock – Present*	Gallagher – Present*
George – Present*	Grink – Present*	Milot – Present*
Sherrock – Present*	Sullivan – Present*	Zola – Absent

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

*Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	*Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
*Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	*Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
*Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming	

* via Videoconference

**Board Member Ammon joined the Work Session during the Engineer’s Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment received prior to the meeting to be presented.

George & Milot moved to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2020 Regular Monthly Meeting.
 Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Director of Operations Report - MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	<u>March 2020</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
Total Flow	229,325,476	Gallons	723,427,272	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	1,202,438	Gallons	12,741,786	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	4	Days	8	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	228,123,038	Gallons	710,685,486	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	5.0	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	5.4 MGD
Average Maximum	11.6	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	11.7 MGD
Average Daily Flow	7.4	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	7.8 MGD

The Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for March 2020 as presented in the monthly flow report. He also reported that the total volume of wastewater diverted

from all point sources for the month was estimated to be 19.221 million gallons with 1.202 million gallons of treated outflow diverted at the treatment plant. He said approximately 1.606 million gallons of the total diverted flow was treated outflow from the Autumn & Ridge CSO Separator. He stated that the treatment plant was operating well and meeting permit compliance with no reportable issue to note.

Gregory reported that the revenues for March 2020 were \$991,170.17, which was a 5.6% decrease from the prior year. He said the billing for hauled waste received in March totaled \$196,864.04, which is an increase of 1.2% from the same month in the prior year. He reported that the fiscal year to date customer collections through March were 93.39%. He said due to the COVID-19 pandemic and suspension of delinquent collections this year, he expects the customer collections to remain steady or decline from current collection rates. He said normally, collections would increase over the next 4 months to reach over 99% for the year; however, he is anticipating a significant shortfall this year. He said the only bright spot for revenues is the hauled waste business, which remains fairly stable and has a current collection rate of 100% for the first nine months of the fiscal year. Gregory then reported that the PENNVEST monthly interest payment remains at \$1,615.84 for the May ACH payment because no additional drawdown was received.

Gregory then reported on a few maintenance related items worth noting. He said a hole developed in the Locust Street Pump Station #3 Pump suction cover assembly, which was not a high chrome part. He said the rest of the pump was cast in high chrome and had little to no wear. He said new suction cover assemblies, which cost \$11,167.76 each, were ordered in high chrome for all three Locust Street Pumps. He stated that one of the two dry pit submersible pumps at the Stacie Manor Pump Station has gotten extremely loud due to worn bearings. He said a replacement pump has been ordered so the worn pump can be removed and sent for repair. He said once returned, it will be the spare pump for both Stacie Manor and South Church Street Pump Stations. Gregory also reported that the annual preventative maintenance was performed by Cummins, Inc. earlier this month on the Authority's eleven (11) backup generators as required. He then reported that any issues identified by the technician during the preventive maintenance inspections will be corrected.

Gregory then reported on the 2020 WWTP Improvements Project. He said the manufacturer's representative for the clarifier and gravity thickener mechanisms was contacted to request a delay in the delivery of equipment due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said they verbally agreed to hold the price until delivery can be received in Spring 2021, and a confirmation letter would be provided by the company. He said an installation contractor must be in place to receive delivery of the equipment and at this time it is unknown when the contractors will begin work again this year. He said the project still needs to go out for public bid and scheduling the bid opening for later in 2020 with a start date in March 2021 would be prudent.

Gregory then gave an update on management and safety practices being implemented by the Authority due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the reduced staffing plan remains in effect along with increased cleaning and disinfection throughout the work areas and common areas. He also reported that employees have been instructed to wear masks while at work and the management employees have remote access to work from home, if necessary. Gregory also stated that a decontamination product was purchased along with a mixing station to disinfect more areas throughout the treatment plant and pump stations using a blend of chemical products that breakdown

the coronavirus along with a host of other pathogens. He said the product would be deployed as soon as it is delivered to the treatment plant.

Gregory also reported that a virtual meeting was held with representatives of EPA and PA DEP concerning remediation of groundwater at the Valmont TCE Site. He said the contaminated groundwater plume originates under the old Chromatex Building and contains high levels of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFOA and PFOS). He stated that a summary of the proposed remediation efforts was provided to the Board Members and he noted that EPA is asking if the Authority will accept the groundwater after it has been treated at the remediation site. He said a discharge authorization would be developed by the Authority under the Industrial Pretreatment Program based on the levels that can be accepted for complete treatment. He informed the Board that the EPA representatives offered to answer questions regarding the proposed remediation and treatment request. He then asked the Board Members to send him an email if they have any questions, which would then forward to EPA for a response.

Gregory then reported that Governor Wolf issued an order that opens the state for construction projects effective May 1, 2020. He said the Incinerator Coordination Team has kept in communication with weekly conference calls to work through scheduling and air permitting issues. He then asked the Board if there were any objections to opening dialogue with the team for re-starting construction on the Incinerator Project. There were no objections from the Board and he stated that a preliminary conversation would be held between himself, Rachel Govelovich, and the SUEZ Project Manager to make sure their employees are willing to return to site. He said that he would then report to the Board once contact was made with the contractors regarding a date to re-start construction.

Andy Nowak informed the Board that equipment maintenance has been ongoing since the COVID-19 reduction of staffing. He said the Road Crew continues to flush sewer lines and repair manholes as needed.

The Director of Operations, Christopher Carsia, reported that the energy sector markets are very low due to the record drop in price of crude oil so purchasing electricity futures has become more attractive to lock in a long-term contract at these low levels. He then stated that the Authority currently has a contract with Talen Energy Marketing, LLC through December 31, 2022 and he requested an extension of the existing contract with Talen Energy for purchasing electricity with new pricing of 4.756 cents per kWh plus Gross Receipts Tax (GRT) with an effective date of January 1, 2023 for a 36-month term. He is recommending the Board approve the contract extension while the electricity rates are at these historical low levels.

Fayock & Sullivan moved to accept the Director of Operations Report and to have the written report on diverted flows made a permanent part of the record.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Engineer's Report – Robert Dougherty provided a written report to the Board. He stated that the roof drain removal phase of the West Hazleton Area #2 Stormwater Separation Project is complete now that there are less than 10 disconnections remaining. He said the flow loggers for this project were programmed and are ready for installation. Robert then stated that flow monitoring continues at

the Mill Street Diversion Chamber closure and Locust Street Pump Station from Areas 2A and 2B in the City of Hazleton. He then stated that the Municipal Authority of Hazle Township will be starting construction to add about 55 units to the sewer system in the Greenridge Area. He said inflow and infiltration (I/I) work to remove roof drains and illegal connections in the area is also being undertaken as part of the project, which should reduce flows to the Authority's treatment plant.

Rachel Govelovich distributed a written Engineer's Report. She reported that there has been no change regarding the Authority's NPDES Permit renewal. She then reported on the Incinerator Project. She said a submission for the next PENNVEST reimbursement was being drafted and should be ready to submit in May. She reported on the construction progress of the incinerator and noted that there is a zero-cost change order to document Ronca moving actuated ash slurry valves from under the dumpster canopy to inside the building addition. She stated that construction has been temporarily halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic per the Governor's order and for overall health of all parties. She said weekly calls are still being held to coordinate air quality activities, punch-list development, and preparations to return to work. She said that SUEZ would be contacted to discuss re-starting the project after May, 1, 2020 as reported in the Director of Operations Report. Rachel reported on the Air Quality Permitting stating that the Phase 2 CEMS Testing documents were returned by DEP for additional information. She said the Air Quality testing plans would continue to be developed for final approval by DEP. Rachel then stated that there has been no change concerning the coatings system on the reactor. She said additional temperatures need to be taken once the incinerator is restarted to determine the next course of action. Rachel then reported that Suez Payment Estimate #16 in the amount of \$77,752.50, Ronca Payment Estimate #22 in the amount of \$83,233.19, and 360water, Inc. Payment #4 in the amount of \$9,350.00 are on the agenda and recommended for Board approval.

Rachel then reported on the SCADA Upgrade Project stating that testing of SCADA screens was performed and bidding document finalization is pending feedback from the original SCADA system developer, Kruger, Inc. Rachel also reported on the 2020 WWTP Improvements Project and stated that a progress set of bid documents were provided to the Authority and a final conference call was held on March 27 to discuss the final details of the project. She said based on the discussions between the Authority and the equipment manufacturer, the project can be bid with a delivery date in the Spring of 2021 due to concerns of COVID-19 impacting the project schedule. She said there was no change to the CFA Grant application status, which is expected to be awarded in July 2020. She also stated that ACT 537 meetings have been postponed until the social distancing restriction are lifted. Rachel also reported that the Chapter 94 Report, CSO Status Report, and Industrial Pretreatment Report were submitted electronically with permission from the regulators, prior to the March 31st deadline. She said hard copies would be provided at a later date. She said the Annual Operating Report still needs to be prepared before the end of the fiscal year, which entails a site visit to compile operating status and recommendations for the system.

Fayock & Sullivan moved to accept the Engineer's report.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Solicitor’s Report – Attorney Ustynoski reported that in addition to what was reported in executive session during the Work Session, the Intermunicipal Agreement with Butler Township was completed and is on the agenda for the Board’s consideration.

George & Gallagher moved to accept the Solicitor’s report. Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

BILLS AND CREDITS

Gallagher & Fayock moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions through March 27, 2020, totaling \$45,727.36 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*93782	Annual Service Work	2,505.88
Operating Fund	051153.B*93784	Attending Authority Meetings	400.68
Operating Fund	051153.C*93785	Chapter 94 Report	2,814.54
Operating Fund	051153.D*93786	Pretreatment Program	965.02
Operating Fund	051153.E*93787	CSO Work	1,072.23
Operating Fund	051153.AJ*93783	Wastewater Capacity Issues	183.69
Operating Fund	051153.04*93780	SCADA Server Upgrade	1,642.88
Operating Fund	051153.39*93781	2020 WWTP Improvement Project	36,142.44
Total			45,727.36

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Grink moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. Invoice #048847.C0*93779, in the amount of \$34,634.87, from professional services rendered through March 27, 2020 relative to the following Incinerator Project items: PENNVEST Administration (\$254.07), Air Permitting during Construction (\$2,713.50), Construction Administration (\$15,415.68), and Resident Observation (\$16,251.62).

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Sullivan moved to approve Requisition #C221, payment to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$83,233.19, for Payment Estimate #22 of the Incinerator Installation Project – Contract One (General Construction) as recommended by the Engineer. The original contract price was \$10,877,000.00. Add for Change Orders #1 to #14 (\$347,057.29) for a total contract of \$11,224,057.29 The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$10,589,926.74, which leaves a balance of \$634,130.55.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Fayock moved to approve Requisition #C222, payment to 360water, Inc., totaling \$9,350.00, for Payment #4 for the development and hosting of interactive online training modules for the Fluidized Bed Incinerator as recommended by the Engineer. Original Contract price was \$148,000.00. Total of payments made to date including this payment is \$36,100.00, which leaves a balance of \$111,900.00.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Sullivan moved to approve Requisition #C223, payment to Suez Treatment Solutions, totaling \$77,752.50, for Payment Estimate #16 of the Fluidized Bed Incinerator Procurement Contract as recommended by the Engineer. Original Contract price was \$8,133,874.00. Add for Change Orders #1 to #8 (\$3,989,882.50) for a total contract cost of \$12,123,756.50. Total of payments made to date including this payment is \$12,094,875.50, which leaves a balance of \$28,881.00.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Milot moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$595,783.27); Construction in Progress (\$56,930.46); Transfers to Authority Accounts (\$389,712.90); Debt Service Series 2012-A Bond (\$152,647.91); Debt Service Series 2012-B Bond (\$154,849.02); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond - BB&T (\$18,362.29); Interest Expense Pennvest Loan #27906 (\$1,615.84); Debt Service Pennvest Loan #27769 (\$172,675.90); and Debt Service Pennvest Loan #58103 (\$3,426.99) from the month of March 2020.

Roll Call: Ammon-no*, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 7-1-1)

**Board Member Ammon votes no for all payments except those for the Hazleton City Authority (HCA) for which he abstains.*

George & Gallagher moved to approve issued credits totaling \$981.77 from the month of March 2020.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

NEW BUSINESS

Gallagher & George moved to approve Change Order #15, which is a No Cost Change Order, of the Incinerator Installation Project - Contract One (General Construction) as recommended by the Engineer, for labor and materials to relocate actuated valves at the ash slurry discharge.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Milot & Sullivan moved to approve an Intermunicipal Agreement between the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority and Butler Township to service the proposed medical office building in Butler Township as required by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Gallagher & Milot moved to approve a renewal term for the existing contract with the Authority's electricity supplier, Talen Energy, for the purchase of electricity at a fixed price of 4.756 cents/kWh plus GRT and applicable taxes for the Authority's eleven (11) electricity accounts with a term commencing on the January 2023 meter read dates and ending in December 2025 conditioned upon review and approval of the contracts by the Solicitor.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Board Member Fayock asked if the Authority could look at a natural gas contract while the pricing is low. Christopher Carsia responded that the Authority is already locked into a contract with UGI Energy Services and the sewage sludge incinerator needs to be operational for several months to create an usage baseline to secure future pricing beyond the existing contract terms that expired next year. Christopher said it would be too risky to speculate on the consumption of natural gas for purchasing future contracts at this time.

Milot & Gallagher moved to adjourn.

Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

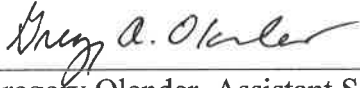
The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, May 13, 2020 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Monday, May 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary