

The May 23, 2022 regular monthly meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Chairman Sullivan at 6:30 PM. All participating in the meeting gave a pledge of allegiance.

May 18, 2022 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Present ¹	Grink – Present	Pacelli – Present
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present	Zola – Absent

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations	Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor
Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming	Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering
Attorney Scott Gartley – Labor Law	Carl Knorek – Results Energy Consulting, Inc.

May 23, 2022 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Absent ²	Gallagher – Present
George – Present	Grink – Present	Pacelli – Present
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present	Zola – Present ¹

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager

¹ via Videoconference

²entered the meeting during the Director of Operations Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

George & Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the April 25, 2022 Regular Monthly Meeting. Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Pension Committee Report

During the Work Session, Board Member Grink reported on the pension activities for the quarter. He said the investments within the pension plan portfolio were down 7% for calendar year 2022 through March 31st. He said all markets were down substantially and it could have been a lot worse for the Authority in this economic climate. He said the payment timing for the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) was discuss and he reported that the MMO check in the amount of \$223,000 would be sent to the investment advisors in the next week or two to cover the next 12 months of pensioner payments and investment of approximately \$70,000 with the remaining money. He said \$10,000 per month would be invested at a ratio of 50% in stocks and 50% in the fixed income asset class. Chairman Sullivan noted that the investment advisor stated the equity markets will likely get worse before they get better.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-absent, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 8-0-1)

Negotiating Committee Report -

During the Work Session, Grink & Gallagher moved to enter executive session for a report on union negotiations by the Authority’s Labor Law Attorney, Scott Gartley.
 Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

During the Regular Meeting, Gallagher & Grink moved to approve the Negotiating Committee Report.
 Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-absent, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 8-0-1)

Restructuring Committee Report
Moved to New Business

Director of Operations Report -

During the Work Session, the Director of Operations, Christopher Carsia, informed the Board that the Authority’s electricity provider, Talen Energy, filed bankruptcy, and was granted a hearing on their bankruptcy filing on May 10, 2022. He said the Authority had a rate below \$0.05/kWh through 2025 through Talen Energy, but now, the Authority would be switched to the default rate as of the next meter read dates near the end this month for all eleven PPL accounts. He then introduced Carl Knorek of Results Electricity Consulting, Inc. to discuss options for the Authority to obtain new contracts for purchasing electricity. Mr. Knorek stated that this is the worst time to shop for electricity due to the extremely high natural gas and commodity prices; however, he said the Authority’s three large accounts are at risk to go as high as \$0.20/kWh unless the Authority enters into a contract for purchase of electricity. He said the markets are currently fluctuating as much as ½ cent per day due to volatility. Christopher stated that both Carl Knorek and Lisa Ninotti of UGI Energy Services will be providing updated pricing on Monday, May 23, 2022, which hopefully can be locked in at the Regular Meeting. Mr. Knorek exited the meeting at this time.

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	<u>April 2022</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
Total Flow	<u>372,651,701</u>	Gallons	<u>1,202,304,172</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	<u>36,172,151</u>	Gallons	<u>59,702,358</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	<u>13</u>	Days	<u>23</u>	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	<u>336,479,550</u>	Gallons	<u>1,142,601,814</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	<u>8.7</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>7.0</u> MGD
Average Maximum	<u>18.8</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>14.5</u> MGD
Average Daily Flow	<u>11.2</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>9.6</u> MGD

During the Work Session, the Director of Operations, Christopher Carsia, reviewed the wastewater flows for April 2022 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at 372.6 million gallons with approximately 336.5 million gallons being treated. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month was 11.2

MGD, which raised the year-to-date total to 9.6 MGD, which is well above the permitted annual average flow of 8.9 MGD. He noted that the CSO Reports are being submitted directly to the DEP monthly along with their required Discharge Monitoring Reports.

Christopher then reported that the revenues for April 2022 were \$1,330,854.16 which was a 16.5% increase from the prior year. He said the billing for hauled waste received in May totaled \$173,844.78, which is a decrease of 5.5% from the same month in the prior year. He then stated that the sewer customer collection rate for the fiscal year through May 2022 increased to 98.45% and the hauled waste collection rate was 101.46%. Gregory Olander then reported that the delinquent collections process is continuing with Section C delinquent postings being done in early June and Section B water terminations in mid to late June.

Christopher Carsia then reported that a second Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Test was performed in April and he is pleased to report that the Authority passed the test with excellent results. He said as required in the new NPDES Permit, the next test will be in 2023 and annually thereafter. Christopher then requested that the Board change the date of the June meetings to have the Work Session on June 27th and the regular meeting on June 29th due to a conflict with the incineration Conference being held at the Authority on June 22nd. Management was instructed to advertise for the new meeting dates in the public notice section of the local newspaper.

Andy Nowak then reported on the Allen Street 60-inch sewer overflow pipe replacement. He said 180 linear feet of pipe will be installed up to the manhole below 17th Street where the sinkhole had occurred. He said Municipal Authority of Hazle Township supplied 8-inch PVC sewer pipe to replace the existing terra cotta pipe that was above the Authority's 60-inch line. He said the Road Crew would then be moving to the west side of the Hazleton Area High School to continue replacement of the 60-inch line alongside the school once the school is closed for the summer. He also reported that approval of one EDU is on the agenda for the Board's consideration.

Gregory Olander reported that on April 29, 2022 the contractor completed replacement of grit screw for the removal system on the 42-inch main line coming into the WWTP and the system is once again functioning properly. He said the maintenance department installed grease lines down to the bearings that are underwater in the channel for lubrication of the fittings. He stated that a price was requested from the same contractor for installation of the replacement link seals in the Nitrification and Denitrification pipe galleries and pricing will be discussed with the Board once received. He then informed the Board that there have been a few issues with variable frequency drives (VFD) at Locust Street and Cranberry Pump Stations. He said it may be necessary to change the configuration of the Master Control Center to accommodate a different drive configuration because the current drives are over 10 years old and no longer available. He said a surplus drive was sourced and ordered for Locust Street Station, but there are no drives available for the Cranberry Station. He said a spare Gashouse Pump Station drive is temporarily being used at the Cranberry Station.

Gregory also reported that he and Rachel Govelovich continue working on the content for the June 22nd incinerator presentation along with materials for an informational handout used during the plant tour later that day. Gregory then reported that additional flyash samples were taken and sent

to the lab for analysis to determine if it is feasible to move forward with the beneficial reuse of flyash, but the sample results still have not been received.

Gregory then reported on the 2020 WWTP Improvement Project noting that the new Final Clarifier #3 mechanism was installed and wired for dry startup on May 18th with a manufacturer's representative onsite. He said wet startup is scheduled for May 25th. He also informed the Board that a meeting was held with the Authority and Municipal Authority of Hazle Township concerning development in the area and a second meeting will be held on May 24th along with representatives of Can Do, Inc.

Board Member Formica joined the regular meeting at this time.

George & Gallagher moved to accept the Director of Operation's Report and to have the written report on diverted flows made a permanent part of the record.

Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

Engineer's Report – During the Work Session, Robert Dougherty referenced a written report that was distributed to the Board. He said the preliminary base mapping is 95% complete for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project in Hazleton City CAP Area 2 & 3. He said design layout for Area 2A has begun and field checks were being completed by the Authority's Road Crew in an attempt to locate laterals missing from the plans. He also reported that trench restoration for the Allen Street Water Line Relocation Project is now complete. He then reported that construction work for the Area 10 Project is approximately 60% complete and he expects the pipework to be finished by the middle of June with milling and paving completed by the end of June.

During the Work Session, Rachel Govelovich referenced a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. Rachel reported on the Incinerator Installation Project, noting that the additional Stack Test Report information requested by DEP was submitted on February 24th and we are still awaiting DEP's final response. She said the Shakedown extension request that was submitted has been approved by DEP, so the Incinerator may continue to operate in Shakedown until November 27, 2022. She reported that the protocol for the annual RATA Test was submitted to DEP for their approval prior to the test currently scheduled for July 26th. Rachel said her firm is also assisting to update the data handling for the incinerator reports to automatically provide the necessary parameter information for reporting to DEP. She said the April 30, 2022 quarterly CEMS report was submitted to DEP. Rachel also stated that the other air quality reports listed in the written Engineer's Report would be worked on for submission before their respective deadlines.

Rachel also reported that review of the LSA Grant Application for the Area 3 Locust Street CSO Separation Project is expected at the next CFA Board Meeting on May 24, 2022. She then reported that the statewide LSA Grant Application in the amount of \$1,000,000 has been submitted for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project – Area 2 as requested; however, the CFA meeting to decide the grant awards has been postponed until November 2022.

Rachel then reported on the 2020 WWTP Improvement Project noting that the final clarifier equipment manufacturer, WesTech, was onsite during dry start-up of Final Clarifier #3. She said the contractor and construction management have been discussing the remaining concrete repairs

and how to proceed, specifically with the concrete slab and curbing outside the Primary Pump Station. She said LB Industries Payment Estimate #12 in the amount of \$36,575.00 is on the agenda and recommended for approval.

Rachel then reported that the Act 537 Plan of Study was submitted to DEP and pre-planning dates were requested, but there has been no response from DEP thus far. She stated that her firm is assisting with the Local Limits Update as required by the new NPDES Permit and a sampling plan was submitted to EPA for their approval. She then stated that her firm took field measurement for replacement link seals in the Nitrification/Denitrification pipe galleries and they will be assisting with an evaluation of options for replacing the questionable leaking link seals.

Gallagher & Formica moved to accept the Engineer’s Report.

Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

Solicitor’s Report – In addition to what was reported in executive session by Attorney Ustynoski during the Work Session, Attorney Ustynoski stated that he had nothing additional to report.

George & Grink moved to accept the Solicitor’s report. Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

BILLS AND CREDITS

Formica & Sherrock moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from April 2, 2022 through May 6, 2022, totaling \$19,663.43 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*8633	Annual Service Work	5,988.68
Operating Fund	051153.B*8636	Attending Authority Meetings	670.31
Operating Fund	051153.D*8637	Pretreatment Program	5,737.05
Operating Fund	051153.T*8638	NPDES Permit Renewal	345.41
Operating Fund	051153.AG*8634	Financing and Grants	130.39
Operating Fund	051153.AJ*8635	Wastewater Capacity Issues	625.25
Operating Fund	051153.39*8631	2020 WWTP Improvements Project	3,162.24
Operating Fund	051153.42*8632	2021-2022 Air Compliance	3,004.10
Total			19,663.43

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

George & Gallagher moved to payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. Invoice #048847.C0*8630, in the amount of \$3,571.29, for professional services rendered from April 2, 2022 through May 6, 2022 relative to the following Incinerator Project items: PENNVEST Administration (\$173.85), Air Permitting during Construction (\$2,702.04), Incinerator Construction Administration (\$695.40).

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve Requisition No. C252, payable to LB Industries, Inc., totaling \$36,575.00, for Payment Estimate #12 of the 2020 WWTP Improvements Project. The

original contract price was \$549,510.00. Add for Change Order #1 to #7 (\$86,181.46) for a total contract price of \$635,691.46. The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$558,158.69, which leaves a balance of \$77,532.77.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Gallagher & George moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$539,185.64); Construction in Progress (\$20,555.57); Transfers to Other Authority Accounts (\$50,017.50); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service Pennvest Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44); from the month of April 2022.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$6,163.15 from the month of April 2022.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Gallagher & George moved to approve a sewage connection allocation for one (1) EDU, at 230 gallons per EDU, to Jose Melo for property located at Rear 620 North Vine Street in the City of Hazleton, as described in the sewage permit application package.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve the following changes to the Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA) for Maintenance and Clerical Employees as recommended by the Negotiating Committee: a \$2.00 increase to the base wage, an increase to the Defined Benefit Pension Plan benefit from \$55 per month per year of service to \$56 per month per year of service, an increase to the employer matching contribution for the Defined Contribution Pension Plan from 3% to 4%, and a change to the eyeglasses reimbursement for up to \$425.00 every two years, which may include more than one pair of eyeglasses. Clerk positions in the Clerical CBA were combined to one position with employees cross-trained to perform all clerical duties. The changes have an effective date of May 15, 2022 and the term of the agreement is for one (1) year.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

During the regular meeting, pricing on May 23, 2022 was reviewed with the Board from Results Energy Consulting, Inc., which included fixed rate pricing of: 12 months at \$.12082, 24 months at \$.09841, 36 months at \$.08870, and 48 months at \$.08407 with no pass-through fees. Christopher Carsia noted that with the extreme volatility in the electricity market, contracts must be executed before end of business each day, so if the Board is interested in securing a fixed price, the actual price may change by tomorrow. After some discussion by the Board, **Gallagher & Formica**

moved to approve a three (3) year contract with Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. for the purchase of electricity at a fixed price determined by the current daily rate on May 24, 2022 provided it does not exceed \$0.0902 per kWh.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Restructuring Committee Report -

Gallagher & Formica moved to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues.

Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

After the Board moved out of executive session, **Formica & George** moved to adjust compensation for Management employees, as recommended by the Restructuring Committee, effective June 1, 2022 the hourly rates shall be set at \$59.92 for Gregory Olander, \$48.08 for Andrew Nowak, \$48.08 for Eugene Zynel, and \$39.29 for Laura Motel; all management employees hourly rates shall increase by 4% on June 1, 2023, 3% on June 1, 2024, and 3% on June 1, 2025; and effective June 1, 2022 management employees shall receive a matching employer contribution of up to 4% in the 457B defined contribution pension plan.

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 9-0-0)

Pacelli & Gallagher moved to adjourn.

Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Monday, June 27, 2022 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary