

The December 28, 2022 Special 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.

Roll Call:

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

Also in Attendance:

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

¹ via Videoconference

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Hiring Committee Report

Committee Chairman Zola requested to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Gallagher & Grink moved to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

After the Board moved out of executive session, Committee Chairman Zola reported on behalf of the Hiring Committee who recommended approving the motion to hire Autumn Gunn for the position of Plant Operator and recommended removing the motion to hire William Cooper from the agenda.

Formica & Grink moved to hire Autumn Gunn for the position of Plant Operator, conditioned upon her passing a physical examination and drug screening, at an hourly rate of \$24.00, which is 80% of the current Certified Plant Operator rate with a start date determined by Authority Management. As stated in the Union Contract, a Plant Operator is a certified position and requires Ms. Gunn to pass the PA State certification exam for a Class “A” Wastewater Operator within twenty-four (24) months from the date of hire. Upon passing the State Examination, the rate of pay will increase to the Certified Plant Operator rate.

Roll Call: Eyerly-absent, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-absent, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 7-0-2)

Formica & Gallagher moved to remove the following motion from the agenda:

#5 Motion to hire William Cooper for the position of Plant Operator, conditioned upon his passing a physical examination and drug screening, at an hourly rate of \$30.00, which is the current Certified Plant Operator Rate, with a start date determined by Authority Management

Roll Call: Eyerly-absent, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-absent, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 7-0-2)

Directors’ Report

Gregory Olander reported that a proposal was received from USP Technologies for transfer of ownership of the Hydrogen Peroxide tank, pumping equipment, and piping. He said they requested \$5,500 for the transfer, which is a very good deal for the Authority. He recommended the Authority

approve the transfer. He also noted that Attorney Ustynoski reviewed the agreement of sale and had no issues with the transfer.

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve the purchase of the onsite Hydrogen Peroxide Tank and dosing skids from USP Technologies for the price of \$5,500.00, which also includes the purchase of Hydrogen Peroxide (27% solution) from USP Technologies through December 31, 2024 at \$3.50 per gallon plus 9.8% transportation & energy surcharge, as outlined in the agreement dated December 22, 2022.

Roll Call: Eyerly-absent, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-absent, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 7-0-2)

Andy Nowak then informed the Board that there is an emergency situation at the Stacie Manor Pump Station, which was previously owned by the City of Hazleton. He said a leak or break in the force main was identified by the maintenance department staff due water pouring into the dry side of the pump station through manhole riser seams. He said it was tested and it is wastewater. He said the sump pump is transferring the wastewater to the wet well, but the leak must be addresses immediately before it is no longer contained. He said Authority Management met with the Road Crew and Maintenance Department staff to discuss the repair. He said according to the City of Hazleton plans, where the force main exits the dry well, it is approximately 17 feet below grade and under the foundation of the building housing the emergency generator and electrical gear. Andy and Gregory agreed that this work would need to be contracted to an outside entity due to its complexity and potential for effecting the building. He said several calls were made and the only contractor willing to do the work immediately was MF Ronca and Sons from Bethlehem, PA. He said they had done pipe work for the Authority in the past and are capable of making the repair. He stated that the first step is to install a bypass port further down the force main to isolate the section of pipe with the break so the repair can be made. He said tankers would be used to transport the wastewater while the bypass is being installed. He noted MF Ronca would mobilize and do the work on a time and materials basis. Attorney Ustynoski stated that this is categorized as an emergency and needs to be addressed quickly. The Board agreed that Management should contact MF Ronca to begin the repair as soon as possible.

Gallagher & Grink moved to authorize management to enter into an agreement with an outside contractor to perform emergency repairs at the Stacie Manor Pump Station on a time and materials basis as reported by Management.

Roll Call: Eyerly-absent, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Pacelli-absent, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-yes (Passed 7-0-2)

Gallagher & Grink moved to adjourn.

Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

The Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary