

The March 22, 2023 regular monthly meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Acting Chairman Gallagher at 6:30 PM. All participating in the meeting gave a pledge of allegiance.

March 20, 2023 Work Session Roll Call:

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

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
PA State Representative Dane Watro	

March 22, 2023 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

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

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

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

¹ via Videoconference

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

George & Formica moved to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2023 Regular Monthly Meeting.
Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

Formica & Pacelli moved to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2023 Pension Meeting.
Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

Invited Guests

During the Work Session, the Board thanked Pennsylvania State Representative Dane Watro for taking time out of his busy schedule to tour the Authority’s wastewater treatment plant and attend the Board Meeting. Representative Watro stated that he was impressed at the size and condition of the facility and he offered to provide assistance in the form of support for upcoming capital projects. The Board noted that any assistance would benefit the ratepayers in his district. They once again thanked him before he exited the meeting.

Directors’ Report -

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

February 2023

Year to Date

			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
Total Flow	178,432,063	Gallons	505,055,212	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	0	Gallons	7,979,767	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	0	Days	5	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	178,432,063	Gallons	497,075,445	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	4.5	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	6.1 MGD
Average Maximum	8.8	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	11.6 MGD
Average Daily Flow	6.4	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	8.6 MGD

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for February 2023 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at approximately 178.4 million gallons with all flow to the plant being treated. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month was 6.4 MGD, which decreased the year to date average daily flow to 8.6 MGD.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for February 2023 were \$981,201.64 and the billing for hauled waste received in February totaled \$158,776.04. He then stated that the overall customer collection rate for the month of February was 97.52% and collections for the fiscal year to date was 95.10%. Gregory reported that the first round of delinquent notices would be mailed before the end of March and that section would be posted with a second notice in mid-April. He reported that the liquid waste hauler on a payment plan has kept up with payment agreement this month. He reported that Authority Management and Attorney Ustynoski met with Attorney Gartley for preliminary discussions on the upcoming contract negotiations with the union. He requested the Chairman call a Negotiating Committee meeting so Attorney Gartley can discuss the union contracts directly with the Committee. He then stated that he has been working with Attorney Ustynoski to revise the current rate resolution to allow for billing all EDUs allocated to customers. He said the language changes were reviewed by Attorney Jennifer Caron, the Authority’s Bond Counsel, to make sure they did not violate the Trust Indenture. Gregory then noted that he continues to collect applications for an open Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator position, which will then be reviewed by the Hiring Committee. He also reported that he had a meeting with representatives of vzrSCADA and Golden Business Machines to discuss additional cybersecurity measures that can be put in place to meet EPA recommendations.

Gregory reported that the annual preventative maintenance was performed on all generators at the treatment plant and pump stations and any follow-up work would be done as per the service company’s recommendation. He then reported that Kruger (Veolia) is expected to release a report on the work needed to activate De-Nitrification Cell #5, which will be discussed with the Board before moving forward with a project.

Gregory then reported that a report to DEP on the Autumn & Ridge CSO Separator is due to PADEP in about 6 months. He said flows from the West Hazleton pre and post flow monitoring is needed from RJD Engineering to compile the report.

Gregory also reported on the Incinerator Project noting that the annual Stack Test was performed on January 11th and 12th, 2023. He said the results were received from testing company and unfortunately, one of the test runs returned a high result for Lead, which caused the three run average to exceed the permit limit. He said the limit for lead is set so low that it is very difficult to meet. He noted that the

removal efficiency for lead was 99.96%, but it still resulted in a failing result. He said a retest for lead has been scheduled for the week of May 15, 2023. Gene Zynel stated that he made some operational changes to the water flow and pressure differential of the venturi scrubber, which is expected to reduce the amount of lead in the emissions. He noted that SUEZ was consulted and agrees with this approach. Gregory then stated that the draft Title V Operating Permit was received from DEP and it is under review by the Gannett Fleming Air Quality division to develop a response to PADEP. He then said Rachel will be reporting on Grant Applications status and submission of the Act 537 Plan of Study to PADEP. He then asked Andy to report on several issues in the collection system.

Gregory then reported on the recent notice of a municipal meeting and PADEP for a developer to answer questions concerning a proposed garbage transfer station in the City of Hazleton. He said so far, there has been no correspondence to the Authority by the developer and no plans have been provided. He said if the facility is built and connects to the sanitary sewer system, the discharge must meet the Authority's Local Limits and any other requirements under the Industrial Pretreatment Program. Gregory also informed the Board that he was contacted by EPA Region 3 concerning the Valmont TCE remediation site. He said the EPA representative stated that the treatment unit that will be used to clean the contaminated groundwater is currently in design. Gregory noted that there will be more correspondence going forward and he will be including Nick Sahd of Gannett Fleming to assist with this project. He said it could be handled similarly to other remediation discharges where the Board authorizes the discharge into the sewer system through an agreement with EPA outlining the conditions that must be met.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported that a break in the 12" Locust Street Force Main occurred on March 3, 2023 just below the repair that was made on January 7th. He stated that the Road Crew replaced a 10' section of pipe on Vine Street in just under 4 ½ hours. He said DEP was notified verbally at the time the break was discovered and a written report was sent to DEP within the 5-day period as required. He said Bob Dougherty is nearly finished with the design work to replace the entire Locust Street Force Main and the bids notice will be advertised in the near future. Chairman Sullivan asked if there would be a mandatory pre-bid meeting for the project. Andy responded that a pre-bid meeting will be required. Andy then reported that a request to reserve 4 EDUs of capacity for a Taco Bell in the parking lot of the Church Hill Plaza is on the agenda for the Board's consideration. He also reported that a one year developer's agreement extension request from NEPA Building, LLC is on the agenda for the Board's consideration.

Formica & George 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-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

Engineer's Report – During the regular meeting, Rachel Govelovich referenced a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. Rachel reported on the Incinerator Installation Project, noting that a meeting has been set with Authority Management to review and provide comments on the draft Title V Operating Permit that was released by PADEP on February 7, 2023. She said a reply will be sent to PADEP with comments on the draft permit following that meeting. She reiterated that the Stack Retest is scheduled for the week of May 15th and in addition to lead, the testing company will be retesting for HCl, due to a low sample efficiency during the last test. She also said the next Air Emissions report due is the quarterly CEMS report, which is due before the end of April.

Rachel then gave an update on the multiple grant applications submitted for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project as listed in the written report. She said the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant application in the amount of \$400,000 for the Area 10 – Phase 2 Separation Project and the H2O Grant application for the Locust Street CSO Separation and Force Main Replacement Project in the amount of \$3,900,000 are expected to be reviewed and awards determined by the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) at their July or September meeting. She reported that the Authority did not receive funding through the Statewide LSA Grant application and as reported, it appears the Authority will be receiving a grant award of \$2,000,000 through a Luzerne County ARPA Grant. She said the PADEP review items for PENNVEST funding have been submitted by RJD Engineering and additional items will be produced for submission to PENNVEST before the May 3, 2023 application cutoff date. She reviewed an outline of the schedule for the project as listed in the written report and said funding would be determined by PENNVEST at their July meeting.

Rachel then reported on the Act 537 Plan. She said the updated Plan of Study was provided to PADEP for review and comment, but there has not been a response to date. She said a meeting with Authority Staff has been scheduled for April 11th to begin flow modeling and mapping discussions needed for the Act 537 Plan and Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). Rachel also reported that the annual Chapter 94 Report, Industrial Pretreatment Report, and CSO Report were being worked on for submission prior to the March 31, 2023 deadline.

During the Work Session, Robert Dougherty referenced a written report that was distributed to the Board and noted that the Force Main replacement design has been completed as part of the Locust Street CSO Separation Project. He then reported that the PennDOT permit application to cross Route 309 is being prepared and the Norfolk Southern application to cross the railroad has been submitted. He said the project specification will be advertised for bid in the next week or so with a bid opening at the May work session. He said Hazleton CAP Area 10 (Phase 2) field work has started and roof drain identification and mapping has been completed. He said the door tag notification for dye testing and roof drain removal is underway.

Formica & George moved to accept the Engineer's Report.

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

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

George & Formica moved to accept the Solicitor's report.

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

BILLS AND CREDITS

Formica & Pacelli moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from January 28, 2023 through February 24, 2023 totaling \$18,988.25 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*20348	Annual Service Work	\$ 782.33
Operating Fund	051153.B*20355	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 173.85
Operating Fund	051153.C*20356	Chapter 94 Report	\$ 317.20
Operating Fund	051153.D*20357	Pretreatment Program	\$ 2,696.20
Operating Fund	051153.E*20358	CSO Work	\$ 317.20
Operating Fund	051153.AG*20349	Financing and Grants	\$ 304.24
Operating Fund	051153.AI*20350	ODMS Program Update	\$ 1,262.70
Operating Fund	051153.CO*20364	Incinerator Project	\$ 495.93
Operating Fund	051153.42*20346	2022-2023 Air Compliance	\$ 3,755.47
Operating Fund	051153.43*20347	Act 537 Plan	\$ 250.10
Operating Fund	051153.44*20430	2022 Locust Street CSO PV	\$ 8,633.03
Total			\$ 18,988.25

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

Formica & Pacelli moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$680,617.34); Construction in Progress (\$16,162.00); Equipment and/or Office Equipment (\$44,840.00); Debt Service Series 2020 Bond (\$336,500.00); Debt Service Series 2021 Bond (\$503,000.00); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44) from the month of February 2023.

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

Formica & Pacelli moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$1,483.49 from the month of February 2023.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Formica & George moved to approve a Reservation of Sewage Capacity and Sewage Connection Allocation of four (4) EDUs, at 230 gallons per EDU, to 1065 Church Street Properties, LLC, for property located at 1065 North Church Street in Hazle Township, as detailed in the executed Reservation of Capacity Application and Agreement (ROCA) documents, and the completed sewage permit application package.

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

Formica & Sherrock moved to approve a permit extension request for connection to the sewage collection system, as allowed by the approved sewage connection permit documents, to NEPA Building, LLC, for property located at North Conahan Drive & State Route 424 in the City of Hazleton. The permit and connection expiration date shall be extended to May 25, 2024. All remaining Terms and Conditions of the Permit and Developer’s Agreement dated May 25, 2021 shall remain in effect.

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

Formica & Pacelli moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Monday, April 24, 2023 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary