

The May 20, 2024 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 15, 2024 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Absent	Grink – Present	Sharkey – Present
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Absent	Zola – Absent

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming
¹ Nick Sahd – Gannett Fleming	Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering	Gene Zynel – Plant Operations Manager

May 20, 2024 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

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George – Present ¹	Grink – Present	Sharkey – Absent ²
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present	Zola – Present

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

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

¹ via phone or Videoconference

²Board Member Sharkey entered the meeting during the Pension Committee Report

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Formica & Sherrock moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2024 Special Meeting.

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting.

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

Pension Committee Report

Board Member Grink reported on behalf of the Pension Committee stating that the rate of return for the portfolio in the first quarter of 2024 was 4.2%. He said the advisor indicated there would be ups and downs through the summer, but there was no recommendation to make changes to the money managers at this time. He said the plan is currently 58% equities, but with the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) payment expected for deposit in June or July, the percentage should rise to about 60% as some of the MMO money is invested. He asked the Director of Administration about the MMO amount. Gregory Olander responded that the MMO amount for 2024 is \$223,000 as was outlined and approved in the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

Board Member Sharkey entered the meeting during the Pension Committee Report

Gallagher & Formica moved to accept the Pension Committee’s Report.

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

Hiring Committee Report

Board Member Zola reported on behalf of the Hiring Committee. He stated that the committee had previously interviewed a candidate, Carl Yaccino, for the position of Plant Operator and the Committee is recommending Mr. Yaccino be hired for the open Plant Operator position. He said Mr. Yaccino already has a Pa State Wastewater Operators’ License and has several years’ experience operating at other WWTPs.

Formica & Grink moved to accept the Hiring Committee’s Report.

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

Directors’ Report -

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	<u>April 2024</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
Total Flow	<u>354,617,757</u>	Gallons	<u>1,422,192,800</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	<u>43,066,774</u>	Gallons	<u>153,636,687</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	<u>10</u>	Days	<u>34</u>	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	<u>311,550,983</u>	Gallons	<u>1,268,556,113</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	<u>8.3</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>8.4</u> MGD
Average Maximum	<u>17.1</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>16.7</u> MGD
Average Daily Flow	<u>10.4</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>10.5</u> MGD

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for April 2024 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at approximately 354.6 million gallons with 311.5 million gallons being treated. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month was 10.4 MGD due to the continued wet weather this spring. He said the average daily flow for the calendar year remained unchanged at 10.5 MGD. He noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) were submitted to PADEP for April with no effluent violations recorded. He then reported that the annual Whole Effluent Toxicity Test (WETT) results were received from the lab with nearly perfect scoring. He elaborated on the WETT procedures and noted that even 100% WWTP effluent had no mortalities along with reproduction and growth in both species used in the test. He said it was the best result since testing began under the new permit, which shows the effectiveness of the WWTP operations to produce pristine effluent. He said the WETT results were reported to PADEP as required.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for April 2024 were \$1,388,286.52 and the billing for hauled waste received in April totaled \$205,935.66. He then stated that the overall customer collection rate for the month of April was 110.07% and the overall customer collections for the fiscal year increased to 96.40%. He then reported that annual delinquent shutoff procedures continued with a second round of postings in May and the first section of water shutoffs. He then reported that there is a need to fill another Plant Operator position due to issues that will be discussed in executive session related to personnel. Gregory then reported that pricing was received from Results Energy Consulting, Inc., who solicited electricity quotes from 15 different suppliers. He said pricing will be updated the day of the Regular Meeting so a recommendation could be made for approval of an electricity supply contract, which will be on the agenda.

Gregory reported on maintenance work that took place over the past month. He said the removal of Rotary Press #1 and its replacement with the newer Rotary Press #3 was completed the week of May 13th. He said the Control Building panel was replaced and resealed by the window installer following the press installation. Gregory then stated that the maintenance and operations staff along with the programming integrator are completing their final review of revised submittals from the manufacturer for the second HPU for the sludge cake pump. He said hopefully this review will allow for approval so the manufacturer may begin production. He then reported that a different method of securing link seals in the Nitrification and Denitrification pipe galleries is being investigated and discussions continue with the seal manufacturer. He said that he would report back to the Board once more information and pricing is received from the manufacturer. He then reported that operations staff have been reporting problems with the UV disinfection system especially following power outages. He asked Gene Zynel to elaborate on the issues being experienced. Gene indicated the control boards that were purchased from the manufacturer as spares/replacements are not proving to be as effective as the originals. He said the system is experiencing an excessive amount of ballast and lamp failures, which are proving to be more and more costly. He said the unit has been phased out by the manufacturer and most plants are faced with replacement. He said that during a search for parts he came upon a company that completely refurbishes older UV systems with new control technology that may not have been available when the units were first purchased and installed. He said the company has completed many of these retrofits and they will be providing a proposal including references for the Board to consider as an option. It was noted that a new UV system could cost between \$3 million to \$4 million to purchase and install. Gregory noted that the current system went online in 2007 at a total cost of \$1.8 million. He said the unit is now fully depreciated. He then reported on the Biotower #1, which has been patched in several locations as a temporary fix to prevent leaking. He said the tank sidewalls are corroded through in several locations and a representative of the tank company will be coming to investigate. He said once the tank is looked at by the manufacturer, he will report the findings to the Board. He noted that this is a difficult fix because all the filter media would need to be removed and replaced in order to fix/replace the side wall panels of the tank. Gregory stated that with these other projects increasing in priority, the 3rd Hauled Waste Site lower priority work will be delayed. In addition, the plan with the hauled waste program is that it will be reduced as needed to accommodate growth in the area. Discussion noted that the incinerator capacity was established based on future wastewater flows and in order to operate efficiently at the approximately 90% incinerator capacity, hauled waste is used to supplement system wastewater solids. As system flows increase, hauled waste can be reduced to maintain solids loading at 90% incinerator capacity. GF is revising its previous proposal to include only the Denite cell and creek crossing main replacement work.

Gregory then reported that results from the Stack Retest that was done the week of May 29th have not been received yet. He then reported that an RFP was sent to stack testers to get proposals for the 2024 test. He said the results were: Alliance Technical Group \$58,900; Montrose \$57,780; Advanced Industrial Resources (AIR) \$34,120; and Encino Environmental Services \$27,900. He said the proposals were reviewed by Gannett Fleming's Air Quality Group and Authority management and based on the review Encino Environmental Services is being recommended to perform the incinerator stack test for 2024. He said they will be contacted to begin developing the protocol, which must be sent to PADEP for approval prior to testing. He then reported that there has been no response from PADEP relative to the technical review of the Solid Waste Management Permit renewal application submitted on March 20, 2025.

Gregory also reported that a second site visit was held with the developer proposing to reuse the GHJSA treatment plant effluent for cooling water. He said the developer was also accompanied by their engineer and an environmental scientist, who have been contracted by the developer to complete a feasibility study for use of the reclaimed water.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported that he received pricing for a new Bobcat Loader to replace the 2011 model that is nearing the end of its useful life. He said pricing was received through COSTARS and through another cooperative purchasing contract called Sourcewell. He said the Solicitor reviewed the purchasing option and agrees that the Bobcat may be purchased through Sourcewell since it was competitively bid. Andy noted that the price through Sourcewell was significantly lower than the COSTARS price. He said the motion would be placed on the agenda for the Board's consideration. He said the trade-in value of the old Bobcat came in at \$14,500. He was instructed to put the old bobcat on Municibid with the trade-in value as the reserve. He also reported that the Road Crew had been helping the Locust Street CSO Separation Project contractor with lateral location using the camera truck when the need arises. He said they continue to raise manholes throughout the service area in preparation for paving.

Gallagher & Grink moved to accept the Directors' 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, Rachel Govelovich referenced a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. She stated that the stack retest was performed by the testing company on April 30, 2024 for HCl, which failed in December 2023 due to not enough sample being taken by the company. She said the results have not yet been received. She said the CEMS quarterly report was submitted on April 17, 2024 and the next report will be due by the end of July.

Rachel reported that there has been no indication from PADEP or PENNVEST that the Incinerator Installation change orders have been reviewed so the project funding can be closed out. She said there is approximately \$1.7 million remaining in the PENNVEST loan budget that may be requested by the Authority for reimbursement.

She then reported on PENNVEST funding for the Locust Street Project noting that since the closing has not taken place yet; however, the Highway Occupancy Permit was finally received from PennDOT, so the closing may now be scheduled. She said the Authority, Engineer, Solicitor, and Bond Counsel will review documents and make appropriate changes for settlement. She also reported that she will be participating on a call with the Director of Administration relative to the Luzerne County ARPA Grant that was received for the Locust Street Project.

Rachel then reported on the Act 537 and LTCP activities. She said flow meters that have been deployed continue to capture flows at the CSO discharge points so the required flow study can be completed before the February 28, 2025 deadline. She said an internal meeting was held to coordinate the flow study with the GIS Mapping to make sure recorded data is usable to complete the flow model. She said for the GIS Mapping Project, the online environment has been up and running and configuration of the system continues, which will include layers for the WWTP, CSO Diversion Chambers/Outfalls, and pump stations. She said existing maps were uploaded and used to begin the design.

Rachel also reviewed a handout of a proposal from Gannett Fleming to perform construction phase services for PENNVEST administration during the Locust Street CSO Separation Project. She reviewed the details of the proposal with the Board and it was to be included as an agenda item for the Board’s consideration.

During the Work Session, Robert Dougherty referenced a written report that was distributed to the Board. He gave an update on the Locust Street CSO Separation Project and then reported that there have been several change orders since the project began which were previously distributed to the Board in a packet. He asked if there were any questions on the change orders and stated that they were on the agenda for Board approval. He then reported that the contractor has been focusing on trench restoration and paving for the past few weeks, but gravity sewer installation will be continuing. He said they should be boring under the railroad at Wyoming street by the end of May. He also said now that the HOP has been received, work may begin on Church Street. He said the contractor projects the remainder of Area 3 will be completed by the end of summer then they will move to Area 2A. He then recommended the approval of change orders #2 through #27 in the amount of \$121,635.50 as well as approval of Payment Estimate #6 in the amount of \$405,035.28.

Gallagher & Grink 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 during the Work Session, Attorney Ustynoski requested the Board move to Executive session to discuss personnel issues and a legal issue for contract negotiations relative to the Valmont TCE Remediation Site.

Gallagher & Grink moved to enter executive session for personnel issues and a legal issue.

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

After the Board moved out of executive session, **Gallagher & Grink** moved to accept the Solicitor’s Report. Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

BILLS AND CREDITS

Formica & Sharkey moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from March 30, 2024 through April 26, 2024, totaling \$14,910.40 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*35703	Annual Service Work	\$ 1,995.46
Operating Fund	051153.B*35704	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 591.09
Operating Fund	051153.D*35710	Pretreatment Program	\$ 7,763.78
Operating Fund	051153.40*35700	Locust St Project - GIS Data	\$ 193.07
Operating Fund	051153.42*35702	2023-2024 Air Compliance	\$ 2,212.93
Operating Fund	051153.43*35701	Act 537 Plan	\$ 751.53
Operating Fund	051153.46*35705	GIS Mapping Project	\$ 1,402.54
Total			\$ 14,910.40

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

Formica & Sharkey moved to approve payment of RJD Engineering, Inc. invoices from April 2024 totaling \$15,837.00 as listed in the following table:

	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	4/30/2024	Area 2/3 - Locust St CSO	\$ 15,342.00
Operating Fund	4/30/2024	Collection System Engineering	\$ 495.00
		Total	\$ 15,837.00

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

Formica & Grink moved to approve Change Orders #2 through #27 totaling a net addition to the Locust Street CSO Separation & Force Main Replacement Project contract with Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., in the amount of \$121,635.50, as presented and recommended by the engineer and listed in the table below:

LOCUST STREET CSO SEPARATION FORCE MAIN
PROJECT
CHANGE ORDERS 2-27 SUMMARY

CHANGE ORDER	AMOUNT
2	\$1,725.00
3	\$15,725.00
4	\$17,020.00
5	\$6,900.00
6	\$19,285.50
7	\$19,550.00
8	\$16,675.00
9	\$6,210.00
10	\$2,300.00
11	\$3,450.00
12	\$2,990.00
13	\$7,935.00
14	\$4,600.00
15	\$1,897.50
16	\$1,437.50
17	\$8,452.50
18	\$16,905.00
19	\$17,135.00
20	\$13,731.00
21	\$2,610.50
22	\$15,778.00
23	\$20,412.50
24	\$14,915.50

	25	\$2,300.00
	26	(\$9,100.00)
	27	(\$109,205.00)
NET CONTRACT CHANGE		\$121,635.50

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve Requisition No. C261, payable to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$405,035.28, for Payment Estimate #6 of the Locust St CSO Separation & Force Main Replacement Project as recommended by the engineer. The original contract price was \$5,271,000.00. Add for Change Orders #1 through #27 (\$240,142.07) for a total contract price of \$5,511,142.07. The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$1,967,529.14, which leaves a balance of \$3,543,612.93.

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

Gallagher & Sharkey moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$770,713.88); Construction in Progress (\$60,654.27); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44) from the month of April 2024.

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

Formica & Sherrock moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$2,139.54 from the month of April 2024.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Gallagher & Grink moved to approve the purchase of one (1) 2024 Bobcat Model S86 T4 Skid-Steer Loader, including a 80” Bucket, severe-duty tires, and the deluxe options package, for the total purchase price of \$72,889.50 as listed in the quotation dated May 2, 2024 from Highway Equipment Company of Drums, PA, through the Sourcewell Cooperative Purchasing Program Contract #040319-CEC, for use in the treatment plant operations department conditioned upon Solicitor review and approval of the purchasing agreements. The current 2011 S850 Bobcat Loader shall be sold by either MunicibiBid auction or trade-in with purchase.

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

Formica & Grink moved to hire Carl Yaccino for the position of Plant Operator, conditioned upon his passing a physical examination and drug screening, at an hourly rate of \$31.35, which is the current Certified Plant Operator rate with a start date determined by Authority Management.

On the Question: Board Member Eyerly asked if he would receive a bonus because he has his certification. Gregory Olander responded that he would not receive a bonus because he already passed the state exam, but he would be hired at the current certified operator rate of pay.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to authorize Authority Management to execute a contract on May 21, 2024 with Freepoint Energy Solutions, LLC for supply of electricity at a fixed price not to exceed \$0.078 per kWh with an eighteen-month term beginning on the meter read date May 2025 and ending December 2026.

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

Gallagher & Zola moved to approve the proposal from Gannett Fleming, Inc. dated May 15, 2024 for Engineering Services for PENNVEST Administration Services during the Construction Phase of the Locust Street CSO Separation & Force Main Replacement Project at a not to exceed cost of \$35,600.00 as outlined in the proposal scope of services.

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

Zola & Sharkey moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:50 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Monday, June 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary