

The June 26, 2024 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.

June 24, 2024 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Present ¹	Grink – Present	Sharkey – Present
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Present	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
Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering	Gene Zynel – Plant Operations Manager

June 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

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

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	¹ Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming
Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations	

¹ via phone or Videoconference

²Chairman Sullivan entered the regular meeting during the Solicitor’s 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 May 15, 2024 Pension Meeting.

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

Sherrock & Sharkey moved to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting.

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

OPENING OF BIDS FOR ULTRA LOW SULFUR DIESEL FUEL FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

BIDDERS NAME	BID AMOUNT
M&J Excavation, Inc. Bloomsburg, PA	Terminal Rack Price plus \$0.40 per gallon delivered
Russel Postupack Oil Co., Inc. Kline Township, PA	Terminal Rack Price plus \$0.38 per gallon delivered

Formica & Grink moved to award the Ultra-Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel supply contract for August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025 to the apparent lowest responsible bidder, Russell Postupack Oil Co., Inc. of Kline Township, PA, for the wholesale terminal rack price plus a fixed adder of thirty-eight cents (\$0.38) per gallon delivered to the GHJSA as recommended by the Authority Management.
 Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-absent, Zola-absent (Passed 7-0-2)

OPENING OF BIDS FOR WASTEWATER CHEMICALS FOR THE 2024-2025 FISCAL YEAR

BIDDERS NAME	SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE	MAGNESIUM HYDROXIDE	POLYALUMINUM CHLORIDE	SODIUM HYDROXIDE	METHANOL	METHANOL ALTERNATIVE
Brenntag Northeast, Inc.	\$2.55/gal	\$829.00 per Dry Ton	No Bid	\$2.35/gal	Bid Disqualified	Bid Disqualified
Chemstream, Inc.	\$2.35/gal	No Bid	No Bid	\$2.75/gal	No Bid	No Bid
Coburn Chemicals, Inc.	No Bid	\$803.62 Dry Ton	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Environmental Operating Systems, Inc.	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	\$0.35/gal Subtracted from Methanex Index
Holland Company, Inc.	No Bid	No Bid	\$3.74/gal \$3.289/lb Al ₂ O ₃	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
JCI Jones Chemicals, Inc.	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	\$2.80/gal	No Bid	No Bid
Kemira Water Solutions, Inc.	No Bid	No Bid	\$3.48/gal \$3.32/lb Al ₂ O ₃	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Kuehne Chemical Co.	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Main Pool & Chemical Co.	\$3.03/gal	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Martin Marietta Magnesia Specialties	No Bid	\$938.00 Dry Ton	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid
Univar USA, Inc.	\$2.20/gal	No Bid	No Bid	\$2.485/gal	\$0.24/gal Subtracted from Methanex Index	No Bid
USALCO	No Bid	No Bid	\$3.2412/gal \$2.1357/lb Al ₂ O ₃	No Bid	No Bid	No Bid

Sharkey & Sherrock moved to award the August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025 chemicals contracts as specified in the bid documents to the apparent lowest responsible bidders listed in the following table as recommended by Authority Management:

Sodium Hypochlorite	Univar USA, Inc. of Morrisville, PA	\$2.20 per gallon
Polyaluminum Chloride (DelPAC 1525)	USALCO of Baltimore, MD	\$3.2412 per gallon \$2.1357 per lb Al ₂ O ₃
Methanol	Univar USA, Inc. of Morrisville, PA	\$0.24 per gallon Subtracted from the Methanex Index
Methanol Alternative (EOSi - MicroC 3000)	Environmental Operating Systems, Inc. of Pocasset, MA	\$0.35 per gallon Subtracted from the Methanex Index Price with a \$2.30/gal ceiling and a \$1.10/gal floor
Sodium Hydroxide	Brenntag Northeast of Reading, PA	\$2.35 per gallon
Magnesium Hydroxide (Thioguard)	Coburn Chemicals of Cockeysville, MD	\$803.62 per Dry Ton

All pricing is FOB delivered to the treatment plant in West Hazleton, PA.

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

Directors' Report -

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	<u>May 2024</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
Total Flow	<u>244,709,845</u>	Gallons	<u>1,666,902,645</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	<u>8,251,923</u>	Gallons	<u>161,888,610</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	<u>7</u>	Days	<u>41</u>	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	<u>236,457,922</u>	Gallons	<u>1,505,014,035</u>	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	<u>5.2</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>7.7</u> MGD
Average Maximum	<u>14.1</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>16.3</u> MGD
Average Daily Flow	<u>7.6</u>	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	<u>9.9</u> MGD

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for May 2024 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at approximately 244.7 million gallons with 236.5 million gallons being treated. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month dropped to 7.6 MGD because wet weather tapered off during the month. He said the average daily flow for the calendar year decreased to 9.9 MGD. He noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) were submitted to PADEP for May with no effluent violations recorded.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for May 2024 were \$1,424,372.07 and the billing for hauled waste received in May totaled \$247,758.56. He then stated that the overall customer collection rate for the month of May was 135.01% and the overall customer collections for the fiscal year increased to 99.48%. He then reported that annual delinquent shutoff procedures are yielding high payment rates again this year. He said there is one more round of shutoffs scheduled for July. He then reported that he

was notified by representatives at the Hazleton City Authority (HCA) that they will begin applying a \$35.00 charge for each time a customer's water is turned off and another \$35.00 charge each time the water is turned back on effective 2025. He said this new charge will be in addition to payment for the HCA employee's time plus 40% overhead that has been historically charged to GHJSA for the HCA employee to perform shutoffs. He said the Authority has historically charged customers \$40.00 for the water shutoff (and turn on) and it is listed on all delinquent notices. He said just to stay even, that fee will need to increase to \$110.00 per shutoff and it will need to be adopted by resolution of the Board.

Gregory then reported that pricing was received from SNF Polydyne, Inc. for another one-year extension to their contract for supply of cationic polymer for fiscal year 2024-2025. He said they reduced their price from \$1.52/lb. to \$1.49/lb. for the upcoming year and Authority Management recommends approving the extension.

Gregory reported that he inquired with Gannett Fleming on the possibility of enclosing the dumpster loadout area following a Board Member inquiry. He said the Gannett structural division was not comfortable with enclosing the canopy with panels or garage door because the current structure is not likely to handle the increased wind load the structure would need to withstand. He said they offered other options to help decrease dust movement such as covers for the dumpsters, a modified longer discharge chute from the ash belt, and hanging vinyl strips to cut down on wind through the load out area. Gene Zynel commented that the dusting is nothing new at the plant and is not coming primarily from the ash loadout area. He said there is an unpaved lot used for dumpster and equipment storage that is the source for much of the dust. He said of the options presented, the dumpster cover is not practical because the operators must continually rake the ash in the dumpster to assure a complete fill. He said the hanging strips would need to be extremely long due to the height of the canopy and dumpster movement in and out is likely to damage the strips. He said a longer modified chute would be investigated and purchased and coupled with more frequent misting of the dumpster surface with water should cut down on wind displacement of the ash during loadout.

Gregory then reported on maintenance work and upcoming projects being investigated. He 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 this review will allow for submittal approval so the manufacturer may begin production of the unit. He then reported that purchase of one set of seals for the Denitrification pipe penetrations is on the agenda for the Board's consideration. He said as previously reported, this is a different type of seal that is being recommended for trial to see how the installation goes before purchasing additional seals. He then reported on the UV System and the proposal distributed to the Board from a company proposing to modify and rehabilitate the existing UV System to gain an additional 20-25 years of usability. He said they are now COSTARS approved and have several rehabilitation projects in que for Pennsylvania. He said references provided by the company will be investigated to see how other modified systems are operating.

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 company is recommending a complete replacement of the tank walls as per the site visit report distributed to the Board. He said the filter media company sent a representative to investigate the filter media. The representative noted that this type of filter media degrades quickly after 20-25 years in service. He noted that the media in Biotower #1 was installed in 1998 (26 years ago)

so it is also at the end of its useful life. He said a manufacturer's representative also visited the site because they have performed media changes using a COSTARS approved installed for over 4 tanks. He gave a rough estimate of the cost for replacement and installation, which is \$1.3 to \$1.5 million per tank not including disposal costs. Gregory stated that due to the cost of this rehabilitation, it would be prudent to have a process engineer come to the WWTP to investigate the newer treatment options available before just rehabbing the biotower. He said with the growth in the area, there may be a way to gain capacity at the WWTP by installing some other process in place of the biotower.

Gregory then reported that the Authority was informed of passing results for HCl from the Stack Retest that was done the week of May 29th. He then reported that a purchase order was sent to Encino Environmental Services to perform the 2024 Stack Test scheduled for December. He said they are working on the protocol that must be submitted to PADEP in advance of the test. He then reported that a PADEP representative was onsite June 13th to perform a Form 37 inspection to verify construction activities have been completed for the incinerator. He said the Authority passed the inspection and the Solid Waste Management Permit renewal is expected to be issued prior to the expiration of the existing permit.

Gregory also reported that the developer proposing to reuse the GHJSA treatment plant effluent for cooling water requested a formal letter of support from the Authority for the water reuse project. Attorney Ustynoski stated that the Authority must be cautious since our PADEP regulators do not appear to be supportive of removing treated effluent from the creek to supply the company with reclaimed water. Gregory noted that he would discuss the issue in greater detail with the developer to reach a compromise, noting that the Board appears to be in favor of entering into an agreement to supply water.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported that he received a preliminary plan from Mericle for a development along Rt 424 between Rt 309 and I81. He said since the land being developed is in Hazle Township, the Authority would not need to issue EDU allocations. He said 10 buildings are being planned with a total flow of 40,000 gpd. He also reported that he received a land development plan from the Hazleton Area School District (HASD) for the new fieldhouse. He said the plans show the building about 180 feet away from the Authority's 96-inch outfall pipe that runs under the track. He said there is a 25-foot easement in place for that line as well. He also reported that the GIS mapping fieldwork data collection is underway. He said the Gannett Fleming representatives were onsite for training and the Road Crew personnel will be doing the data collection, which was anticipated to take about 6 months to complete depending on access to manholes and other work that may be prioritized. He said the Road Crew also continues to raise manholes throughout the service area in preparation for paving.

Board Member Eyerly complemented the paving and asphalt patch work done by the Road Crew when they complete a job. He said there is little to no settling and the finished paving is very well done unlike some other entities who leave the roadway in poor condition.

Sherrock & Formica moved to accept the Directors' 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 Work Session, Rachel Govelovich referenced a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. Rachel informed the Board that Environmental Scientist, Nick

Sahd, recently opened his own consulting firm and is no longer an employee of Gannett Fleming; however, he will still do work for the Authority under a sub-consultant agreement with Gannett Fleming. She noted that Gannett does not add additional charges or fees to sub consultant invoices, they are direct pass through to the end user. She said the Authority should see no difference having Nick continue to do work he has been doing for the Authority. Gregory Olander noted that Nick has been the environmental consultant for the Authority for close to 18 years.

Rachel then stated that it will be a busy month in July for Air Quality Reporting with several semi-annual reports due along with the quarterly CEMS report.

Rachel reported that there has been no change from PADEP or PENNVEST regarding the Incinerator Installation change orders, which apparently still have not been reviewed. She said there is approximately \$1.7 million remaining in the PENNVEST loan budget that may be drawn against by the Authority for reimbursement once change orders are approved by PADEP and the final reimbursement request is submitted.

She then reported on PENNVEST funding for the Locust Street Project noting that closing took place on June 18, 2024. She said now that the closing is complete, the first reimbursement request will be completed for submission. She said once all information is received from RJD Engineering, the change orders will be uploaded to the PENNVEST website for processing. She also reported that the performance period for the Luzerne County ARPA Grant for \$2 million has been extended to November 30, 2024 as a precaution; however, the entire grant amount is expected to be expended by June 30, 2024.

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 training for the GIS Mapping Project was conducted and existing maps were uploaded and used to begin the design. She said Authority personnel can remotely view data being collected in the field and Gannett Fleming personnel will be reviewing data as it is being collected to troubleshoot problems and answer questions from Authority staff.

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 noting that the main line installation on Birch and Chapel Streets west of Church Street are complete along with lateral connections on those streets and Vine Street. He said the contractor will be starting the boring under the railroad at Wyoming Street the week of July 4th. He then recommended the approval of change orders #28 through #30 in the amount of \$39,003.19 as well as approval of Payment Estimate #7 in the amount of \$257,704.90, which includes the three change orders noted above. He said roof drain removals, tagging, dye testing, and investigation continue in Areas 2 and 3.

Chairman Sullivan asked how many months were remaining for construction because he noted that the engineering budget is getting low. He said it looks like there are about 2 months of engineering remaining in the RJD Engineering's budget. Robert Dougherty responded that there are about 2 ½ months left on the budget, which corresponded to Ronca's original construction schedule that was expected to complete in August 2024. He said the new construction schedule has the project completion at the end of November 2024, which is an additional 3 months of unanticipated inspection time. He said that he would

review the amounts and get a proposal to amend engineering agreement for the Board’s consideration at the next meeting.

George & Formica moved to accept the Engineer’s Report.
 Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

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.

Chairman Sullivan entered the meeting during the Solicitor’s Report.

Sharkey & Sherrock moved to enter executive session for personnel issues and a legal issue.
 Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

After the Board moved out of executive session, **Sharkey & Formica** moved to accept the Solicitor’s Report. Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

BILLS AND CREDITS

Sherrock & Formica moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from April 27, 2024 through May 24, 2024, totaling \$15,944.91 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*37520	Annual Service Work	\$ 5,432.31
Operating Fund	051153.B*37521	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 788.12
Operating Fund	051153.D*37522	Pretreatment Program	\$ 1,655.24
Operating Fund	051153.AG*37518	Area 10 Small W&S Grant	\$ 94.55
Operating Fund	051153.42*37519	2023-2024 Air Compliance	\$ 1,305.86
Operating Fund	051153.43*37523	Act 537 Plan	\$ 390.71
Operating Fund	051153.46*37524	GIS Mapping Project	\$ 6,278.12
Total			\$ 15,944.91

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve payment of RJD Engineering, Inc. invoices from May 2024 totaling \$14,688.75 as listed in the following table:

	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	5/31/2024	Area 2/3 - Locust St CSO	\$ 14,083.75
Operating Fund	5/31/2024	Collection System Engineering	\$ 605.00
Total			\$ 14,688.75

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve Change Orders #28 through #30 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 \$39,003.19, as presented and recommended by the engineer and listed in the table below:

LOCUST STREET CSO SEPARATION FORCE MAIN PROJECT
CHANGE ORDERS 28-30 SUMMARY

CHANGE ORDER	AMOUNT
28	\$9,318.49
29	\$22,057.18
30	\$7,631.52
NET CONTRACT CHANGE	\$39,003.19

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

Formica & Sherrock moved to approve Requisition No. C262, payable to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$257,704.90, for Payment Estimate #7 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 #30 (\$279,145.26) for a total contract price of \$5,550,145.26. The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$2,225,234.04, which leaves a balance of \$3,324,911.22.

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

Formica & George moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$657,829.91); Construction in Progress (\$16,937.61); Transfers to other Authority Accounts for Construction Payments (\$690,360.74); Debt Service - Series 2020 Bond (\$336,000.00); Debt Service - Series 2021 Bond (\$502,500.00); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44) from the month of May 2024.

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

Sherrock & Gallagher moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$2,065.35 from the month of May 2024.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve a one-year extension to the contract with SNF Polydyne, Inc. for the purchase of Clarifloc C-9530 emulsion polymer at a price of \$1.49/lb. effective August 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025 as recommended by Authority Management.

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to terminate the employment of Employee #1043 due to job abandonment, voluntary quit, and violations of the CBA and work rules.

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to authorize Authority Management to open a non-interest bearing checking account with First National Bank of Pennsylvania titled "PENNVEST 2" as required by PENNVEST for ACH funds disbursements and loan payments for the Locust Street CSO Separation and Force Main Replacement Project.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to purchase one (1) 24" GP-T Split Seal (\$6,700.00), one (1) 24" WA-GP-SR Split Low Profile Disc Seal (\$2,200.00), and one (1) set chemical anchor bolts (\$250.00) from Westatlantic Tech Corp for installation in the WWTP Denitrification Pipe Gallery as a trial to ensure the seals can be successfully mounted to prevent leaks at the pipe penetration.

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

George & Gallagher moved to approve a final Leave of Absence (LOA) extension for Employee 1004, as agreed upon with the Union, for a period of 90 days, with an end date of September 24, 2024.

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

Sherrock & Gallagher moved to adjourn.

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

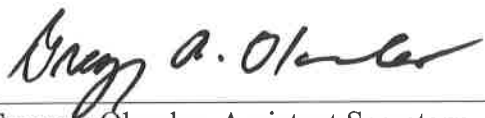
The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:44 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary