

The August 26, 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.

August 21, 2024 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Present <sup>1</sup>	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
<sup>1</sup> Nick Sahd – Olde Forge Environmental	

August 26, 2024 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

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

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

<sup>1</sup> via phone or Videoconference

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**George & Grink** moved to approve the minutes of the July 29, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting.

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

**Hiring Committee Report**

During the Work Session, Board Member Grink reported on behalf of the Hiring Committee. He said there were several applications reviewed for the open Plant Operator position. He said the applicant field was narrowed down to a few candidates who were scheduled to be interviewed, three of whom were interviewed yesterday. He said the committee is recommending Travis Biely to be hired for the Plant Operator position. He noted that Mr. Biely was given a walkthrough of the treatment plant by Gene Zynel earlier today with a positive outcome.

**Gallagher & Grink** moved to approve the Hiring Committee Report.

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

**Pension Committee Report**

During the Work Session, Board Member Grink reported on behalf of the Pension Committee. He said the Authority’s long time Actuarial Consultant, Peter Karapelou, announced that he will be retiring at the end of 2024. He said Mr. Karapelou’s replacement, Paul Baugher, was at the meeting and met the Committee. He then reported that the Investment Advisor reviewed the portfolio performance and noted

that it is currently up 7% year to date. He said they are anticipating some volatility in the markets through the election, but there are no recommended changes to the portfolio at this time.

**George & Sherrock** moved to approve the Pension Committee Report.

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

**Directors' Report -**

**MONTHLY FLOW REPORT**

	<u>July 2024</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
<b>Total Flow</b>	<u>184,399,827</u>	<b>Gallons</b>	<u>2,045,460,170</u>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Total Flow Bypassed</b>	<u>4,777,780</u>	<b>Gallons</b>	<u>169,950,788</u>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Days Flow Bypassed</b>	<u>5</u>	<b>Days</b>	<u>50</u>	<b>Days</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Total Flow Treated</b>	<u>183,922,047</u>	<b>Gallons</b>	<u>1,879,809,382</u>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Average Minimum</b>	<u>3.8</u>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<u>6.7</u> <b>MGD</b>
<b>Average Maximum</b>	<u>12.2</u>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<u>15.1</u> <b>MGD</b>
<b>Average Daily Flow</b>	<u>5.8</u>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<u>8.8</u> <b>MGD</b>

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for July 2024 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was recorded at approximately 184.4 million gallons with 183.9 million gallons being treated. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month dropped to 5.8 MGD, which decreased the average daily flow for the calendar year to 8.8 MGD. He noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) were submitted to PADEP for July with one effluent violation reported for instantaneous fecal coliform exceedance on July 30<sup>th</sup>. Gene Zynel explained that the exceedance was due to the scheduled maintenance and cleaning of the Biological Aerated Filters (BAF), UV Tank, and Final Effluent Tank when UV Disinfection was temporarily replaced with dosing of Sodium Hypochlorite. He said dosing of chlorine for disinfection is not as effective when nitrification is occurring the aeration tanks, so when the higher test result was received the dose rate was immediately increased.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for July 2024 were \$1,295,015.43 and the billing for hauled waste received in July totaled \$224,290.23. He then stated that the overall customer collection rate for the month of July was 97.36% and the overall customer collections for the fiscal year were 100.06%. Gregory then reported that he has been in contact with representatives at Material Matters relative to sale of Nitrogen credits that have been generated by the Authority's treatment process for the 2024 water year, which ends on September 30, 2024. He said they have a buyer for all the Authority's generated 2024 Nitrogen credits at \$2.75 per credit. He said there are still two months until the end of the water year and there are currently about 34,000 credits to sell; however, that amount is subject to change based on sampling and flows to the plant. He said a sales agreement with Lancaster Area Sewer Authority is on the agenda for the Board's consideration.

Gregory then reported on maintenance work and upcoming projects. He said the BAF system was taken offline for cleaning and the cracks in the concrete have become more prevalent. He recommended a structural engineer come to the plant to investigate the ongoing issue so a recommendation can be made

to the Board on how to address the problem. He also noted that Gannett Fleming was scheduling to have a process engineer visit the plant to review existing processes so a determination can be made whether to move forward with a rehabilitation of Biotower #1. He said the UV System will also be investigated to see if a system rebuild is an option rather than a full replacement. There were no objections from the Board to proceed with investigation of these items by a process engineer.

Gregory then reported that the incinerator annual RATA test was completed on July 30, 2024 and the report is ready for certification and submission to the state and federal regulators. He said the staff who have been assisting with the air quality permit are no longer with Gannett Fleming. Gregory said he and Rachel have been working toward getting an Air Quality consultant onboard as soon as possible. Rachel said Gannett Fleming is okay with having Jasmine (Sodemann) Lee continue to work with the Authority through her new firm as a subconsultant to Gannett Fleming. They said the Board will be notified of any developments relative to the air quality consultant. Gregory then notified the Board that Gene is beginning to schedule vendors and equipment manufacturers for the annual incinerator shutdown in October.

Gregory also reported on the developer proposing to reuse the GHJSA treatment plant effluent for cooling water. He said the developer had a call with PADEP and it may be necessary for the Authority's NPDES Permit to undergo a minor or major amendment to supply the water and accept the waste from the facility. He said the project would use the water in the summer months on a bell curve beginning in May and ending in September with the highest usage in July. He also reported that in order to meet the Class C Reuse federal guidelines, the Authority's UV system would need to operate at a higher dose rate. He said the company who proposed the UV Rebuild indicated their new controls package would be able to meet the higher dose rate at peak flows. He said they were asked to provide the capital cost for increasing the dose rate above their standard rebuild proposal.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported that the old Bobcat was sold at auction on Municibid for \$16,100, which is above the trade-in value of \$14,500. He then reported that a sink hole developed in the parking lot of the HASD Career Center just above the Authority's 96" outfall pipe. He said that is an old section of pipe that will need to be replaced as soon as possible. He said the pipe has been ordered to replace through the parking lot, which is about 320 feet. He said the pipe will be delivered in late September and in the interim a temporary fence has been installed around the area. Andy then reported on the expiring natural gas contract with UGI Energy Services LLC. He said pricing was received for the upcoming 6-month through 18-month terms. He said the pricing has been reviewed and management is recommending the Board approve a 6-month term, which had a price of \$4.77/dth as of August 26, 2024. The Board instructed management to put a motion on the agenda for a 6-month contract with a not to exceed price of \$6.00/dth so the contract may be executed with current pricing the day after the meeting.

**Grink & Gallagher** 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 reported on the Air Quality issues related to stack testing as listed in the written report. She said the 2024 Stack Test Protocol was submitted to PADEP for

approval. She also said the December 2023 Stack Test results were submitted to PADEP along with the May 2024 retest results. She said an NOV is anticipated for not performing a valid HCl test during the December 2023 test. She noted that the retest in May 2024 was valid and showed no exceedance of permit limits. Rachel then reviewed the air quality reports and their due dates for the upcoming year.

Rachel reported that there has been no change from PADEP or PENNVEST regarding the Incinerator Installation change orders, which still have not been reviewed. She then reported on PENNVEST funding for the Locust Street Project noting that the first payment request was submitted to PENNVEST, however, the majority of the funding in that pay request was Luzerne County ARPA funds, so the initial PENNVEST payment is minimal. She said all change orders will be submitted to PADEP by the end of the month so once approved, the next payment request will be submitted. She also noted that the Luzerne County ARPA grant is due for closeout since all funds have been expended.

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 the rain data was received from the Authority and seems to fall in line with the average annual rainfall for this area, which is a positive because the data can be used without modification. She said the main lines are being loaded so the CSO flows can be modeled, which also ties in well with the GIS Mapping Project that is being built. She then reported that the two (2) separation studies listed in the NPDES Permit and due in February 2025 are being worked on to address the separation work being designed or constructed in those two drainage basins. She said letters have been drafted to the municipalities' local engineers to gather the information necessary to predict future flows through the collection system and treatment plant. Rachel also reported that the Annual Operations Report due to the Trustee was submitted before the August 1, 2024 deadline.

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 Filmore Street is now complete. He said the new sewer line on Vine Street was completed to serve the commercial building on that street. He said the trench paving west of Church Street is 95% complete and the first sewer crossing on Route 309 is now complete. He then recommended the approval of change order #34 in the amount of \$13,179.51 as well as approval of Payment Estimate #9 in the amount of \$222,481.61, which includes the change order noted above. He said roof drain removals, tagging, dye testing, and investigation in Areas 2 and 3 is complete and follow-up inspections and second tagging of properties is ongoing. Chairman Sullivan asked when the project would be finished. Robert responded that according to the contractor's schedule submitted to PENNVEST at closing, the project is to be complete by the end of November 2024; however, he said that he is not optimistic they will be finished in that timeframe.

**Gallagher & George** 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 a legal issue relative to negotiations.

**Grink & Sherrock** moved to enter executive session for a legal issue relative to negotiations.

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

After the Board moved out of executive session, Grink & Sharkey moved to accept the Solicitor’s Report. Passed: Aye-7, Nay-0, Absent-2

**BILLS AND CREDITS**

George & Gallagher moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions from June 29, 2024 through July 26, 2024, totaling \$17,272.13 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*39904	Annual Service Work	\$ 6,236.80
Operating Fund	051153.B*39905	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 120.60
Operating Fund	051153.42*39898	2024-2025 Air Compliance	\$ 3,256.64
Operating Fund	051153.45*39899	Solid Waste Permit Renewal	\$ 394.06
Operating Fund	051153.46*39901	GIS Mapping Project	\$ 5,918.52
Operating Fund	051153.47*39903	Locust St PENNVEST (Const)	\$ 1,345.51
Total			\$ 17,272.13

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

Sherrock & Gallagher moved to approve payment of RJD Engineering, Inc. invoices from July 2024 totaling \$15,985.36 as listed in the following table:

	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	7/31/2024	Area 2/3 - Locust St CSO	\$ 15,600.36
Operating Fund	7/31/2024	Collection System Engineering	\$ 385.00
Total			\$ 15,985.36

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

Gallagher & Sherrock moved to approve Change Order #34 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 \$13,179.51, as presented and recommended by the engineer and listed in the table below:

LOCUST STREET CSO SEPARATION FORCE MAIN  
PROJECT  
CHANGE ORDER 34 SUMMARY

CHANGE ORDER	AMOUNT
34	\$13,179.51
NET CONTRACT CHANGE	\$13,179.51

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

**Gallagher & George** moved to approve Requisition No. C264, payable to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$222,481.61 for Payment Estimate #9 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 #34 (\$313,489.17) for a total contract price of \$5,584,489.17. The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$2,746,400.63, which leaves a balance of \$2,838,088.54.

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

**Gallagher & Sharkey** moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$865,768.96); Construction in Progress (\$31,763.44); Equipment/Office Equipment (\$63,860.00); Transfers to other Authority Accounts (\$979,929.00); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44) from the month of July 2024.

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

**George & Grink** moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$2,713.98 from the month of July 2024.

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

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**George & Gallagher** moved to approve an agreement of sale with Lancaster Area Sewer Authority (LASA) wherein the GHJSA agrees to sell up to 37,000 nitrogen nutrient credits generated by the GHJSA for compliance year 2024 for a price of \$2.75 per nitrogen nutrient credit conditioned upon review and approval of the agreement by the Solicitor.

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

**Gallagher & Grink** moved to hire Tyler Biely for the position of Plant Operator, conditioned upon his passing a physical examination and drug screening, at an hourly rate of \$25.96, 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 Mr. Biely 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-yes, Formica-absent, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Sharkey-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 7-0-2)

Gallagher & Grink moved to authorize Authority Management to execute a contract on August 27, 2024 with UGI Energy Services for supply of natural gas at a fixed price not to exceed \$6.00 per dth with a six-month term beginning September 2024.

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

Gallagher & Grink moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 6:30 PM

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

Respectfully submitted,

**Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority**



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Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary