

The August 25, 2025 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 20, 2025 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
George – Present <sup>1</sup>	Grink – Absent	Sharkey – Present <sup>1</sup>
Sherrock – Present	Sullivan – Absent	Stefanovich – Absent

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
<sup>1</sup> Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – GFT Infrastructure, Inc.	

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Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – GFT Infrastructure, Inc.	Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering, Inc.
<sup>1</sup> via phone or Videoconference	

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was public comment during the Work Session from Ashley Bahrt of Hazleton City. She asked about the Data Center Project and how it would affect future demands. She said with all the development in the area, she is concerned with data centers and other industries coming in and using the resources such as potable water, electricity, and sewer capacity. Acting Chairman Gallagher responded that the growth is mostly warehousing which uses little water and sewer capacity, but a data center does require water for cooling. Gregory Olander added that for the Project Hazlenut Data Center, Northpoint has a Memorandum of Understanding with the GHJSA to use its treatment plant effluent as cooling water, which would save use of potable water for other development in the service area. He said a stream study was required by PADEP and was completed by the developer, and the outcome was that the PADEP would allow the GHJSA to divert up to 2.8 million gallons of their effluent to the data center for use as cooling water. He said any remaining used cooling water would be sent back to the GHJSA plant for full treatment before being released to the stream. Ms. Bahrt asked how it would affect the water availability going forward. It was explained by Board Member Eyerly and Acting Chairman Gallagher that the planning for development is done by each municipality, not the GHJSA and any demands for potable water are addressed by the Hazleton City Authority. Mr. Olander stated that the GHJSA only identifies if there is available capacity to provide sewer treatment but has no input into which facilities are approved for development in the area because that is a decision for the planning departments at each municipality. Ms. Bahrt thanked the Board for taking time to explain the process in greater detail.

**George & Sherrock** moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2025 Regular Monthly Meeting.

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

**Pension Committee Report**

Christopher Carsia reported on behalf of the Pension Committee. He said the Actuarial Valuation Report as of January 1, 2025 was completed by their actuaries. He noted that the unfunded liability is approximately \$219,000 and the plan is well funded at 95.1%, which is classified as a plan that is not financially distressed. He said this is in part due to the plan being closed to new employees since May 15, 2017, achieving very good rate of return on investments, and funding more than the required Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) each year. He then reported that the investment consultant's report noted a 7.51 % rate of return in 2024 and an 8.39% rate of return in investments so far this calendar year. He said a more detailed breakdown will be contained in the Pension Committee meeting minutes. Christopher also noted that once the plan reaches \$5 million in assets there are other investment options that may be used to increase the overall rate of return. He said the investment consultant did not recommend a change in the asset allocation model at this time.

**Grink & Sharkey** moved to approve the Pension Committee Report.

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

**Hiring Committee Report**

During the Work Session, Gregory Olander reported on behalf of the Hiring Committee. He stated that resumes and applications were accepted for the Electromechanical Technician Position. He said resumes were reviewed and three (3) candidates with the required level of experience were selected for a plant visit and interview. He said only two (2) candidates completed the plant walkthrough and interview and following the interviews and discussion by the Committee, Austin Forte is recommended to be hired for the vacant Electromechanical Technician position.

**Gallagher & Grink** moved to approve the Hiring Committee Report as presented during the Work Session and to hire Austin Forte for the position of Electromechanical Technician as recommended by the Hiring Committee, conditioned upon his passing a physical examination and drug screening, at an hourly rate of \$34.60, which is the current rate for the position in the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with a start date to be determined by Authority Management.

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

**Directors' Report -****MONTHLY FLOW REPORT**

	<u>July 2025</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	
Total Flow	227,768,069	Gallons	1,905,450,336	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	7,403,695	Gallons	105,582,292	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	8	Days	45	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	220,364,374	Gallons	1,799,868,044	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	5.0	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	6.3 MGD
Average Maximum	17.1	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	15.0 MGD
Average Daily Flow	7.1	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	8.5 MGD

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for July 2025 as presented in the monthly flow report. He said the flow to the treatment plant was

recorded at approximately 227.7 million gallons with 220.3 million gallons being treated. He also stated that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month was 7.1 MGD, which decreased the year-to-date average daily flow from 8.7 MGD to 8.5 MGD. He then noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) were submitted to PADEP for July with no violations noted.

Gregory Olander then reported that the revenues for July 2025 were \$1,354,344.97 and the billing for hauled waste received in July totaled \$214,961.38. He stated that the customer collection rate for the month of July was 100.47% and the 2024-2025 fiscal year collection rate was finalized at 100.64%. He then reported that the programming of a new data collection and reporting program to replace the older treatment plant ODMS Program continues to progress well and is in its final stage of completing the punch list items. He said once complete, the two systems will operate side by side for a period of time to make sure the new program is functioning properly. He then reported that the memo to the Board was sent notifying the Board Members of the 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation (MMO) amount as required under Act 205. He said new computers were on order for installation before the October deadline when Windows 10 is no longer supported by Microsoft.

He then reported that the new control cabinets for the UV Disinfection System are being built; however, the equipment provider is currently testing a newer lamp style, which is more energy efficient. He said once testing is complete and certified, they will schedule installation. He said until then, they scheduled to come onsite to rehab the existing UV System to increase functionality until the rebuild takes place. He then reported that the Operations and Maintenance staff are in the middle of planning and coordination for work during the 2025 annual incinerator shutdown beginning September 29<sup>th</sup>. He said the maintenance department is obtaining quotes and will be purchasing a new compressor and air dryer to replace one of the original units operating the incinerator systems during the shutdown. He said the maintenance department continues troubleshooting VFD faults at the remote pump stations along with the monitoring/controls vendor CoStream.

Gregory also reported on the incinerator air quality items noting that the second Stack Re-Test for HCl was conducted on June 3, 2025. He said the outcome of the July 24<sup>th</sup> conference call to discuss the stack test report was that the Authority would have had passing test results; however, the testing company was once again unable to achieve collection efficiency, and the test had to be rendered invalid. The test report was sent to PADEP noting the invalid test and a subsequent call with PADEP is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the issue and request guidance from the department. He said since the current testing company has been unable to achieve the required collection efficiency for the HCl sampling for any of the three (3) tests they have performed, he is recommending the Authority switch to a different performance testing company for the December 2025 full stack test. He recommended a new testing company, Gammie Air Monitoring, Inc., and indicated they had the lowest quote received from any of the four testing companies who submitted a proposal and have worked with another Subpart LLLL sewage sludge incinerator facility in the past. He said a purchase order would be issued to proceed with the testing due to time constraints for submission of the test protocol to the PADEP.

Gregory then reported that a response was received from PADEP regarding the Preliminary Effluent Limits (PEL) comment letter sent by the Authority. He said PADEP will consider results of parameters at lower detection limits when issuing the next NPDES Permit. He said the Authority will test quarterly sample events at the lower detection limits, hopefully, to support the Authority's position that the pollutants are not present in the treatment plant effluent so limits for those parameters are not included

in the Permit. He also reported that Nick Sahd was onsite to train the laboratory staff on sampling and testing of the stream and effluent for a Chlorine Demand Study. He said sampling and testing will be ongoing once a week for at least a year to complete the study and have the chlorine residual increased in the next Permit.

During the Work Session, Christopher Carsia reported that he requested natural gas pricing from the current supplier, and the best pricing is currently for short-term contracts of three (3) to six (6) months. He recommended entering into a three (3) month contract at \$5.3575 for November 2025 through January 2026. The Board authorized him to secure a three (3) month contract with the current supplier. Christopher then reported that he has been investigating purchase of sludge dumpsters to allow the Authority to get more bidders for hauling sludge and fly-ash to landfill. He said that he will get quotes for purchase of one (1) dumpster as a trial before ordering additional dumpsters that would be needed for full operation. He said with the Authority owning its own dumpsters, smaller haulers would be able to bid on the hauling contract without being required to purchase \$150,000 of equipment. Board Member Eyerly asked if there is enough room onsite to store that many dumpsters and Christopher responded that there are twelve (12) dumpsters onsite at any given time. Board Member Gallagher stated that insurance on the dumpsters may be an issue for haulers to transport equipment they do not own. Christopher said he would investigate the insurance issue further. During the Regular Meeting Andy Nowak reported that he spoke with the Authority's Insurance underwriter about owning the dumpsters. He said it doesn't matter to the insurance company who owns the dumpsters and the Authority would not incur an insurance rate increase; however, in the event of a spill, responsibility for cleanup would need to be outlined in the hauling contract. Board Member Eyerly asked what the payback would be for purchase of the dumpsters and a truck for hauling inhouse. There was a discussion of different options, and the Board will revisit this issue when there is additional information available.

During the Work Session, Andy Nowak reported on the 96-inch CSO Pipe Installation Project on the HASD Career Center property. He said restoration work has been completed. He said a resident on Branch Court complained about a depression on the roadway above where the 96-inch CSO pipe is located. Andy said the pipe will be investigated to see if there is an issue with the integrity of the pipe in that location. He mentioned that there may be a possibility of lining the remaining 800 linear feet of pipe rather than a full replacement project because excavation would require restoration of driveways and landscaping in the front yard of residential properties for a two (2) block area. Andy then reported that the developer for Hazleton Creek Properties building the five large warehouses in the southern section of Hazleton City is requesting to split the largest building into two separate buildings. Board Member Sherrock asked how many EDUs that developer was issued. Andy responded that they have 155 EDUs with the tapping fee paid and another 280 EDUs under a ROC Agreement.

**George & 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-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

**Engineer's Report** – During the Regular Meeting, Rachel Govelovich referred to a written Engineer's Report that was distributed to the Board. Rachel reviewed the list of air quality issues and upcoming reports with due dates under the air quality permit for the incinerator. Rachel then reported on the Incinerator Installation Project PENNVEST final reimbursement. She said the reimbursement request is being revised to reflect change orders as "other source" funded rather than PENNVEST funded. She

then reported on the PENNVEST funding for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project. She said the reimbursement request submission will have the change orders removed because they are not yet approved by PADEP. She said Bob Dougherty is working on change order submissions to PADEP. She then stated that payment request #7 was submitted to PENNVEST for approval in the amount of \$403,732.05, but no further submissions will be submitted until change orders are approved by PADEP.

Rachel then reported on the Act 537 and Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) activities. She reported that a second extension request was received from PADEP for the Flow Study until February 28, 2026 and the LTCP until February 28, 2027. She said the flow study is getting closer to having all flow meter data needed to run the flow model. She said the flow meter company now needs to provide the calibrated data going back to meter installation, so the model is accurate. She then reported that GIS mapping and data collection continues to progress.

Rachel then reported that as part of the Act 537 Plan, GFT held meetings with the engineers for the City of Hazleton and Borough of West Hazleton to discuss the information that will be needed from them to complete the Plan. She said they were asked to provide a scope and budget for providing the required information and she expects to have a response in the next few weeks. She said that she should have the Act 537 Plan scope and proposal for the next Board meeting.

Rachel reported that her firm continues to provide support for the NorthPoint Data Center development attending bi-weekly meetings for engineering and design discussions for the reclaimed water pump station.

Rachel then reported on the concrete issues with the Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) structure for Nitrification and Denitrification. She said strain gages were purchased for installation on cracks in the next few weeks to monitor the rate of movement of the cracks to provide some insight into how quickly the structure is degrading. She also reported that a data request was responded to for a proposed interim process to maintain permit compliance when the BAF structure fails. She said their proposal for a pilot test and possible long-term solution was received and is being reviewed. She said a meeting was held and information requests are being responded to for another vendor who has a process that may also be a viable option.

Rachel also reported that programming work continues to progress on the upgrade to the ODMS system that captures the laboratory and operational data to generate reports for submission to PADEP. She said the system is nearing completion; however, there was additional work requested by Authority staff to add pages to the program to produce reports needed for monthly reporting to the PADEP. Rachel then reported that the Annual Operations Report and Engineer's Certificate were submitted to the Trustee before the new fiscal year as required.

During the Regular Meeting, Robert Dougherty referenced a written report that was distributed to the Board. He began reporting on the Locust Street CSO Separation Project and Board Member Gallagher requested the Board move to executive session to discuss a potential legal issue.

**Gallagher & Grink** moved to enter executive session for a legal issue.

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

After the Board moved out of executive session, Gallagher & Sharkey moved to accept the Engineer's Report.

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

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

Gallagher & Stefanovich moved to accept the Solicitor's Report.

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

## BILLS AND CREDITS

Gallagher & George moved to approve payment of Gannett Fleming, Inc. invoices and requisitions through July 25, 2025, totaling \$51,353.58 as listed in the following table:

<u>Requisition#</u>	<u>Invoice #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	051153.A*55590	Annual Service Work	\$ 8,185.44
Operating Fund	051153.B*55574	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 693.88
Operating Fund	051153.AJ*55573	Wastewater Capacity Issues	\$ 280.00
Operating Fund	051153.42*55579	Annual Air Compliance 2025-2026	\$ 1,768.76
Operating Fund	051153.43*-55581	Act 537 Plan	\$ 4,474.36
Operating Fund	051153.49*55591	Development - NorthPoint	\$ 4,237.98
Operating Fund	051153.50*55592	ODMS/PMBS Upgrade	\$ 1,481.08
Operating Fund	051153.51*55589	Nite/Denite Structural Eval/Emergency	\$ 30,232.08
Total			\$ 51,353.58

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

Gallagher & Sharkey moved to approve payment of RJD Engineering, Inc. invoices from July 2025 totaling \$6,394.00 as listed in the following table:

	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	7/31/2025	Area 2/3 - Locust St CSO	\$ 5,991.50
Operating Fund	7/31/2025	Collection System Engineering	\$ 402.50
Total			\$ 6,394.00

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

Gallagher & Grink moved to approve Change Orders #72 to #81 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 \$141,473.09, as presented and recommended by the engineer and listed in the table below:

LOCUST STREET CSO SEPARATION FORCE MAIN  
PROJECT

## CHANGE ORDER 72 to 81 SUMMARY

CHANGE ORDER	AMOUNT
72	\$13,157.62
73	\$13,699.35
74	\$14,202.55
75	\$23,968.32
76	\$20,197.24
77	\$18,243.92
78	\$5,763.63
79	\$11,691.71
80	\$20,548.75
81	Time Extension
NET CONTRACT CHANGE	\$141,473.09

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

**Gallagher & Stefanovich** moved to approve Requisition No. C274, payable to Michael F. Ronca & Sons, Inc., totaling \$160,292.89, for Payment Estimate #19 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 #81 in the amount of \$479,050.85 for a total contract price of \$5,750,050.85. The total of payments made to date including this payment is \$5,750,050.85, which leaves a zero balance.

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

**Gallagher & Grink** moved to Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$981,976.43); Construction in Progress (\$213,199.91); Transfers to Other Authority Accounts (\$357,527.00); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #71468 (\$2,234.14); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #77114 (\$377.12) from the month of July 2025.

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

**Formica & Sherrock** moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$1,800.18 from the month of July 2025.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**Grink & Formica** moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:43 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, September 17, 2025 at 6:30 PM

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Monday, September 22, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

**Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory A. Olander", written over a horizontal line.

Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary