

The February 23, 2026 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.

February 18, 2026 Work Session Roll Call:

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

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
Bianca Martincek – Office Manager	Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – GFT Infrastructure, Inc.
Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering, Inc.	

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Bianca Martincek – Office Manager	<sup>1</sup> Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – GFT Infrastructure, Inc.

<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 & Formica** moved to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting.

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

**Formica & Grink** moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026 Special Meeting.

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

**Pension Committee Report** – During the Work Session, Gerald Grink, chairman of the Pension Committee, reported that the Committee had met with Howard Willard of Morgan Stanley and Paul Baugher of Foster & Foster Consulting Actuaries on February 18, 2026. He reported that the actuarial and investment reports reflected strong performance of the pension account. He further reported that, for the month of January, the account had increased by approximately \$114,000.00, reflecting a fourteen percent (14%) gain year to date and an average return of approximately ten point five percent (10.5%) over the past three years. Overall, he noted that the fund had grown by more than \$1 million over that time.

Additionally, he stated that, during the committee meeting, the actuary reviewed the Authority’s funding status and noted that the plan had historically been funded between approximately eighty-

seven percent (87%) and ninety-seven percent (97%). Due to recent gains, the plan was reported to be approximately one-hundred and one percent (101%) funded, assuming no significant market downturns. Mr. Grink reported that the plan remained in a strong position and would continue its current investment strategy while closely monitoring market conditions.

**George & Formica** moved to accept the Pension Committee Report as presented.

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

**Hiring Committee Report** – During the Regular Meeting, **Grink & Sherrock** moved to enter executive session to discuss the Hiring Committee report and a legal matter related to litigation. Passed: Aye-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

Following executive session, **Stefanovich & Formica** moved to hire Kevin Chase for the position of Electromechanical Technician as recommended by the Hiring Committee, conditioned upon satisfactory completion of a criminal background check and 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.

The Board inquired about the position, and Director of Administration Gregory Olander clarified that it involves electrical and mechanical work to support plant equipment and operations on a day-shift schedule and is not intended to be an operator role.

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

**Directors' Report -**

**MONTHLY FLOW REPORT**

	<u>January 2026</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
<b>Total Flow</b>	<u>199,867,113</u>	<b>Gallons</b>	<u>199,867,113</u>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Total Flow Bypassed</b>	<u>0</u>	<b>Gallons</b>	<u>0</u>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Days Flow Bypassed</b>	<u>0</u>	<b>Days</b>	<u>0</u>	<b>Days</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Total Flow Treated</b>	<u>199,867,113</u>	<b>Gallons</b>	<u>199,867,113</u>	<b>Gallon</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>
<b>Average Minimum</b>	<u>4.5</u>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<u>4.5</u> <b>MGD</b>
<b>Average Maximum</b>	<u>8.2</u>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<u>8.2</u> <b>MGD</b>
<b>Average Daily Flow</b>	<u>6.4</u>	<b>MGD</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<b>xxxxx</b>	<u>6.4</u> <b>MGD</b>

During the Work Session, the Director of Administration, Gregory Olander, reviewed the wastewater flows for January 2026 as presented in the monthly flow report. He reported that total flows for the month were 199,867,113 gallons, with no diversions, meaning all flow was treated through the treatment plant. He further reported that the average daily flow to the treatment plant for the month was 6.4 MGD. He also noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) were completed and submitted to PA DEP for the prior month with no violations reported.

He stated that January revenues totaled \$1,146,602.46, which was consistent with the prior year, and that hauled waste revenue totaled \$145,863.46. He further reported that monthly collections were 93.47%, with the fiscal year-to-date collection rate at 93.35%.

In response to questions from the Board regarding decreased hauled waste revenue, Gregory explained that several higher-profit hauled waste accounts had been intentionally reduced or discontinued due to incinerator compliance limitations and air quality considerations. He indicated that, while some accounts may return, volumes are not expected to return to prior levels until the incineration issues are resolved.

At the Work Session, Gregory reported that a screening process had been conducted for the vacant electromechanical technician position following the departure of the most recent hire. The operations team reviewed several candidates, and two were invited to the plant for walkthroughs. He said interviews were scheduled with those candidates, with the hiring committee set to meet the following day. He said the Hiring Committee will report their recommendation to the entire Board at the regular meeting.

He further reported that staff had received a request from EPA representatives associated with the Valmont TCE site seeking authorization to truck waste to the plant due to project delays. He stated that such trucking was not authorized under the existing discharge permit and that any change would require reopening and revising the permit. He also shared that a site visit had been scheduled with staff to further evaluate the request.

The Board was informed by Gregory that the Authority had received a workers' compensation refund in the amount of \$9,470.00, reflecting lower-than-anticipated costs for the year and continued favorable claims experience. He also reported that the Authority's surety bonding company had notified the Authority that the collateral requirements for the solid waste management permit bond would be changing, requiring either an irrevocable letter of credit or full cash collateral. Gregory further reported that an alternative option of establishing a certificate of deposit (CD) for the full bond amount, with the CD transferable to the Commonwealth, was being evaluated. This option would eliminate the annual surety fee of \$4,732.00 while allowing the Authority to retain interest earnings on the deposited funds. He stated that he would review the documentation and provide a recommendation to the Board prior to the current bond expiration date of June 21.

Gregory reported that a second hydraulic power unit for the sludge cake pump had been received and installation work would begin shortly. He also reported that based on a recent conversation with the manufacturer, the UV system rebuild remains on schedule for completion prior to April 2026. He further reported that staff would be traveling with GFT representatives in early March to Charlotte, North Carolina to review the Nuvoda treatment process as part of the Authority's alternative treatment process evaluation efforts.

Regarding the incinerator, Gregory shared that the December stack test had indicated exceedances for hydrogen chloride and mercury. He stated that the report had been submitted to PA DEP and that air quality consultants were preparing a response outlining corrective actions. He further reported that the first corrective step would be replacement of the existing granulated activated

carbon (GAC) media with an immediate re-test. He also noted that additional evaluation of scrubber modifications is underway to improve removal efficiency and achieve compliance with applicable air quality standards. He noted that a meeting with PA DEP would be scheduled to review the findings and proposed corrective actions.

Lastly, Gregory reported that meetings have resumed on the reclaimed water supply project for the NP Hazleton Holdings 1 (NorthPoint) data center. He stated that coordination meetings with the developer continue and that design comments are being provided. He noted that all engineering costs associated with the project were being reimbursed by the developer. He also reported that, in regard to the Right-to-Know request received in connection with this project, staff has been actively compiling documents for the response. Due to the scope of the request, a 30-day extension has been invoked.

Gregory reported during the Regular Meeting that a quote has been received in time for the meeting for a mercury retest related to stack testing and requested Board approval to proceed once the granulated activated carbon media is replaced, noting that the optional hydrogen chloride testing add-on of \$740 is recommended due to the efficiencies of completing testing for additional parameters during the same sample collection setup.

During the Work Session, the Director of Operations, Christopher Carsia reported that he had previously secured a three-month natural gas contract ahead of the recent extremely cold weather conditions and that the Authority locked in pricing before the commodity market spike. He explained that commodity prices rose sharply during that period, increasing from the mid \$3.00 Mcf range to over \$7.00 Mcf range, before declining back to approximately \$3.00/Mcf. Based on the current market trends, he advised that if commodity pricing falls below \$3.00/Mcf, it would be advantageous to secure a longer-term contract, as futures are expected to rise again during the summer months when demand increases due to the warmer weather. He then stated that he is monitoring the financial markets closely and requested the Board's authorization to proceed with securing a six to nine-month contract when favorable pricing becomes available. There were no objections from the Board.

Christopher also reported that he had initiated the purchase of the remaining five steel hauling containers so that all units would be in place and ready for use, explaining that having all containers onsite would ensure operational continuity and allow plant operations to proceed without disruption in the event of a major scrubber issue or any other equipment-related interruption that would shut down the operation of the sewage sludge incinerator.

At the Regular Meeting, Chris discussed options to address space limitations in the boardroom, including extending the existing table or purchasing a new table through COSTARS. In response, the Board also discussed the alternative of adding a separate table specifically for the engineers.

During the Work Session, the Field Operations Manager, Andrew Nowak reported that there were no EDU or capacity reservation requests on the agenda for the month. He noted that while there had been numerous developments discussed publicly and in the media, no formal requests had been submitted to the Authority since last month. He advised that staff is actively monitoring these proposed projects and is maintaining communication with developers and engineers, noting that

any future allocations will continue to be handled on a first-come, first-served basis due to the Authority's limited EDU capacity. He stated that several projects, including the proposed Broad Street apartment building, the former Locust Street school development, and the former Tri County Business building conversion, have made only preliminary inquiries or informal contact, and each will be required to document prior water usage at their sites to determine any potential offset before requesting additional EDUs.

Andy further reported that he continues to work with the municipalities to encourage proper order of proceedings and enforcement of the requirement that developers obtain sewer permit approval from the Authority prior to receiving local building permits. In conjunction, the Authority's Solicitor, Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski, indicated that he would be contacting the municipal solicitors to discuss this requirement in hopes of promoting consistent adherence to the proper procedures moving forward.

Andy also provided an update on the NorthPoint Butler 161 site located on Route 424, explaining that the developer would be installing a private sewer lateral within the PennDOT right-of-way. He stated that, in accordance with PennDOT requirements, the highway occupancy permit would be issued in the Authority's name, although the line and manholes would remain privately owned, with appropriate notations included on the plans.

Andrew additionally reported that, following the prior month's approval of capacity reservations for the Troy Ridge Apartments Phase One development, the developer had submitted follow-up questions regarding downstream infrastructure. He explained that preliminary engineering review had determined that upgrades to the existing sewer lines would likely be required to accommodate the projected future flows associated with the full buildout of that development, and that such improvements would be required as a condition of service.

Lastly, Andy shared that site development at the Allen Ridge project was underway, with inspection services being provided by the Authority's Special Projects Engineer for the Collection System, and that initial construction activities had begun with oversight in place to address any issues as they arise.

At the Regular Meeting, Andy provided an update on the former Amcor property acquired by the Authority for potential use by the Road Crew Division. He reported that he contacted ARRO Consulting to assess their interest in providing engineering services for site development, particularly to address the railroad crossing issue, and he noted that a formal proposal would be obtained and presented to the Board for approval.

**Gallagher & 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-9, Nay-0, Absent-0

**Engineer's Report** – During the Work Session, Robert Dougherty, P.E., of RJD Engineering, Inc., reported that the plans and specifications for the Area 10 (Phase 2) project would be advertised the following day and had already been posted to the FTP site for distribution. He stated that his office would begin contacting the Authority's typical bidders, as well as other firms that have previously

submitted bids, to notify them of the project. He noted that bids are scheduled to be received on March 16th in conjunction with the next Work Session. Mr. Dougherty also reported that the change order submissions to PADEP for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project are approximately twenty-five percent (25%) complete and will continue.

Also during the Work Session, Rachel Govelovich, P.E., of GFT, Inc., provided an engineering update to the Board, reporting that recent efforts have focused on regulatory compliance, ongoing capital projects, and planning initiatives. She stated that updates related to the incinerator stack testing and reporting had already been covered and noted that she had updated the Authority's list of required annual reports. She advised that several reports have been completed and submitted, including the annual biosolids report and the annual compliance report, while the annual emission statement remains in progress and is due March 1<sup>st</sup>.

She further reported that change orders for the Locust Street project are currently in process and under review prior to submission through the PENNVEST portal, and that coordination with staff and the project engineer is ongoing to finalize those items. She noted that comments on the Area 10 (Phase 2) specifications had been issued, with her staff assisting in incorporating applicable funding requirements into the bid documents.

Rachel also reported on planning-related items, including completion of the draft flow study required under the Authority's NPDES permit. She stated that the draft report was distributed to Authority staff for review and that a meeting would be scheduled to discuss comments prior to submission, which is targeted for completion by the end of February. She explained that draft flow study results indicated the Authority is currently achieving approximately eighty-three percent (83%) to eighty-four percent (84%) capture, slightly below the eighty-five (85%) goal, and noted that future system growth will require additional improvements to both achieve compliance and accommodate increased flows from future development. She advised that following submission of the flow study, work will begin on the required Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP), with a schedule to be developed in coordination with Authority staff.

She also reported that coordination on the Act 537 Plan was underway, with a stakeholder meeting anticipated in early March, and that development-related coordination continued, including review of NorthPoint-related projects. She further noted that ongoing structural monitoring of the nitrification and denitrification filters continues.

Lastly, she reported that assistance is being provided on insurance claim items and that preliminary efforts have begun for renewal of the Authority's NPDES permit, with early coordination already initiated.

**Gallagher & Formica** 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 Joseph D. Ustynoski requested the Board move to executive session for a discussion relative to ongoing litigation.

**Sherrock & Formica** moved to enter executive session for a discussion on litigation related matters.

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

After the Board moved out of executive session **Stefanovich & Grink** moved to accept the Solicitor’s Report.

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

**BILLS AND CREDITS**

**Formica & Grink** moved to approve payment of GTF Infrastructure, Inc. invoices and requisitions through January 30, 2026, totaling \$134,570.47 as listed in the following table:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AG051153.00A	5001906	Annual Service Work	\$ 3,005.78
AG051153.00B	5001908	Attending Authority Meetings	\$ 1,669.88
AG051153.00C	5001909	Chapter 94 Report	\$ 192.91
AG051153.00D	5001910	Pretreatment Program	\$ 700.00
AG051153.00E	5001912	CSO Work	\$ 26,059.54
AG051153.00T	5001917	NPDES Permit Application	\$ 280.00
AG051153.0AG	5001933	Financing and Grants	\$ 3,354.54
AG051153.042	5001920	Annual Air Compliance 25/26	\$ 9,918.07
AG051153.046	5001923	Inventory and Mapping	\$ 2,526.83
AG051153.049	5001927	Northpoint Campus Development	\$ 3,904.00
AG051153.051	5001905	Nit/Denit Structural Eval after report	\$ 784.77
AG051153.053	5001931	Nit/Denit WWTP Process Eval	\$ 72,539.35
AG051153.054	5001904	Nit/Denit Insurance Claim Assistance	\$ 9,634.80
Total:			\$ 134,570.47

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

**George & Formica** moved to approve payment of Barry Isett and Associates, Inc. invoices from January 2026 totaling \$6,350.00 as listed in the following table:

	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	2/13/2026	GHJSA Municipal Engineer	\$ 616.25
Escrow Fund	2/13/2026	Allen Ridge Development	\$ 5,733.75
Total			\$ 6,350.00

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

**Sherrock & Formica** moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$848,581.01); Construction in Progress (\$5,513.50); Equipment (\$51,739.00); Debt Service Series 2018 Bond – BB&T (\$18,362.29); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #27906 (\$11,152.44); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #71468 (\$18,211.81); Debt Service PENNVEST Loan #77114 (\$2,426.40) from the month of January 2026.

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

**Gallagher & Stefanovich** moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$102.37 from the month of January 2026.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**George & Formica** moved to approve the purchase of 18,000 lbs. of Sulfur Impregnated Carbon (4mm pellets) and 3,300 lbs. of Bituminous Coal-Based Activated Carbon from APC Technologies, Inc. through COSTARS Contract #015-E26-052 per Quotation 33437-16 for the purchase price of \$126,399.00 plus shipping to replace the spent carbon in the Incinerator Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) Adsorber.

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

**Stefanovich & Formica** moved to approve the stack retest proposal from Gammie Air Monitoring, LLC in the amount of \$22,560.00 plus \$740.00 for optional HCl testing with a test date to be determined by Authority Management.

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

**Gallagher & Stefanovich** moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:53 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Monday, March 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority**



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary