

The March 18, 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.

March 16, 2026 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Present	Gallagher – Present
¹ George – Present	¹ Grink – Present	Sharkey – Present
Sherrock – Present	¹ Stefanovich – Present	Sullivan – Present

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
¹ Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
Bianca Martincek – Office Manager	¹ Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – GFT Infrastructure, Inc.
Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering, Inc.	

March 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

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

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
¹ Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	¹ Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
Bianca Martincek – Office Manager	Robert Dougherty, P.E. – RJD Engineering, Inc
¹ via phone or Videoconference	

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 February 18, 2026 Pension Committee Meeting.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2026 Regular Monthly Meeting.

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

OPENING OF BIDS FOR AREA 10 (PHASE 2) SANITARY SEWER REHABILITATION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT

BIDDERS NAME	BASE BID (LUMP SUM)
Doli Construction Chalfont, PA	\$607,164.00
Wexcon, Inc. Mohrsville, PA	\$481,711.00

Sikora Brothers Paving Hunlock Creek, PA	\$750,000.00
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Sherrock & Formica moved to issue Notice of Award to the apparent low bidder, Wexcon, Inc. of Mohrsville, PA, for the lump sum base bid of \$481,711.00 for the Area 10 (Phase 2) Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement Project bid as recommended by the Engineer.

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

Directors' Report -

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	<u>February 2026</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>		<u>Average</u>
Total Flow	201,543,556	Gallons	401,410,669	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Bypassed	0	Gallons	0	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Bypassed	0	Days	0	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	201,543,556	Gallons	401,410,669	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	4.5	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	4.8 MG
Average Maximum	8.2	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	8.8 MG
Average Daily Flow	6.4	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	6.8 MG

During the Work Session, Director of Administration Gregory Olander reviewed the February 2026 wastewater flow data as presented in the monthly flow report. He reported total monthly flows of 201,543,556 gallons and an average daily flow of 6.4 MGD. He further noted that the Discharge Monitoring Reports for the prior month were in the process of being completed and submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, with no violations identified.

Gregory then outlined the Authority's financial performance, stating that January revenues totaled \$961,859.50, including hauled waste revenue of \$177,541.67. He noted that monthly collections were 94.42%, with the fiscal year-to-date collection rate at 93.21%.

He then addressed personnel matters, explaining that the Authority will reopen and re-advertise the electromechanical technician position, as the individual previously selected did not meet all conditions for employment. He noted that a motion had been placed on the agenda to formally rescind the prior job offer.

Gregory also provided an update on discussions with the Authority's banking institution regarding the procurement of a collateral Certificate of Deposit (CD) in connection with Solid Waste Management Permit requirements. He recommended that the Board authorize the purchase of a CD in the amount of \$245,000 to meet the full bonding requirement, explaining that this would minimize the need for periodic adjustments and additional CDs in future years and allow the Authority to discontinue its reliance on a surety bond, thereby avoiding the annual premium cost

of approximately \$4,800. He further noted that the collateral must be held in reserve in the event of facility closure and site cleanup, as required by the permit.

He continued to report that the second hydraulic power unit for the sludge cake pump had been received, positioned, and was ready for installation, including the necessary electrical, hydraulic, and programming work. He added that the ultraviolet system rehabilitation project remained on schedule, with fabrication underway and completion anticipated prior to the end of April, and that a replacement hauled waste screening unit had been ordered, with delivery expected in July 2026.

Gregory also discussed ongoing engineering and planning efforts, including a recent site visit to a facility in Charlotte to evaluate an alternate process to replace the failing BAF system. He stated that the process appeared to be a viable option for future implementation, though additional infrastructure and further evaluation would be required.

He then addressed incinerator operations and compliance matters, reporting that recent stack testing failed for hydrogen chloride and mercury. He explained that staff had coordinated with vendors to investigate the issue, ordered new carbon, and scheduled follow-up testing. He informed the Board that the wet scrubber installed with the incinerator does not appear to be consistently removing acid gases. He said the most likely path toward consistent compliance is to replace the existing scrubber with a more robust unit capable of higher removal efficiencies. He said a quote for replacement equipment is being obtained along with installation costs from a contractor qualified for wet scrubber installations. He noted that, following discussions with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP), a corrected CEMS emissions report will be resubmitted for the 4th Quarter of 2025. He said the original report was submitted with erroneous data that falsely showed a CO exceedance. He said by submitting the revised report, the Authority will be penalized for the report being received after the due date, but there will be no air quality violations for the quarter.

Regulatory requirements were further addressed, noting that quarterly sampling under the NPDES permit remained ongoing and that the local limits reevaluation had been accepted by the Environmental Protection Agency and that the updated local limits must be adopted by resolution prior to April 19.

Concluding his report, Gregory advised that a member of the Authority's staff had been deployed for military service for approximately one year and his health insurance coverage will be temporarily suspended until his return.

During the Regular Meeting, Gregory Olander reported that he met with representatives from EnviroCare to evaluate the existing wet scrubber system and identify potential modifications to improve removal efficiency and ensure compliance with applicable air quality standards. Based on that evaluation, he recommended to the Board replacement of the existing scrubber rather than a retrofit, citing the unit's age, the fact that the manufacturer is no longer in business, and the increased reliability of newer technology in meeting regulatory limits. He also reviewed cost considerations, noting that the retrofit option is estimated at approximately \$500,000 for equipment alone, while the replacement unit is expected to be more costly; however, installation

expenses may be lower due to reduced complexity. It was further noted that the equipment may be procured through the COSTARS purchasing program.

Gregory advised that installation of a new unit will require modification to the Authority's Title V Operating Permit, with an anticipated review period of approximately six months. To maintain the project schedule and coordinate with the planned October maintenance shutdown, he recommended authorizing air quality consultants at Brown and Caldwell to begin preparation of the necessary permit application materials for submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Accordingly, a motion was placed on the agenda to authorize this work.

During the Work Session, Director of Operations Christopher Carsia reported that, following the Board's approval at last month's meeting, he had secured a six-month natural gas commodities usage contract that will expire in October of this year. He explained that, due to volatility in the global markets, UGI Energy Services was unwilling to lock in a rate beyond that term. Despite these conditions, he noted that the contract was obtained at a favorable rate of approximately \$4.8118 per dekatherm.

Christopher further reported on the previously discussed billing discrepancy related to a malfunctioning UGI meter at the front entrance of the treatment plant. He stated that the Authority received a credit of about \$200; however, no detailed explanation was provided supporting that amount. He indicated that the credit appeared to represent approximately ten percent (10%) of the adjusted bill in question, though further clarification may be required. He explained that, because the Authority purchases natural gas through forward commodity contracts, the two-month meter malfunction resulted in no usage upcharge being incurred, as the supplier resold the unused gas on the open market. He noted that the matter remains under review and that, depending on the response and further discussions with the supplier, the Authority may consider additional action, including potential escalation to the Public Utility Commission.

Christopher also reported that he had distributed a draft proposal from Kappe Associates regarding purchase and installation of a screw conveyor for the wet well at the Gashouse Pump Station. He emphasized the operational need for the project due to the increased amount of debris such as rags and grease impacting the existing screening mechanism. He stated that additional field measurements, including application dimensions, are required to confirm installation costs under COSTARS pricing. He further stated that timely evaluation and approval are necessary due to equipment lead times of approximately four months.

During the Work Session, Field Manager Andrew Nowak provided an update on local development projects, including the Hazleton Creek Commerce Center located along Route 309 south of the City. He reported that construction of Building No. 4 had been completed and that a motion was on the agenda to extend the connection permit for Buildings No. 4 and 5. He noted that the construction sequence had differed from the original development plan and that additional extensions may be required. Andy further noted that the Authority had received payment for the required tapping fees and EDUs and would begin billing once the building becomes operational by installation of a water meter. He also noted that the specific use of the building had not yet been identified, but base billing would be set as the number of EDUs allocated regardless of use with metered usage beyond the base rate.

Andy then discussed the proposed Troy Ridge Apartments development, stating that he was working with Scott Armbrust of GFT to conduct a downstream collection system study to evaluate capacity for anticipated flows. He explained that initial discussions had taken place and that relevant inspection data and system condition information had been provided for review. He noted that the evaluation would continue in the coming weeks and that discussions with the developer would be necessary regarding responsibility for any required system improvements, which are expected to be borne by the developer.

Andy also reported that land development plans had been received from the Hazleton Area School District (District) for a proposed elementary school to be constructed behind the high school. He explained that, while the project is exempt from EDU allocation requirements, the District would still be responsible for applicable tapping fees based on equivalent usage.

Andy also provided an update on ongoing GIS mapping efforts, noting that work had recently resumed and that approximately two dozen manhole inverts were recorded over the past week. He indicated that progress would continue as weather conditions improved, while acknowledging that many manholes remain buried, in some cases up to four feet deep, and that full completion of the mapping effort would take several years.

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-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Engineer's Report –

During the Work Session, Robert Dougherty, P.E. of Barry Isett & Associates reported on the bidding activity for the Area 10 (Phase 2) Project. He stated that bids had been received and were under review, noting that the apparent lowest bidder had performed satisfactorily on prior Authority projects. He added that he would evaluate the submissions to ensure all requirements were met and provide a formal recommendation to the Board prior to the Regular Meeting for action.

Robert also addressed the change order submissions to the PADEP for the Locust Street CSO Separation Project, stating that he anticipated making additional progress prior to the next meeting.

Also during the Work Session, Rachel Govelovich, P.E., of GFT, Inc., reported that, since the last meeting, the Authority submitted its annual emission statement and annual compliance certification, bringing all required regulatory reporting up to date. She then provided an update on PENNVEST funding for the Locust Street CSO Project, reporting that significant progress had been made on the final payment request. She explained that project financials had been reviewed and reconciled and that a change order was being prepared to reallocate funds between budget line items to ensure the final payment request could be processed without delay. She noted that submission of the change order would be followed by the final draw request.

Rachel then advised that the grant associated with the Area 10 (Phase 2) CSO Separation Project carries a deadline of September 30, 2026 and recommended evaluating whether an extension request may be necessary due to the funding agency's irregular meeting schedule. She continued with an update on Act 537 planning and development of a Long-Term Control Plan (LTCP) update, reporting that the required flow study had been submitted to the PADEP prior to the February 28, 2026 extended deadline and was under review. She explained that acceptance of the Flow Study would allow the Authority to proceed with update of the LTCP and noted that a draft approach was undergoing internal review prior to coordination with Authority staff.

She further reported that a kickoff meeting had been held with participating municipalities as part of the Act 537 planning process. She stated that updated flow projections from the municipalities are expected by June 2026 and she emphasized that these projections would be critical to both the Act 537 plan and broader capacity and process evaluations. She noted that biweekly coordination meetings had been established to maintain progress and ensure timely submission of required data.

Rachel then addressed matters related to the NPDES permit, explaining that work was ongoing on a chlorine demand study and evaluation of permit limits in advance of renewal, with supporting documentation being developed to justify potential adjustments.

She concluded with updates on required annual reporting, stating that the Chapter 94 Report had been drafted and was under internal review, while the CSO Status Report was being prepared in coordination with a consulting firm. She added that work had commenced on insurance replacement cost evaluations and that the annual solids report was in progress. She noted that preparation of the annual engineer's report, due in August, had not yet begun but was being tracked.

Gallagher & Formica moved to accept the Engineer's Report.

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

Solicitor's Report – During the Work Session, Attorney Ustynoski requested that the Board move to executive session to discuss a legal issue involving litigation.

Gallagher & Formica moved to enter executive session to discuss a legal issue for litigation.

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

In addition to the matters reported during Executive Session at the Work Session, Attorney Ustynoski indicated that he had no further items to report at the Regular Meeting.

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

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

BILLS AND CREDITS

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve payment of GTF Infrastructure, Inc. invoices and requisitions through February 27, 2026, totaling \$66,123.43 as listed in the following table:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AG051153.00A	5003275	Annual Service Work	\$ 2,740.06
AG051153.00B	5003276	Attend Authority Meetings	\$ 779.28
AG051153.00C	5003277	Chapter 94 Report	\$ 1,843.73
AG051153.00E	5003278	CSO Work	\$ 22,844.90
AG051153.047	5003279	2024 Locust Street CSO PV Const Phase	\$ 2,739.60
AG051153.049	5003280	Northpoint Campus Development	\$ 10,458.45
AG051153.050	5003291	ODMS/PMBS	\$ 447.28
AG051153.053	5003281	Nit/Denit WWTP Process Evaluation	\$ 8,389.48
AG051153.054	5003282	046D- Nit/Denit Insurance Claim Assistance	\$ 4,522.54
AG051153.055	5003288	Regional Act 537 Planning Effort	\$ 11,358.11
Total:			\$ 66,123.43

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve payment of Barry Isett and Associates, Inc. invoices from February 2026 totaling \$9,822.50 as listed in the following table:

Operating Fund	3/11/2026	GHJSA Municipal Engineer	\$ 362.50
Operating Fund	3/11/2026	Area 10, Phase 2	\$ 2,825.00
Escrow Fund	3/11/2026	Allen Ridge Development	\$ 6,635.00
Total			\$ 9,822.50

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve payment of Olde Forge Environmental invoices through February 27, 2026, totaling \$1,275.00 as listed in the following table:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
03171.001.0001	01087	IPP Annual Report	\$ 525.00
03171.001.0006	01088	NPDES Permit	\$ 525.00
03171.001.0008	01089	Laboratory Assistance	\$ 225.00
Total			\$ 1,275.00

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$610,383.22); Construction in Progress (\$5,881.37); Equipment (\$193,416.50); Debt Service Series 2020 Bond (\$335,875.00); Debt Service Series 2021 Bond (\$501,950.00); 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 February 2026 (copy attached).

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$633.64 from the month of February 2026.

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Formica & Gallagher moved to rescind the hiring of Kevin Chase for the Electromechanical Technician position due to not meeting the conditions for employment as outlined in the motion to hire on February 23, 2026.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to authorize the transfer of \$750,000.00 from the PA INVEST General Fund Account to the FNB Operating Fund.

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to secure an automatically renewing Certificate of Deposit (CD) from First National Bank of Pennsylvania (FNB) in the amount of \$245,000.00 with assignment of the CD to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a collateral obligation as conditioned in the Authority's Solid Waste Management Permit. The CD shall meet all Commonwealth of Pennsylvania guidelines for submission of collateral certificate of deposit.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to sign all documents to secure a certificate of deposit for use as a collateral bond with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania including but not limited to the following forms: Collateral Bond for a Waste Management Facility, Collateral Bond Endorsement (Replacement Bond), Assignment of Collateral Agreement, and Acknowledgement of Signors.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve a one-year extension for connection to the sewage collection system, as allowed by the approved sewage connection permit documents, to Hazleton Creek Commerce Center Holdings, LLC, for Buildings #4 & #5 on the property located at State Route 309 & State Route 924 in the City of Hazleton. The permit and connection expiration date

shall be extended from January 28, 2026 to January 28, 2027. All remaining Terms and Conditions of the Permit and Developer's Agreement shall remain in effect.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to approve the proposal from VCS Durability, Inc. to provide expert witness support related to the Nitrification/Denitrification Tanks litigation as a cost of \$7,200.00.

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to adopt Resolution 001 of 2026, which revises Local Limits for discharge of pollutants to the sewer system as listed in Schedule 1 of 2026 (Local Limits for Industrial Users) and Schedule 2 of 2026 (Site-Specific Criteria for Determination of Middle Tier Categorical Industrial Users) and repeals Local Limits adopted by prior resolution.

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

Formica & Grink moved to approve Air Consultants at Brown & Caldwell to compile Plan Approval documents for submission to PADEP to change a control device for the sewage sludge incinerator; specifically, the existing venturi scrubber and tray cooler to a more efficient device for removal of acid gases and particulates.

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

Sherrock & Formica moved to issue Notice of Award to the apparent low bidder, Wexcon, Inc. of Mohrsville, PA, for the lump sum base bid of \$481,711.00 for the Area 10 (Phase 2) Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement Project bid as recommended by the Engineer.

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

Gallagher & Formica moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Monday, April 22, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory A. Olander, Assistant Secretary