

The August 31, 2026 regular monthly meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Chairman Sullivan at 6:30 PM. All those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and observed a moment of silence in memory of Board Member William Gallagher, who had passed away unexpectedly.

August 26, 2026 Work Session Roll Call:

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

Also in Attendance during Work Session:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager	Bianca Martinec – Office Manager
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor	

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Grink – Present	Sharkey – Present	Sherrock – Present
Stefanovich – Present	Sullivan – Present	

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration	Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager	Bianca Martinec – Office Manager
Gene Zynel – Plant Operations Manager	Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor
Peng Chen, P.E. – GFT Infrastructure, Inc.	¹ Scott Armbrust, P.E. – GFT Infrastructure, Inc.
¹ via phone or Videoconference	

Public in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

Kent Jackson

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

Formica & Grink moved to approve the minutes of the June 29, 2026, Regular Meeting.

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

George & Sharkey moved to nominate Gerald Grink for the position of Authority Secretary due to the passing of William Gallagher. **Sherrock** moved to close the nominations.

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

Hiring Committee Report –

During the Work Session, Hiring Committee Member Gerald Grink reported that candidates had been interviewed for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator position and based on those interviews, they are recommending Michael Stemple for consideration and approval at the Regular Meeting. He noted that Mr. Stemple held the required license, demonstrated the necessary skills

and qualifications, and exhibited a positive attitude and strong work ethic throughout the interview process.

Pension Committee Report –

During the Work Session, Pension Committee Member Gerald Grink reported on the Pension Committee meeting held earlier that afternoon. He stated that the pension plan was 101% funded as of July 31, 2026, compared with 97% the previous year, even after accounting for the retirement-related changes included in the new collective bargaining agreement. The 2026 Minimum Municipal Obligation was approximately \$105,000. Investment performance through July 31, 2026, was 4.48%, with the investment consultant projecting an additional return of approximately 3%, which would place the plan's performance above its assumed rate of return of 7.5%.

Director's Report –

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	<u>July 2026</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>		
			<u>Total</u>	<u>Average</u>	
Total Flow	191,911,619	Gallons	1,765,400,598	Gallon	xxxxx
Total Flow Diverted	1,894,926	Gallons	83,926,159	Gallon	xxxxx
Days Flow Diverted	4	Days	33	Days	xxxxx
Total Flow Treated	190,016,693	Gallons	1,681,474,439	Gallon	xxxxx
Average Minimum	4.0	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	5.8 MG
Average Maximum	12.2	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	13.3 MG
Average Daily Flow	6.1	MGD	xxxxx	xxxxx	7.9 MG

During the Work Session, Director of Administration Gregory Olander reviewed the July 2026 flow report. Total wastewater flow was 191,911,619 gallons, averaging 6.1 MGD. Of that amount, 190,016,693 gallons received full treatment through the WWTP, while 1,894,926 gallons received partial treatment and disinfection through the vortex separator during precipitation events. He reported that all discharge monitoring reports for the previous month had been submitted to DEP and that no violations occurred.

Gregory also reviewed the Authority's financial performance for July. Total operating revenue was \$1,292,366.57 in July, and \$192,472.96 in hauled-waste revenue was received during the month. Customer collections were 99.06% for July and fiscal yearend collection rates finished at 99.99% for sewer customers, 99.30% for haulers and 99.88% overall. He attributed overall strong collections performance to the collections protocol that has been in place, the collections crew, and the work of the front office staff.

Regarding personnel, Gregory reported that resumes continued to be accepted for the Maintenance Mechanic position. Department heads had reviewed the applications, candidate walkthroughs were underway and qualified applicants would be referred to the Hiring Committee for interviews.

Turning to administrative matters, he explained that staff were working to integrate ACH and wire-transfer payment capabilities into the Authority's existing financial system. The current approval process, including review and authorization by two Board Members, would remain unchanged. He also noted that fieldwork for the annual financial-statement audit was scheduled to begin during the week of September 21, 2026.

Gregory advised that a written update on the Valmont TCE cleanup site was included in the Board packet. He said the treatment system was nearing startup but remained in the testing phase and water generated during equipment testing was being stored in frac tanks and would not be discharged to the Authority until sampling confirmed compliance with all requirements in the temporary discharge authorization (TDA).

He then reviewed preliminary electricity pricing received from 15 suppliers. He said Constellation submitted the lowest rates at approximately 8.978 cents per kilowatt-hour for one year, 9.095 cents for two years and 9.086 cents for three years and because market rates fluctuate daily, updated quotes would be refreshed before the Regular Meeting. Gregory anticipated recommending a three-year agreement at a not-to-exceed price.

Gregory further reported that DEP approved the Authority's \$245,000 Certificate of Deposit (CD) on July 23 as collateral for the Solid Waste Management Permit and he said they authorized the release of the previous collateral CD.

Regarding the UV System Rebuild, he noted that substantial progress had been made particularly with the electrical components wiring. He said most wiring for Side A had been completed, and the lamp arms are being modified to accommodate the new lamps. He said the contractor plans to place one side fully into operation before beginning work on the second side.

Gregory also reported that the replacement hauled-waste screening unit had been delivered and installation began on August 17. He said during startup, a screw contacted and damaged an internal component, and the manufacturer is expected to correct the issue before staff fully signs off on the equipment with staff documenting all deficiencies. Meanwhile, he said the plant continued operating with the temporary electrical transfer switch while awaiting the permanent unit ordered on June 25th.

Regarding the Gashouse conveyor equipment, Gregory stated that submittals remained under review and contractors had visited the site to coordinate installation. He said staff also requested a proposal for the contractor to install the previously purchased magnetic flow meter at the Gashouse Pump Station. Because the work requires bypass pumping, vault access and structural bracing, he recommended using an outside contractor for the work. He said the meter is needed to provide accurate flow data for the Long-Term Control Plan and Act 537 Plan.

Gregory then reviewed a proposal to replace the incinerator expansion joint when the new Venturi scrubber is installed during the January 2027 maintenance shutdown. He said although the existing joint appeared to be in good condition, its refractory lining could be damaged during construction, making replacement afterward significantly more expensive. He noted that the existing joint would be refurbished for an estimated \$20,000 and retained as a spare, compared with approximately

\$120,000 for a new spare joint. He said the DEP plan-approval application for the new scrubber installation remains under review by the Department.

He advised that the NPDES permit-renewal application was scheduled for submission by the end of August. He said EPA had verbally indicated that the proposed limits in the Local Limits Reevaluation would most likely be approved, although the final approval could take additional time.

Gregory also reported that GFT would present a proposal at the Regular Meeting for a one-year trial of a temporary treatment system designed to help the Authority meet ammonia limits if the Biological Aerated Filter (BAF) system became inoperable. He said the proposed system could be retrofitted into the plant relatively quickly and at a comparatively limited cost.

Regarding the Locust Street CSO chamber, he advised that its permanent closure was completed. He said brick and mortar work had been completed, concrete had been poured to cover the sluice gate, and PADEP was sent photographs and notice of the permanent closure. He said as part of the NPDES permit-renewal application due at the end of August, the Authority requested removal of the CSO discharge point from its Permit.

Lastly, Gregory reported that the Area 10 Phase 2 Sewer Separation Project was complete; however, issuing a closure report to the Department, sampling, and performing the permanent closure remain.

During the Regular Meeting, Gregory provided updated electricity supply pricing. He reported that the preliminary prices reviewed during the Work Session were refreshed on August 31st and had decreased slightly. He said the three lowest quotes were \$0.09169 per kilowatt-hour from CPV, \$0.09137 per kilowatt-hour from NRG and \$0.09023 per kilowatt-hour from Constellation. He recommended the Board approve the motion on the agenda with a not to exceed price so a contract may be executed with the lowest bidder on September 1, 2026.

During the Work Session, Field Operations Manager Andrew Nowak reported that the Road Crew completed two cross-connection repairs on Laurel Street outside the grant-funded limits of the Area 10 Project. He said the crew also continued locating, excavating and raising buried manholes throughout the City of Hazleton. He noted that thirty-four buried manholes had been raised year to date, and GPS equipment was being used to document their locations. Andrew reported no new developer requests to discuss this month.

During the Regular Meeting, Andrew noted that a request for one EDU of sewage capacity for Cross Valley Credit Union had been added to the agenda after the applicant returned the required forms and paid the tapping fee.

During the Work Session, Director of Operations Christopher Carsia reviewed the Authority's natural-gas supply and reported that management continued to monitor commodity markets for a favorable opportunity to secure a six-month contract. He explained that, because the Authority's natural-gas usage is relatively low, the commodity cost of the contract would remain below the applicable bidding threshold.

During the Regular Meeting, Chris shared an invitation from the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association Regions 2 and 3 Fall Meeting, scheduled for October 7, 2026.

Stefanovich & 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-0

Engineer's Report –

At the Work Session, Rachel Govelovich, P.E., of GFT Infrastructure, Inc., reported that three air-quality submissions had been completed since the prior meeting, including the semiannual deviation report and third-quarter relative accuracy test audit. She said work also continues on the Authority's PENNVEST reimbursement request from the Incinerator Installation Project.

Regarding the Locust Street CSO Project, Rachel reported that Change Orders Nos. 1 through 24 had been approved, Change Order No. 25 was under DEP review, questions concerning Change Orders Nos. 25 through 31 had been forwarded to Barry Isett & Associates, and GFT had drafted additional change orders for internal quality review. She said GFT added staff to expedite the remaining submissions and would continue the work on a time-and-materials basis in coordination with Authority management until all change orders are submitted and final closeout of the PENNVEST funding are complete.

Rachel reported that the Area 10 Phase 2 grant period would remain open through September 30, 2026, and GFT was assisting staff to assemble the required documentation for the reimbursement request. She said work also continues on the Long-Term Control Plan with GFT and Authority staff meeting on August 5th to review the nine minimum controls, including maintenance, monitoring and documentation practices. She also noted that GIS system mapping remains ongoing.

Relative to the Act 537 Plan, Rachel stated that another data submission deadline was set for September 4th and that the next meeting with participating entities would be mandatory. GFT continues coordinating outstanding information and the final execution of a subconsultant agreement with the Engineer for West Hazleton Borough. She also reported that NorthPoint Development had contacted GFT regarding final project details for Project Hazelnut, which is still under review.

Rachel reported that the Authority's five-year NPDES permit-renewal application was submitted on August 28th, ahead of the September 1st deadline. The application included the completed chlorine-demand study and supporting sampling information. The annual engineer's report and certification required under the Authority's Bond documents were also completed and submitted to the Trustee by July 31, 2026.

As for the new Venturi scrubber, she said GFT continues reviewing shop drawings and coordinating revisions with the manufacturer. She said the project schedule called for delivery and installation after the first of the year so the equipment would be operational before the April 2027 stack test. Rachel also recommended replacing the quench expansion joint while the existing

scrubber was removed because completing that work later would result in substantially greater cost.

Rachel then presented Nuvoda Corporation's proposed Mobile Organic Biofilm (MOB) process as a temporary interim treatment measure when the existing nitrification and denitrification filters are taken offline before a long-term replacement process is constructed. The plant-based media would be placed in the existing aeration basins and circulated through the secondary clarifiers. Rotary drum screens would capture and return the media to the aeration tanks. She said the proposal for temporary treatment did not require construction of new treatment tanks.

Rachel said the proposed process was modeled to prove ammonia removal, suspended solids settling and biological phosphorus removal and although it would not fully address nitrogen limits on its own, the Authority could purchase nutrient credits if necessary. Rachel explained that the process could operate alongside the existing filters and, if successful, could potentially be incorporated into the long-term treatment solution. She said the trial would also allow the Authority to compare process data collected before and after implementation.

Rachel noted that Nuvoda's demonstration price was \$110,000, consisting of a \$26,000 initial payment and \$7,000 per month for twelve months including the media, two rotary drum screens, a control panel, design and startup assistance, and operational support during the trial. Rachel recommended proceeding, noting the limited capital improvement work required, the comparatively low cost and the ability to implement the process proactively. She reported that PADEP representatives had indicated that the Agency would support the Authority in obtaining the necessary approvals.

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

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

Solicitor's Report –

At the Regular Meeting, Attorney Ustynoski reported that he had no additional matters beyond those discussed during the Work Session's executive session.

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

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

BILLS AND CREDITS

George & Sherrock moved to approve payment of GFT Infrastructure, Inc. invoices and requisitions through July 31, 2026, totaling \$82,611.31 as listed in the following table:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AG051153.00A	5014390	Annual Service Work	\$ 19,422.73
AG051153.00T	5014388	NPDES Permit Renewal	\$ 3,400.29
AG051153.042	5014381	Annual Air Compliance	\$ 12,843.75
AG051153.047	5014407	2024 Locust Street CSO PV Construction Phase	\$ 3,968.78
AG051153.049	5014401	Northpoint Campus Development	\$ 1,434.26
AG051153.051	5014402	Nite/Denite Structural Evaluation after Report	\$ 1,288.33
AG051153.053	5014398	Nit/Denit WWTP Process Evaluation	\$ 6,637.26
AG051153.054	5014399	Nit/Denit Insurance Claim Assist	\$ 1,458.66
AG051153.055	5014342	Act 537 Plan 2026	\$ 5,905.50
AG051153.058	5014387	Long Term Control Plan 2026	\$ 13,950.25
AG051153.059	5014391	Incinerator Scrubber Replacement	\$ 12,301.50
Total:			\$ 82,611.31

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

Formica & Sharkey moved to approve payment of Barry Isett and Associates, Inc. invoices for work from July 1, 2026 through July 31, 2026, totaling \$11,215.00 as listed in the following table:

	<u>Invoice Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Operating Fund	8/10/2026	GHJSA Municipal Engineer	\$ 1,848.75
Operating Fund	8/10/2026	Area 10, Phase 2	\$ 6,232.50
Escrow Fund	8/10/2026	Allen Ridge	\$ 3,133.75
Total			\$ 11,215.00

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

Formica & Grink moved to approve payment of Olde Forge Environmental invoices through July 31, 2026, totaling \$3,900.00 as listed in the following table:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
03171.001.0006	01152	NPDES Permit	\$ 2,325.00
03171.001.0007	01153	Chlorine Demand Study	\$ 1,575.00
Total			\$ 3,900.00

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

Sherrock & Sharkey moved to approve payment of ARRO Consulting, Inc. invoices through July 31, 2026, totaling \$1,833.75 as listed in the following table:

<u>Project No.</u>	<u>Invoice No.</u>	<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11352	0123073	GHJSA Land Development Plan (Amcors Parcel)	\$ 1,833.75
Total			\$ 1,833.75

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

Formica & Stefanovich moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses (\$1,003,364.34); Construction in Progress (\$320,501.61); Equipment (\$418,007.92); 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 July 2026 (copy attached).

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

Grink & Formica moved to approve issued credits report totaling \$1,938.92 from the month of July 2026 (copy attached).

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

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Stefanovich & Formica moved to authorize Authority Management to execute a contract on September 1, 2026 with the lowest quoting company (Constellation/NRG-Direct/CVP) for supply of electricity at a fixed price not to exceed \$0.095 per kWh with a thirty-six (36) month term beginning on the meter read date in December 2026 and ending in December 2029. (Updated RFP pricing to be received from suppliers on August 31, 2026)

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

Gallagher & Grink moved to approve an agreement with Nuvoda, Inc. for a Mobile Organic Biofilm (MOB) Process Trial at the Authority's WWTP as outlined in Proposal No. 25-085 Rev2 for the demonstration price of \$110,000.00 as recommended by the Authority's Engineer and Management. The motion is conditioned upon the review and approval of the agreement by the Solicitor.

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

Formica & Grink moved to hire Michael Stemple for the position of Plant Operator, conditioned upon his passing a physical examination and drug screening, at an hourly rate of \$34.92, which is the current Certified Plant Operator rate with a start date determined by Authority Management.

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

Stefanovich & Grink moved to approve Management Employment Agreement(s) as presented by the Authority Solicitor and Labor Law Attorney.

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

George & Formica moved to approve a sewage connection allocation for one (1) EDU, at 230 gallons per EDU, to Cross Valley Credit Union for property located at 1070 State Route 940 in Hazle Township, as described in the sewer permit application package.

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

Stefanovich & Formica moved to add the following motion to the agenda concerning purchase and installation of a Quench Expansion Joint as reported at the Work Session. Public comment was requested prior to the vote; none was received.

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

Formica & Stefanovich moved to approve the Proposal for Supply and Installation of a Quench Expansion Joint as outlined in Quotation JB-1122-0412 for the price of \$141,981.00 from the Kirk & Blum Manufacturing Co. under COSTARS Contract #015-E26-053.

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

Formica & Gallagher moved to adjourn.

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

The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Monday, September 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Wednesday, September 23, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary