The September 23, 2026 regular monthly meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Chairman Sullivan at 6:30 PM. The Chairman welcomed newly appointed Board member James Montone, after which all in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

September 21, 2026 Work Session Roll Call:

Eyerly – Present	Formica – Present	[1]George – Present
Grink – Present	Montone – 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
Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations	Gene Zynel – Plant Operations Manager
Bianca Martincek – Office Manager	Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor

September 23, 2026 Regular Meeting Roll Call:

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

Also in Attendance during Regular Meeting:

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

[1] via phone or Videoconference

Public in Attendance during Regular Meeting:
Armen Ahmetaj, Representative of Ahmetaj Realty Management, LLC.

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 August 26, 2026, Pension Meeting.
Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

George & Sherrock moved to approve the minutes of the August 31, 2026, Regular Meeting.
Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Hiring Committee Report –
During the Work Session, Hiring Committee member Gerald Grink recommended that Jason O'Neill be considered for hire for the Maintenance Mechanic position citing his qualifications for the position, the Committee's favorable impression of his experience and professionalism during the interview, and positive feedback from management following his treatment plant walkthrough.

Formica & Stefanovich moved to hire Jason O'Neill for the position of Maintenance Mechanic as recommended by the Hiring Committee, conditioned upon his passing a physical examination and drug screening, at an hourly rate of $35.22, which is the current rate for the position in the

Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with a start date to be determined by Authority Management.
Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Directors' Report -

MONTHLY FLOW REPORT

	August 2026		Year to Date			
			Total		Average	
Total Flow	**217,804,775**	**Gallons**	**1,983,205,373**	**Gallon**	**xxxxx**	
Total Flow Diverted	**9,149,697**	**Gallons**	**93,075,856**	**Gallon**	**xxxxx**	
Days Flow Diverted	**6**	**Days**	**39**	**Days**	**xxxxx**	
Total Flow Treated	**208,655,078**	**Gallons**	**1,890,129,517**	**Gallon**	**xxxxx**	
Average Minimum	**4.4**	**MGD**	**xxxxx**	**xxxxx**	**5.6**	**MG**
Average Maximum	**14.6**	**MGD**	**xxxxx**	**xxxxx**	**13.5**	**MG**
Average Daily Flow	**6.7**	**MGD**	**xxxxx**	**xxxxx**	**7.8**	**MG**

During the Work Session, Director of Administration, Gregory Olander reviewed the August 2026 flow report, noting total wastewater flows of 217,804,775 gallons and an average daily flow of 6.7 MGD. He said 208,655,078 gallons were fully treated through the WWTP and 9,149,697 gallons received partial treatment and disinfection through the vortex separator during precipitation events. He reported that all discharge monitoring reports for the prior month had been submitted to DEP and that no violations occurred during the month.

He further reviewed the Authority's collection performance; August revenue totaled $1,071,287.88 and Gregory also noted that $192,181.74 in hauled-waste was received during the month. He said customer collections reached 97.39% for August, and the Authority closed the prior fiscal year with an overall customer collection rate of 99.88%.

Gregory reported that initial sampling of treated water from the Valmont TCE remediation site showed results well below the temporary discharge authorization limits. He stated that discharge of the initial batch of treated water was authorized for discharge on September 16, with weekly sampling and continued compliance with the Board-approved authorization required.

Gregory then reported that a three-year electricity supply contract had been secured with Constellation NewEnergy at 9.016 cents per kilowatt/hour flat rate from December 2026 through December 2029. He also reported that PADEP released the previous collateral certificate of deposit after approving replacement collateral covering the full $245,000 bond requirement to comply with the Solid Waste Management Permit. He said redeemed proceeds of $70,364.33 were deposited into the Authority's operating account on September 14th. Additionally, he reported that the five-year arbitrage review for the 2021 bonds was completed with no issues identified.

During the Work Session, Plant Operations Manager Gene Zynel detailed continued delays in the UV disinfection rebuild due to additional fabrication and alignment adjustments needed for the

retrofit lamp assemblies. He noted that wiring was largely complete and the contractor remained on site, but recurring installation difficulties had prevented startup as scheduled.

Gene then reported that the new hauled-waste screening unit, installed by Authority personnel, was operating well and removing substantially more debris than the previous equipment. He noted that several components, including shafts, a wear plate, and discharge chutes, did not meet specifications outlined in the submittals; however, the manufacturer was producing replacements and would complete the corrective work at no additional cost to the Authority.

Gregory then provided updates on other ongoing maintenance projects, noting that an updated installation schedule was being sought for installation of the permanent transfer switch. Additionally, he said work on the cake pump's second hydraulic power unit would proceed as other priority projects were completed. He also reported that Gas House conveyor submittals were under review and that a proposal for installing a magnetic flow meter on the Gashouse force main remained outstanding.

Gregory reported that supporting documentation had been provided to GFT for the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant reimbursement request for the completed Area 10, Phase 2 project, and that the request had been submitted before the September 30th deadline. Reimbursement was expected to be approximately $2,400 below the $370,000 award because reduced construction costs and the required 15% Authority match limited the eligible amount. He explained that staff would conduct fecal coliform sampling after several rain events to determine whether the associated diversion chamber was ready for permanent closeure. It was noted that the Locust Street diversion chamber had recently been closed, further reducing CSO discharge points.

Gregory continued his report, stating that GFT was preparing the outstanding Locust Street change order documentation and compiling supporting information for PADEP review. He noted that purchase orders had been issued for the incinerator expansion joint and the next full stack test is scheduled for April 2027. He further reported that PADEP expected to finalize plan approval for the new scrubber in time for installation during the January 2027 maintenance shutdown.

Gregory also reported that the NPDES permit renewal application had been submitted on August 28th and that EPA final approval of the proposed local limits remained pending. He further stated that PADEP had advised the Authority to submit a letter describing the temporary treatment process and biotower demolition, with permitting for a permanent replacement process to be addressed separately once the final process was tested and chosen for permanent installation.

Lastly, Gregory explained that discussions with PADEP had identified a potential solution to the limited EDU availability in Hazleton and West Hazleton. He said PADEP suggested evaluating whether allocation caps could be lifted in areas where combined sewers had been separated. He said GFT was preparing mapping to support further review, which could require a special study.

During the Work Session, Director of Operations Christopher Carsia reported that he was researching options for a customized dumpster for the Gas House Pump Station, that would include a removable UV-resistant cover. The proposed dumpster would collect uncompacted screenings from the replacement conveyor and feature a sloped floor with drainage back to the wet well to

reduce water weight being hauled to the landfill. Christopher also reported that a six-month natural gas contract had been secured with UGI at a rate of $5.0836 per dekatherm.

During the Work Session, Field Operations Manager Andrew Nowak reported that landscaping restoration following replacement of the 96-inch CSO line on Branch Court was complete, with street paving still pending. He also reported that Phase 2 of the Administration Building sidewalk replacement had begun. Andrew then presented a 2 EDU allocation request for an Oak Street duplex in the City of Hazleton for Board consideration, which, if approved, would leave 24 unreserved EDUs available.

Formica & Grink 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, P.E., of GFT Infrastructure, Inc., reported that the PENNVEST funding application for the incinerator was targeted for submission by the end of September. She then reported on the Locust Street CSO Separation Project stating that Change Orders 1 through 24 remained approved by PADEP, while Change Orders 27, 28, 30, 32 through 35, and 37 had been submitted for review and approval. She said the remaining change orders were awaiting additional information from Bob Dougherty of Barry Isett & Associates so they could be drafted and undergo internal review.

She further reported that supporting documentation for the Area 10, Phase 2 grant reimbursement request had been reviewed and all remaining comments addressed. Submission was planned for that week, ahead of the September 30th deadline.

Rachel reviewed the recent Long-Term Control Plan analysis, which established an estimated wet-weather capture rate of 81%, compared with the preliminary estimate of 83% to 84%. The analysis identified approximately two million gallons of additional wet-weather flow requiring capture and treatment or removal through sewer separation. She explained that GFT was evaluating improvements, including additional sewer separation projects and diversion weir adjustments, based on cost, location, and available system capacity.

She then reviewed Act 537 planning progress, including municipal growth projections, system mapping, and summaries of existing sewage facility needs. She said GFT will prepare the collection system information for Hazleton and West Hazleton since those sanitary sewer systems are owned by the Authority. She stated that the September 17th coordination meeting addressed outstanding submissions and planning boundaries, with the next meeting scheduled on October 7th.

Rachel continued her report, sharing that discussions with PADEP had identified a potential means of relieving EDU allocation restrictions in Hazleton and West Hazleton. She said PADEP suggested excluding qualifying areas with separated sewer systems from the existing allocation caps, subject to available treatment plant capacity. She noted that GFT was preparing a

memorandum identifying potential areas and would coordinate further with PADEP's planning staff.

Rachel reported that GFT was incorporating manufacturers' proposals into a draft report evaluating long-term treatment alternatives for the nitrification/denitrification filters and GFT also continued to assist with insurance claim information as requested.

Regarding the Nuvoda Mobile Organic Biofilm temporary solution approved at the August meeting, Rachel clarified that the first-year proposal included one media-retention screen, rather than the two previously described. She said a second screen was recommended for permanent installation and GFT was seeking additional information on spare parts, replacement media, repair availability, and response times to establish contingency arrangements for screen failure before proceeding with execution of the agreement.

Rachel also reported that PADEP required a descriptive letter, rather than a permit, to implement the temporary treatment solution. She said the letter had been submitted that day, along with a separate letter outlining the proposed biotower demolition, which would free space adjacent to the existing aeration basins for potential future treatment plant improvements. She added that the NPDES renewal application remained under review, with a draft permit still pending.

Rachel concluded her report with an update on coordination of the scrubber replacement. She said GFT and Authority management had reviewed equipment submittals, provided comments, and obtained additional field measurements with the installer expected to be on site the following week to verify measurements and installation requirements.

Formica & Sherrock moved to accept the Engineer's Report.
Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

Solicitor's Report –
In addition to the matters discussed in executive session during the Work Session, Attorney Ustynoski requested that the Board enter an executive session during the Regular Meeting to discuss ongoing litigation.

Formica & George moved to enter executive session to discuss matters related to ongoing litigation.

After the Board moved out of executive session, **Stefanovich & Grink** moved to accept the Solicitor's Report.
Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

BILLS AND CREDITS
Formica & Stefanovich moved to approve payment of GFT Infrastructure, Inc. invoices and requisitions through August 28, 2026, totaling $64,805.49 as listed in the following table:

Project No.	Invoice No.	Description		Amount
AG051153.00A	5016461	Annual Service Work	$	1,115.54
AG051153.00B	5016478	Attend Authority Meetings	$	210.65
AG051153.00T	5016479	NPDES Permit Renewal	$	8,816.19
AG051153.042	5016456	Annual Air Compliance	$	2,429.89
AG051153.047	5016483	2024 Locust Street CSO PV Construction Phase	$	10,364.33
AG051153.053	5016520	Nit/Denit WWTP Process Evaluation	$	6,143.25
AG051153.054	5016521	Nit/Denit Insurance Claim Assist	$	9,370.96
AG051153.055	5016518	Act 537 Plan 2026	$	2,639.29
AG051153.058	5016475	Long Term Control Plan 2026	$	14,696.94
AG051153.059	5016464	Incinerator Scrubber Replacement	$	9,018.45
		Total:	$	64,805.49

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Montone-abstain, Sharkey-absent, Sherrock-yes, Stefanovich-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-1-1)

Formica & George moved to approve payment of Barry Isett and Associates, Inc. invoices for work from August 2, 2026, through August 29, 2026, totaling $10,475.00 as listed in the following table:

	Invoice Date	Description		Amount
Escrow Fund	9/9/2026	Allen Ridge	$	10,475.00
		Total	$	10,475.00

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Montone-abstain, Sharkey-absent, Sherrock-yes, Stefanovich-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-1-1)

Formica & Grink moved to approve payment of Olde Forge Environmental invoices through August 28, 2026, totaling $2,400.00 as listed in the following table:

Project No.	Invoice No.	Project Description		Amount
03171.001.0006	01163	NPDES Permit	$	2,400.00
		Total	$	2,400.00

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Montone-abstain, Sharkey-absent, Sherrock-yes, Stefanovich-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-1-1)

Sherrock & Formica moved to approve payment of ARRO Consulting, Inc. invoices through September 4, 2026, totaling $2,135.75 as listed in the following table:

Project No.	Invoice No.	Project Description		Amount
11352	0121430	GHJSA Land Development Plan (Amcor Parcel)	$	1,718.50
		Total	$	1,718.50

Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Montone-abstain, Sharkey-absent, Sherrock-yes, Stefanovich-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-1-1)

Formica & Stefanovich moved to authorize payment from the Operating Fund for Operating and Administrative Expenses ($840,157.12); Construction in Progress (692,503.73); Equipment ($60,423.66); Debt Service Series 2020 Bond ($335,375.00); Debt Service Series 2021 Bond ($502,750.00); 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 August 2026.
Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Montone-abstain, Sharkey-absent, Sherrock-yes, Stefanovich-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-1-1)

Formica & Grink moved to approve issued credits report totaling $377.34 from the month of August 2026.
Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Montone-abstain, Sharkey-absent, Sherrock-yes, Stefanovich-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-1-1)

OLD BUSINESS
None

NEW BUSINESS
George & Formica moved to approve a sewage connection allocation for two (2) EDUs, at 230 gallons per EDU, to Ahmetaj Realty Management, LLC, for property located at 48 East Oak Street in the City of Hazleton, as described in the sewer permit application package.
Roll Call: Eyerly-yes, Formica-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Montone-abstain, Sharkey-absent, Sherrock-yes, Stefanovich-yes, Sullivan-yes (Passed 7-1-1)

Formica & Grink moved to adjourn.
Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1
The regular meeting was adjourned at 7:12 PM

The next scheduled Work Session will be Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 6:30 PM.
The next scheduled Regular Monthly Meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority

Gregory A. Olander

Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary