

A SPECIAL MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2025, AT 6 PM, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS, MR. KUKLIS, ATTORNEY MALASKA, CHRIS FERDIK AND BRENDEN MILLER OF HRG (both via Zoom), THE TECHNICAL MANAGER AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence for all the people suffering through the hurricane.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens were present at the meeting.

SEWER DIVISION

Resolution-Citterio Industrial Permit Administrative Extension until January 31, 2026

Chris Ferdik mentioned he saw Atty McCaulley and Mr. Petruce on the computer via Zoom for the meeting.

Chris Ferdik discussed the Improvement Plan submitted to the Authority by Citterio's Engineering Firm Rettew. HRG recommends the Authority approve the Administrative Extension of the Industrial Permit to Citterio until January 31, 2026. The deliverables were found to be technically sound and reflective of realistic compliance goals for Citterio. The Improvement Plan was designed by Jason Wert of Rettew. The local limit for TDS needs to be considered. The TDS concentrations in some areas of the Citterio Plant are much higher than other places within the plant. One of the Improvement Plans was reverse osmosis and brine hauling which sounds reasonable to HRG. The biggest things noted from the Plan is best case scenario timeframe, but you need to keep in mind the regulatory review timeline too. Another meeting with Citterio, HRG and the Authority needs to be set up for discussion.

Mr. Kavitski stated we need to sit down with Citterio and discuss Option #2 in the Improvement Plan because it includes the removal of the TDS.

Chris Ferdik stated HRG's opinion was Option #2 for the best compliance of the reduction of the TDS technology.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about the next meeting date, possibly November 14, 2025. Mr. Kavitski inquired with Atty McCaulley and Mr. Petruce. Atty McCaulley stated they will discuss dates among their staff to decide on a date. Mr. Petruce asked if the Industrial Permit was going to be extended.

Resolution 5 of 2025 – Citterio Industrial Permit Administrative Extension until January 31, 2026, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2685-A).

Mr. Kavitski informed Citterio Representatives and Atty McCaulley the extension was approved.

Chris Ferdik thanked Citterio for attending the meeting.

Mr. Petruce and Atty McCaulley left the meeting at this time.

Brenden Miller of HRG discussed Chestnut Street Sewer Replacement Project – Leiphart to dig a test pit at the end of the line where the Authority installed new sewer line. The last stick of sewer line is 7/10 too low, the slope was -3%. Leiphart will remove one or two sticks to correct the slope. Leiphart plans to be completed in one to two weeks.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about quotes for the stairs for the Sludge Press. HRG sent requests for quotes to a dozen fabricators, and three people are looking for site visits. No actual figures came back to HRG yet.

Mr. Kavitski stated the panel needs to be opened to reset the variable speed drives on the Sludge Press.

There are four variable speed drives, why isn't there a reset button on the outside of the panel.

Brenden Miller stated he needs to look at the drawings.

Mr. Kavitski stated the resets are on the VFDs themselves, which is a safety issue. He asked HRG to investigate this situation.

Mr. Kavitski stated it also appears the polymer being used for the press is generating a lot of ugly primary sludge.

Brenden Miller inquired about the daily logs for what the Authority is doing for performance testing; he will need the spreadsheet.

Ryan Smith stated the Authority has turned down the polymer feed rate that Schwing recommended the Authority run but it was fowling up the plant. And it still is not right.

Brenden Miller asked for Ryan Smith to send all the data to him regarding the feed rate, percent solids etc. so HRG can look at all.

Mr. Kavitski stated a new press is no good to the Authority if it is screwing up the head of the plant.

Brenden Miller stated we will figure it out. He knows they talked about the characteristics of the sludge being different than when the pilot testing was completed, which is something else to take a better look at. There are a lot of possibilities to look at for the issue.

Brenden Miller inquired about the meter/radio readers, he asked for the quotes to be sent to him. He thought cellular readers would be better for Digital Twin.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority would need a comparison cost for the cellular, what it would provide and cost along with the maintenance costs.

Brenden Miller stated he and Taylor looked at a lot of quotes last year at this time and he will look for the quotes so the Authority will have some additional information.

Mr. Kavitski stated we need to have a virtual meeting with the quotes you are referring to so we can discuss cost comparison. The radio readers do not work with the older SRII meters, which there are a lot within the water system.

Brenden Miller stated Core & Main talked about a telemetry study which may be better and I will make sure Staci Hartz is at the meeting too.

Ryan Smith inquired about the Schwing Panel Unit and a UPS back up during the installation of the project. Hayden was supposed to have UPS back up due to the generator turning off and on, it knocks the power out to the VFDs.

Brenden Miller does not recall discussion on the UPS during the project.

Ryan Smith stated he will contact Hayden directly.

Mr. Kavitski said no, do not contact Hayden, he would come down and look at things. Mr. Kavitski said to Brenden not to look into this matter.

Installation Quote for the Wyoming St PS Plug Valve

Ryan Smith obtained a quote from Joao & Bradley for the installation.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if he had any more COSTARS quotes. He recommended calling LBI for a quote; need to obtain more quotes.

Brenden Miller suggested asking Linde Corporation since they are here in town, but they are COSTARS.

Ryan Smith stated he sent the quote from Joao to PAWC and they approved it. He will inquire with Sikora Brothers.

WATER DIVISION

Well 12 Insurance Claim, Carlene Troell and Ryan Smith placed a call to Brown and Brown regarding the insurance company dropping the Authority as of January 1, 2026, even though the Authority done everything the insurance company asked regarding the claim. The Authority cooperated with the adjuster and the inspector sent from the insurance company and all quotes have been turned over to the insurance company for the claim. The Insurance Company reason for dropping the Authority is the severity of the claim and we have never had any claims with this company ever. Carlene Troell wrote a letter to the insurance company asking for a claim history and no response yet. Mr. Kavitski stated maybe a letter from Atty Malaska will help in the matter with possible complaints to the Bureau of Insurance in Harrisburg. The insurer is dropping the Authority. Brown and Brown is the Authority broker. Mr. Kavitski stated the Well needs to be placed back into service due to possible drought in the Springtime. Mr. Kavitski stated his concern is the Authority paid the policy on time and now the insurance company does not want to pay a claim.

Atty Malaska inquired about the incident.

Mr. Kavitski stated Well 12 a pipe broke inside the Wellhouse, blew water through the roof and all over inside the Wellhouse, covering everything inside the building.

Atty Malaska asked if the claim was paid. Mr. Kavitski said no. The insurance company sent two different people to look over the Wellhouse, asked the Authority to obtain quotes which were done, and the Authority was expecting them to come back with a payment.

Atty Malaska inquired if the claim was denied. Carlene Troell stated the insurance company has not approved or denied the claim. The Authority has not had a response.

Atty Malaska asked for policy information, all emails, etc. and may want to consider shopping for insurance. Brown and Brown should be looking out for the Authority. A copy of the cancellation was given Atty Malaska. The total quotes are below \$200,000.

Mr. Fisher stated the roof should be completed before winter.

Atty Malaska inquired if Brown and Brown reached out to the Authority regarding the claim and Brown & Brown needs to find a new insurance company asap.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about doing RFPs for insurance.

Atty Malaska will draft a letter and pass to the Board prior to sending it to the insurance company.

Meter Reader – Kevin Green will be retiring at the end of the year. Two potential candidates for the position have inquired about the job. Potential new employees will start at current rate. The Authority guys can read the meters during the winter time.

New Meters/Radio Readers

Mr. Kavitski stated I am all in favor of the Digital Twin with cellular, but we need to look at the price. Maybe we can talk to Mike Beck of Core & Main, could he make a comparison of cellular versus radio readers.

Carlene Troell stated Core & Main did a cellular rate study back a few years maybe they can update it for the Authority.

Mr. Kavitski said cellular will call the tower and transmit the data to the Authority; as to drive by someone needs to go out and go around town, maybe an hour of work. The problem with cellular, they can raise the rates, and you would be stuck paying them where radio you buy, and you are done.

Ryan Smith stated the guys can certainly take an hour and drive around for the readings.

Carlene Troell explained Mike Beck from Core & Main had another customer who just installed the drive by software and they did not even leave the parking lot, and a lot of the customer readings were coming into the software from the truck sitting still.

Mr. Kavitski stated the older SRII meters do need to be changed. Michele is looking into the Meter Reading Sheets to compile a number for new meter purchase.

SRBC Grandfathering Wells for Capacity

Mr. Kavitski said when Rachelle Eby from SRBC was here at the Authority made it sound as though the process for the increase of capacity was a very simple process. This is not a simple process at all. Jay Lynch of Meiser & Earl, Inc. in a memo sent to the Authority has two procedures listed – one is Hydrogeologic Evaluation Procedure involves all types of testing, historical pumping water levels and pump tests, inventory of rare, threatened, and endangered species, environmental resource assessment, evaluation of risk factors which includes sustainability, impact to others users, and impact to the environment, and SRBC AHE Application, SRBC Groundwater Withdraw Application, and SRBC GWW Application Fee. (Reference 2687-A).

This will take years to complete and cost a lot of money the Authority does not have.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority needs to look at the Well 10 pump size and install the right pump in there. Ryan Smith has not looked for the older pump which was in Well 10 prior to the smaller pump being installed.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority needs to look at the pump size and keep the one installed there now for a spare if needed elsewhere. The well cannot be run 24/7 but is a great water source.

Ryan Smith said the Authority can do 180,000 gpd at Well 10.

Mr. Kavitski stated this well is more than half of what the Authority uses per day. We need a concrete plan for the water capacity. The VFD needs to be investigated to see if it can be used for a larger pump.

The Board were all in agreement not to do anything with the grandfathering now.

Q-motion Quote Annual Renewal Software – SCADA System

Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve the software quote for \$6,966.00 and Mr. Thomas second.

Vote 5-0. (Reference 2687-B).

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Certified Letter from Insurance Carrier – this was discussed earlier.

Discussion on Health Insurance Premiums

Carlene Troell went over the Health Insurance Plans for the year 2026. The renewal of the current Health Insurance Plan will have an increase of 22.7%. One Source Benefits is the Health Insurance Broker for the Authority, and they currently do not have information on other plans. The Authority Health Insurance is a Small Business Health Insurance and part of the Affordable Care Act. As soon as One Source receives a breakdown of other Health Insurance Plans they will share with the Authority.

Atty Malaska inquired if the Authority has a separate Health Insurance Policy for Union and Non-Union Employees.

Carlene Troell informed Atty Malaska that the plan is the same for both.

Mr. Thomas inquired how much the insurance went up – Health Insurance is 23%, Dental Insurance is 7.5% and Vision is 2.06%.

Mr. Kuklis referred to the spreadsheet Carlene Troell prepared which showed the Authority will be paying \$3,839.16 a month more for the insurance.

Mr. Kavitski said the Authority will be meeting with the Union on Friday November 7th.

Atty Malaska inquired when the Authority normally passes the budgets for the new year and inquired where the budget process is.

Mr. Kavitski stated Carlene Troell has the budgets done for the year 2026. The Authority has a formula, and it is ready for the new year and there will be increases for both entities; people need to understand the water and sewer divisions cost money to operate.

Mr. Thomas said maybe the employees need to contribute more money for the Health Insurances.

Carlene Troell said Mr. Kavitski and I were discussing the Health Insurance increase and possibly asking other Authorities what percentages their employees pay for their Health Insurances. I personally feel the Health Insurance Plan the Authority has been a very good plan. I have never had any problems with the plan. If I needed to pay more money out of my pocket to keep this plan, I would be absolutely fine with that. I do not know what the rest of the staff would consider. This is an age-based plan, so all the younger employees, it will not cost them as much as the older ones. I would rather have a good plan if something happens.

Mr. Kuklis stated the Authority will need to explain the facts to the Union regarding the insurance, state the current premium and the new premium so they have a picture of what it is costing the Authority.

Mr. Kuklis wanted to discuss Freeland Fire Department wanted to do maintenance on the fire hydrants within Freeland Borough and they ask for The Authority to contact Fearnots regarding the hydrants in Foster Township and Valley Regional for hydrants in Butler Township. The Authority needs to supply a list of the hydrants, and the Freeland Fire Company will provide a list for the ones which need maintenance. Ryan Smith will need to contact Fearnots and Valley Regional. Mike Spock or Joe Stepansky could provide a name for Valley Regional to contact.

Mr. Kuklis stated Ryan Smith is starting a list of things to complete with parts needed.

Mr. Kavitski stated he was only looking for a line-item list of things to be completed.

The Board went to Executive Session for discussion regarding the negotiations of the Union Contract and the property at Well 6.

Mr. Thomas made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0.

These minutes are certified true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Paul Thompson

Paul Thomas, Secretary

best of my knowledge.

Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary