

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS, MR. TIERNEY II (via ZOOM), MR. KUKLIS, ATTORNEY FAGAN, ATTORNEY MALASKA, THE ENGINEER, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – MOMENT OF SILENCE

For the people who are suffering through this winter, all the storms down South, and for the Family of Joseph Palko Jr., Freeland Borough Mayor who passed away.

WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER – WILLIAM KUKLIS

Mr. Kavitski welcomed Mr. Kuklis to the Freeland Municipal Authority Board, who has been here before. Mr. Kavitski made the motion to appoint Mr. Kuklis to the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer position and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens were present at the meeting.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Executive Minutes dated January 13, 2025, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the Regular Minutes dated January 15, 2025, and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVE JANUARY PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the January paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$316,075.77, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$225,873.73, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2578-A).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$191,803.34, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$103,684.24, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$654.14, and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2578-B).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2578-C.

Mr. Cal Herring from the Mountain Council of Governments sent an email stating the organization has reinvented itself into an informational sharing and education provider for area municipal governments and authorities. There are no fees and attendance is strictly voluntary. Mr. Kavitski asked if any Board Member wanted to attend the meeting and Mr. Kuklis said he would attend.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2578-D).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and IPP Items – Chris Ferdik presented this portion of the Engineering Report. The meeting with Citterio USA is scheduled for February 25, 2025, at 10 AM at the Authority Conference Room - the Board, HRG, FMA Attorneys along with Citterio USA Legal Counsel, Citterio Management Mr. Petruce and Veola Representatives will attend this meeting.

Additional items mentioned were that the Citterio sampler line is freezing, and no slug plan has been sent to the Authority. There was another slug discharge today at WWTP from Citterio USA, and Ryan Smith called Mr. Quinn, who was out of town.

NOVs #25-001 through #25-004 were issued to Citterio and Civil Penalties on the Agenda for approval tonight. Citterio has requested all NOVs be sent via email to them again. FMA has been tracking the pH ranges from Citterio, which is not in compliance.

The two dental groups, Freeland Rural Health and DellaCroce Dental Care, have responded to the one-time compliance report, which is deemed adequate.

-Sludge Dewatering Project – HRG stated the Sludge Press was delivered and waiting on one additional piece of equipment. The project should start the first week of March. PSI has provided an updated project schedule. Meeting with PSI, Hayden, and HRG on-site on February 10 to discuss construction sequences and to prepare for construction activities to commence. Neither contractor submitted AFP this month.

HRG is working on a change order for the contract extension for the installation of fiber optics with Hayden and obtaining costs from PSI for the filtrate pump. HRG asked for a breakdown of itemized costs. Ryan Smith said the fiber is for the PLC to the Sludge Dewatering Press instead of the ethernet.

-NPDES Permit Renewal – No update.

-ACT 537 Special Study – Brenden Miller of HRG said PAWC is requesting meetings to go over data. HRG explained to PAWC that the meeting will not be held until the agreement is set in place. PAWC is requesting a technical meeting prior to the agreement. The Authority received the first flow meter reported from PAWC this month and Brenden Miller asked for a copy to be forwarded to him.

Brenden Miller stated there is a grant opportunity through CFA for Sewage Facility Program they will pay 50% but need an approved TAR to apply. HRG could see if application can be applied with the old TAR which was approved by PADEP, Brenden Miller will ask CFA and report back to the Board in March.

-Dynamic Separator – No update currently.

-Wyoming Street PS Plug Valve – No update.

Water Area

-Oak Street Water Storage Tank – Linde Corporation has now stopped work until springtime. Linde Corporation is waiting for PPL to relocate their utilities before returning to the site to continue work and have been inquiring about this work weekly. PENNVEST Payment Request #5 is on the agenda for approval tonight.

-SRBC Water Conservation Grant – FMA executed the 540 Industries, COSTARS quote which includes the procurement and installation of leak detectors. HRG is working to obtain quotes from LB Water for the procurement of water meters. LB Water is looking at the appropriate AMI meters for integration, they are looking for the most cost-effective and user-friendly manner. Water meters will be installed by FMA and Sensus meters to integrate back into the SCADA system for reading and additional information.

-Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study – No comments/updates from PADEP yet.

-PFAS, Iron and Manganese Treatment – HRG held a meeting with PADEP on January 16th to review requirements for a PFAS Public Water Supply Permit and go over the proposed FMA Project. On January 30th there was a meeting with FMA Staff to discuss the information received from suppliers thus far and the results from the meeting with PADEP. HRG will provide a summary email including information needed for permitting, information on pilot testing, preliminary operational/capital costs of the AdEdge system and potential alternatives to be explored. An agreement for the Feasibility/Pilot Testing Phases of the project will be prepared for the March Meeting. HRG estimates one million dollars for the treatment at the Birkbeck Street Reservoir and seven to eight hundred thousand for the Well 10 Area, this is equipment only. The project completed with building and bidding is approximately a five-to-six-million-dollar project, and FMA would need some type of Grant Funding.

Mr. Fisher inquired about just doing iron and manganese at this time.

Mr. Kavitski stated PADEP has stepped back on the levels for PFAS/PFOS regulations. How would this affect the design for the Authority project. Brenden Miller would need to investigate the design. Mr. Kavitski is concerned about the cost for all Water Companies and the Authority should have fixed numbers prior to the project. Mr. Kavitski would need to feel comfortable that a Grant would be obtained prior to spending a lot of Authority funds.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if an AdEdge representative can meet here with the FMA Staff.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about the removal of the iron and manganese needed to be done prior to the removal of the PFAS/PFOS. Brenden Miller stated yes that is the order for removal.

Mr. Fisher stated the Authority should obtain cost removal of the iron and manganese first.

Brenden Miller said PENNVEST has a grant for PFAS and that was why the Authority decided to remove all three items at the same time.

Mr. Kavitski said the Authority really needs to look at this project and not have to spend excess money, the Authority needs to be comfortable with the amount of monies to be spent.

Brenden Miller will schedule a meeting with FMA and AdEdge and he will also reach out to additional companies who do this type of treatment systems.

-CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant – HRG needs one final thing to close out the grant. CFA is requesting check stubs from the Authority and the Office Manager is gathering the copies currently.

Brenden Miller is thinking it will be closed out by next month.

-Ice Pigging – HRG has an agreement to be approved to submit a Grant Application to the CFA for ice pigging operations as requested by the Authority. The Grant Application is due by April 30, 2025, with a Grant maximum of \$500,000 and is the same program from the Centre Street Main Replacement Project. There is a \$40,000 mobilization fee for the company to ice pig the water mains.

Ryan Smith contacted the company regarding ice pigging and the company is revising the quote to have the traditional method quoted as Mr. Kavitski suggested.

Brenden Miller will have the Grant Application state for traditional pigging instead of ice method. Brenden Miller stated normally two years to spend the monies.

Mr. Thomas mentioned doing the traditional method may reduce the cost of the project too.

Mr. Fisher said if the Authority could hold off until the following year to do this project but still apply for the grant.

Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve the HRG Agreement for pursuing a grant through CFA for the Waterline Rehabilitation Project to implement pigging in the amount of \$4,900.00 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2580-A).

SEWER DIVISION

Motion to authorize issuance of notices of Civil Penalty Assessments against Citterio USA Corporation as recommended by the Industrial Pretreatment Program Coordinator for NOV #s 25-001, 25-002, 25-003 and 25-004, Mr. Thomas made the motion to issue the Civil Penalties and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2580-B).

Sewer Rate for Butler Township – The Authority would like to know why the \$8.00 difference for Foster Township paying on sewer EDUs and Butler Township has a different amount too. Mr. Kavitski made the motion to table and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0.

Attorney Fagan said he placed a phone call to Attorney Maier regarding the difference in sewer EDU rates and Attorney Maier said he has his files and will look to see why the differences.

WATER DIVISION

Oak Street Water Storage Tank, Contract #24-04: Electrical Construction, Application for Payment Request #1 – G.R. Noto in the Amount of \$3,555.00, Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2580-C).

The PENNVEST Payment Request #5 in the Amount of \$25,472.61 for the Oak Street Storage Tank Project, Mr. Kavitski made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2580-D).

PPL Grant of Right-of-Way for Oak Street Tank Project – Attorney Malaska reviewed the paperwork. Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2580-E).

HRG Agreement to be changed from ice pigging to the traditional method when applying for the grant.

MANAGER REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager report. (Reference 2580-F).

Well 17 air stripper gaskets need to be replaced Hazleton Environmental is not returning phone calls.

Mr. Kavitski recommends calling Samantha at Borton Lawson regarding the air stripper. Brenden Miller thinks she is at Wyoming Valley Sanitation Authority now. Brenden Miller stated Borton Lawson was bought out by another Engineering Firm, and he was not sure of the name.

Attorney Fagan stated Hazleton Environmental is on Route 309 outside of McAdoo.

Ryan Smith is looking into another company custom making the gaskets for the Authority.

Mr. Kavitski stated he asked for all material from Borton Lawson prior to the firm leaving the Authority, which the Authority did not receive anything. Attorney Malaska stated Borton Lawson was bought out by a firm named Verdantas out of Ohio in January of 2023.

Ryan Smith inquired about the tank cleaning project to be placed into the 2026 Budget or for future 2027.

Mr. Kavitski stated this item would need to be planned into a future budget. A list of items should be made for planning.

Ryan Smith said an inspection needs to be done on the Birkbeck Tank. Mr. Kavitski said the plan for an inspection to see if cleaning needs to be done.

Brenden Miller can obtain rough costs for tank cleaning. Harding Street Tank may need to be painted inside. Mr. Kavitski said there was pitting inside the tank a few years ago and both tanks should be inspected at the same time.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the Upper Lehigh Tank and Ryan Smith said it will be decommissioned after the Oak Street Water Tank is put into service.

Well 9 residual compound loop can be installed between the pumps and the analyzer. Ryan Smith would like to look at one well first to see how it works. This will be more accurate and have less fluctuation in chlorine. LRM sent a quote to Ryan Smith for \$2,548.60 which is parts and labor to install for the residual

compound loop and the temperature sensor cables. Well 12 has no sensor, Wells 9, 10 and 17 have sensors but not connected.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about why he needed to know the temperature and Ryan Smith said the pH and temperature work together. Mr. Kavitski stated for the Langelier Tests you need to know the temperatures. Ryan Smith said the goal is to improve the water quality.

Mr. Kuklis approved the purchase from LRM for \$2,548.60 and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

Ryan Smith obtaining quote for equipment trailer for roller and the zero turn mower. Waiting for additional quotes for trailers will be put on next month's agenda. Mr. Fisher inquired about the tilt and non-tilt trailers, and he stated tilt trailers are not that easy to use, and he has his concerns.

Well 17 the roof is leaking, one quote which is a COSTARS Quote, for \$33,432.00 for the building.

Mr. Kavitski said to obtain more quotes for this job.

Herbert Welder/Trailer, the highest bid on MunicibiBid was \$835.00, Mr. Kuklis made the motion to sell to the highest bidder and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Generator at WWTP continues to lose coolant from somewhere and the Authority needs to find another company to service this year.

Plug Valve for the Wyoming St PS – Quotes were above the threshold amount and three quotes are needed.

PTD Dark Fiber at Wyoming St PS – Ryan Smith has more questions regarding the quote. Mr. Kuklis made the motion to table the quote and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

The Sewer Call Out Phone needs to be replaced, and Mr. Kavitski said to replace it with a Samsung Phone.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the repainting of the hydrants for insurance purposes to be brought up to code and possibly do any maintenance on them at that time.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #1190187 \$3,518.50; Invoice #190188 \$21,077.61; Invoice #190189 \$770.00; Invoice #190190 \$15,876.45; Invoice #190368 \$996.50; Invoice #190369 \$840.00; Invoice #190381 \$2,480.00; Invoice #190881 \$3,109.00; Invoice #190882 \$1,857.05; and Invoice #190883 \$17,969.50 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2581-A).

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Malaska stated PAWC changes to Agreement, coordinate meeting with Citterio and review the PPL right-of-way agreement.

Attorney Fagan had nothing to report this month.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Rainfall for the month was 2.95".

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve Resolution 2 of 2025 Authorizing the Purchase of Electricity Supply Services for Public Use on an Online Auction Website and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2581-B).

Annual Items \$3000 or less – No Prior Approval Needed – This is software contracts for day-to-day operations, anything above this amount will be voted by the Board, Mr. Fisher made the motion for approval and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0.

Source Water Protection Plan Discussion – Ryan Smith has been investigating this due to sample waivers the Authority would like to put into place. Samples like SOC's, and IOC's on the paperwork, one of the questions is does the Authority have a Source Water Protection Plan. PADEP will assistance to develop a plan. This is not a requirement for waivers.

WWTP Desktop Computer, Garland Communications quote for a new computer at the cost of \$1,596.30, Mr. Thomas made the motion to purchase it and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2581-C). Dan Murphy is using the computer and inputting the information into the AllMax Software.

Mr. Fisher inquired about a slug discharge, how does the Authority know it is occurring. Ryan Smith said if the Authority is not given notice, you can see the slug discharge by visual inspection, which is done every day. The grit chamber is also checked daily and effluent too.

Remote Work – Personal Laptop or Company Provided - Workers have been remotely working through a VPN and a NetExtender – Garland Communications, Authority IT company, is saying if workers are using personal laptops than Garland's Security Software should be downloaded onto their laptops. Mr. Kavitski stated if it was his personal laptop he would not be happy with the software being downloaded onto it.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the cost of the software or maybe the Authority should purchase laptops for employees who need them.

Mr. Kuklis stated it is still a secure system. Mr. Kavitski stated yes, until you go to Item G on the Agenda. The insurance companies are making sure you keep the system as secure as possible, especially with it being a government system.

Mr. Thomas inquired about the cost of new laptops, which would be company owned. The Office Manager has not obtained quotes from Garland yet. Mr. Thomas stated the Authority should purchase laptops.

Mr. Kuklis stated he agrees with obtaining quotes.

Mr. Fisher inquired why not use a personal laptop and Mr. Kuklis said Garland is worried if a personal laptop becomes infected with a virus, it could affect the Authority. The company laptop would be dedicated to the Authority system only.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to table the laptops until quotes can be obtained and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

Cybersecurity Plan – Ryan Smith and Garland Communications both obtained information on questionnaire, EPA is recommending a plan to be developed. Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority should develop a plan in the future. Mr. Thomas made a motion to table the Cybersecurity plan and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0.

Freeland Borough would like the Authority to take over the Freeland Borough Stormwater System. The monies would be paid to the Authority. Mr. Thomas inquired about the upgrades where is the Borough at with all of this. Mr. Kavitski said there are stormwater projects in the works for this summer. They will have one loan paid off this year and then one remaining. If they take this other project on, then it would be an additional loan, and not sure of the amount of the loan at this time. The Borough is looking at the people, equipment and knowledge the Authority has on staff. This is just up for discussion. Mr. Kuklis stated the Authority used to bill for stormwater. The Office Manager said the stormwater charge used to be on the Water/Sewer Bills and was separated off. Mr. Kuklis said the delinquent bills are a lot and need to be looked at. The Office Manager stated this would be another billing program to purchase annually, the cost of the bills, postage, and labor to help with the billing and posting of payments.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority would need to hire additional employees and the whole thing would need to be itemized for a better idea of the cost. Ryan Smith inquired about the delinquent bills, could the water be shut off for non-payment? Attorney Malaska thought things would need to be amended to accommodate. Mr. Kavitski stated maybe, start a separate Sewer Authority which would increase the cost of stormwater bills.

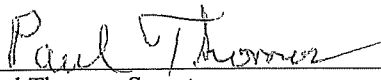
Mr. Thomas inquired about the seating arrangement for Tuesday's meeting with Citterio. The Office Manager asked if she could obtain a head count to arrange the tables and chairs.

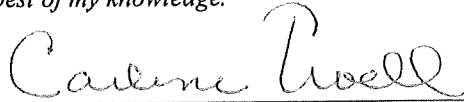
Mr. Kavitski has announced an Executive Session at 9 a.m. tomorrow for the discussion of the PAWC agreement and at 11 a.m. there is the Electrical Contract Bidding.

Mr. Kavitski has announced the Executive Session with Citterio USA on Tuesday February 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. here in the Conference Room.

Mr. Kuklis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

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


Paul Thomas, Secretary


Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary