

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2025, AT 6 PM, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS, MR. TIERNEY, MR. KUKLIS, ATTORNEY MALASKA, THE ENGINEER, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG – MOMENT OF SILENCE

For all the people dying on the Interstates and Turnpikes including my friend Dominic, he was rear ended and sadly passed away. Everyone expressed their condolences to Mr. Kavitski.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - WELL 6

Atty Malaska investigated the matter and after having discussion with DEP the recommendation is not to consider a subdivision or lease agreement for the property at Well 6. The party interested will be informed of the decision. Mr. Tierney made the motion not to sell or lease the property and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0 and Mr. Kavitski abstained from the vote. Mr. Kavitski thanked the Board for their consideration of Rick Kavitski's proposal.

APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes dated October 9, 2025, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

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

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve Executive Meeting Minutes dated October 15, 2025, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve Special Meeting Minutes dated October 30, 2025, and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve Executive Meeting Minutes dated October 30, 2025, and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVE OCTOBER PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve October paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$230,698.35, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$187,581.80, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2690-A).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$152,967.44, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$123,717.14, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$88.02, and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2690-B).

Ferguson Waterworks, FMA Office Manager, will send an email along with spreadsheet explaining the check amount for payment. The Board agreed to pay Ferguson.

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2690-C.

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve the 2026 Solvency Fee in the amount of \$1,243.90, and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2690-D).

Mr. Thomas made a motion to charge off 1105 Pine Street account balance of \$1,257.10 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote-5-0.

Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the refund of \$122.55 for 456 Fern Street and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0.

2026 Proposed Sewer Budget was discussed with a proposed increase of \$3.00 per EDU, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve Sewer Budget with the increase and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0 (Ref. 2690-E). Mr. Fisher inquired about the RUS Required I & I line item. Mr. Kavitski explained it is for removal of I & I and repairing of manholes. Mr. Kuklis inquired about the school head count and when the last increase was. Office Manager stated it has been a few years. Ryan Smith stated Freeland Elementary Middle School is supposed to be expanding.

2026 Proposed Water Budget was tabled for further review. Mr. Kuklis made the motion to tabled and

Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

Discussion on repairs and painting of the Harding Street Tank for 2027 budget.

There was discussion on the number of meters needed to be replaced for the radio read system. The approximate number of meters is 1500 which need to be replaced. There was a discussion about purchasing 500, 1000, or 1500 meters in bulk. The Authority will need to hire a Meter Reader for the next couple of years.

Mr. Tierney suggested using the penalty money from the Sewer Division to purchase the water meters. The problem with this suggestion is using Sewer Division Funds for a Water Division Project.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority could, but it would need to be paid back to the Sewer Division.

Ryan Smith inquired about installation costs to replace the 1500 meters in 2026 and 2027, who will install them.

Mr. Kavitski stated the guys could replace the meters and put in so many meters in a week.

Ryan Smith wanted to clarify and to make sure the installation costs were not forgotten.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the discounted meters right now. Carlene explained the bulk prices were of the iPerl+ meters, which would give an hourly history of water usage with the AMI & Antenna System. Core & Main has the regular iPerl Meters which can be sold to the Authority for the cost of \$150.00 each and they currently have 302 meters in their inventory, which can be used for the radio read system.

Mr. Kavitski made the motion to purchase the 302 meters at \$150 and 500 radio reads at the cost of \$180 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2691-A).

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc., presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2691-B).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and IPP Items – Chris Ferdik of HRG discussed this area of the report. November Citterio Progress Report was received yesterday. The inspection was completed on October 7th and distributed a copy of the final inspection report to all relevant parties on October 27, 2025. The Headworks Analysis is foolproof, and it is a conflict of interest for Rettew Citterio's Engineering Firm to have input into the analysis. The current Headworks Analysis was completed in 2021. An Industrial User and their Engineer should not be involved in the Headworks Analysis.

Mr. Kavitski stated they should not be involved with Headworks Analysis, and they need to come into compliance with the local limits.

HRG can help with the response to Atty McCaulley letter and Citterio must be accountable with the compliance issues.

Veolia is busy with the dosing of the Neutra Quat and are about two weeks away from finalizing the sanitizer alternatives trial. Chris stated looking at the results it seems to be bringing down the ammonia levels a little.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about the Neutra Quat; is it a sequestering agent? Chris Ferdik was not sure because he did not research the product completely.

Mr. Kavitski explained the reason why he asked. When pressing the Sludge with the new press, they need to leave the garage doors open because the ammonia smell is so strong. This is not a good situation for the guys to work in. Something changed and according to Ryan Smith, it started within the time frame of Citterio's starting their trial.

Chris Ferdik said he will do some research on the Neutra Quat.

Mr. Kavitski said we do not want to have to keep garage doors open in the Winter.

Chris Ferdik stated there are a lot of factors for the timeframe of the COA. Citterio's needs to understand the local limits are correct and they need to come into compliance.

Mr. Kavitski stated Citterio should be going with a treatment alternative for the TDS. Citterio should be treating it not the Authority. FMA also needs to collect the penalties which are due to the Authority.

Atty Malaska stated he and Atty Pompo spoke with Atty McCaulley yesterday. FMA is upset that a letter was sent without time to review prior to the meeting and Citterio is upset with the Authority regarding the penalty discussion. They asked about the Authority's interest in having their engineers talk.

Mr. Kavitski stated Citterio needs to come into compliance with the local limits. The Authority needs to have the compliance problem solved.

Atty Malaska stated Atty McCaulley of Citterio is asking for Rettew Engineers and the Authority Engineers HRG to speak with the EPA.

Mr. Kavitski stated the answer is no. I speak for myself if the Board thinks differently everyone can speak. The Authority might want to consider adding interest to the penalty amount.

Atty Malaska stated there are two COAs. One deals with TDS and the other one deals with everything else including the penalty amount. There is some uncertainty with dealing with PAWC.

Mr. Kavitski inquired what is the uncertainty about?

Atty Malaska said the amount of water discharged into the Authority System. My understanding is we do not have a firm agreement with PAWC regarding the amount they can discharge into our Treatment System.

Mr. Kavitski stated we, the Board, have agreed to 250,000 and the Board is standing by it.

Atty Malaska said can PAWC keep the 250,000 with Citterio continuing to increase their discharge.

Mr. Kavitski stated first thing Citterio is discharging over their allotted amount. They need to cut back or go to PAWC and request more water and then revise whatever they need to revise. This may take years. The Authority needs to solve this now to pay the money. The Authority has offered a payment plan, and we have not seen anything so maybe it all should be paid now. The Authority has not penalized Citterio for the additional items we can and maybe that should be done. What everyone is missing besides Chris Ferdik and Erin Desandro of EPA is the Authority cannot treat TDS period. The Authority should not pay to treat Citterio's TDS, they need to. The Board wants the payment for their violations and wants Citterio to proceed with Alternative 2 in the Rettew Evaluation Report.

Atty Malaska stated a new updated report is due within the first two weeks of December. What the Board needs to know the fines have all been appealed so if it cannot be bundled into a COA then hearings need to be scheduled on the NOVs.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if they can all be done at once and Atty Malaska said however the Authority likes.

Atty Malaska stated the December Report will be given six weeks prior to the expiration of their permit and the hearings should be scheduled prior to the permit expiring or extend the permit to allow for the hearings.

Mr. Tierney inquired why the Authority is waiting until the December Report. It also seems as though the Authority is waiting for something from someone to hold up things. The Authority is tired of waiting for the money.

Atty Malaska inquired what Chris Ferdik's thoughts were for the December Report from Citterio.

Chris Ferdik stated the content of the December Report I do not know. There may be place holders in the Report.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority needs to draft a letter to Citterio and explain Rettew will not be involved for the Headworks Analysis. Citterio should not be changing the Authority Treatment Plant for their benefit.

Chris Ferdik said FMA needs to respond to Citterio's letter asking to be involved in the Headworks Analysis being denied.

Atty Malaska asked Chris to draft the letter with review by himself and Atty Pompo.

Mr. Fisher inquired about Citterio going to Greater Hazleton Sewer Authority and Mr. Kavitski said it would take years, and Greater Hazleton Sewer Authority has a Pretreatment Plan which would need to be followed too.

Chris Ferdik said the two stall tactics he sees are Headworks Analysis with the local limits and the flow capacity coordination effort with having multiple parties involved.

Mr. Kavitski stated if they increase the amount of production the mass loading goes up with flow.

Mr. Thomas inquired when the Authority would hear from Citterio regarding the fines.

Atty Malaska said Atty McCaulley wants two separate COAs, one for the fines and one for the other items.

Mr. Kavitski said no, one COA with everything included. We are not splitting it.

Atty Malaska stated the Authority will give Citterio their position next week after the December Report is received. The Authority will either schedule hearings or have a payment agreement.

Mr. Kavitski said Citterio needs to do the right thing. He also discussed the additional cyanide testing the Authority needs to complete and the sampling has started already.

Chris Ferdik said the Citterio Permit, the Authority may need to extend it.

-Sludge Dewatering Project – Moving some costs from Legal Category to the General Category, this is to take the rest of the money to pay for additional construction. Quotes for the Platform Extension, Brenden scheduled Kappe and JP Environmental on December 2nd. A to S Metals also made a site visit to the Treatment Plant to look at the project to develop a quote. HRG is hoping to have all the quotes for the December Meeting.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Board had discussed the Platform Extension and because of this issue, it should have been in the Project, the Board would want to split the cost with HRG. Brenden Miller stated that is not a decision he can make but he will certainly let the people in command know.

-NPDES Permit Renewal – Should be early 2026 after all the cyanide testing is completed.

-ACT 537 Special Study – HRG is waiting for the PAWC Agreement to be finalized.

-Chestnut Street Sewer Project – November 14th the Sewer Main work was finished. AFP No. 1 Final in the amount of \$78,690.00 is attached to the Engineers Report for the Board's consideration, in addition to a final adjusting Change Order to rectify quantities. At this time, Certified Payrolls were not received yet.

HRG will need to issue Substantial Completion. The Board could motion to pay the amount of \$78,690.00 and not execute the contract until HRG approves everything.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority will not pay the amount until everything is received and reviewed by HRG.

Water Area

-Oak Street Water Storage Tank – Brenden visited the site today and it looks as though the fiberglass building has arrived. HRG is waiting on a plan for Cathodic Protection from Caldwell yet. The plan will show how large of a size needed for Cathodic Protection inside the tank. There are two AFPs submitted and Change Order #1 for the Electrical Contractor for the float level flood switch. This will have an alarm through the SCADA System if the vault floods.

-SRBC Water Conservation Grant – Information is included in the Engineering Report. A meeting is scheduled for December 10th at 10 AM for a start-up and informational session.

-Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study – HRG submitted the Corrosion Control Study to DEP and will monitor for a response.

-Iron and Manganese Treatment – HRG needs a resolution to approve for the submission of the Grant Application, and the anticipated award is the Fall of 2026. The Grant Application will be the equipment skid and the Blow Off at Well 10, approximate cost is over one million dollars.

The Authority is working with Mr. Eachus through Pure Green regarding the PFAS.

Ryan Smith informed the Board he had a meeting with Pure Green today, to set up the testing.

When having the meeting with DEP concerning the Well 17 stripper, HRG will speak to DEP regarding the blow off at Well 10.

-ARPA Grant Administration – No update.

-CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant – The Grant for the Upper Lehigh Water Main Relocation and Tank Demolition will be awarded in Fall 2025, either by a special CFA meeting or at their November meeting. The Grant was submitted in April 2025 for the Water Main Pigging with the anticipated award date of March 2026.

Brenden Miller informed the Board the polymer line was backed up because the filter was clogged. The filter lines were piped with set up wrong and PSI was out there today. The Treatment Plant should be up and running tomorrow.

Ryan Smith said the out flow was piped to the inflow and vice versa on the skid itself.

Mr. Kavitski inquired why the inspector did not catch this.

Brenden Miller said the inspector was part-time during the project. Not sure if it was plumbed when inspector was not there but it was hard to tell because it is double stacked. PSI came to fix the issue.

Mr. Kavitski stated they would need to because of the warranty. The Authority is spending a lot of money, and we need things to go a little smoother.

SEWER DIVISION

New Sewer Service Application for 1117 Burton Street, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2693-A).

Ryan Smith stated he spoke with the gentleman who owns the property and agreed to the Tap-On Fee.

Mr. Thomas inquired if this was formerly the Peters property which is a garage with an proposed apartment on top and the answer was yes.

Lead Man Position with Retroactive Pay – D. Murphy

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

HRG Recommendation to Pay J. Leiphart Construction LLC Pay App #1 Final in the Amount of \$78,690.00 for the Chestnut Street Sewer Replacement Contingent on Receipt of Certified Payrolls and Acceptability of Work, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2693-B).

Brenden Miller stated HRG is good with the work, and they had an Inspector on the job but need the paperwork yet and the certified payrolls to look over.

Ryan Smith stated the Authority ran the sewer camera through the main after completion of the work.

Mr. Fisher inquired if the street was paved and Brenden Miller stated yes but not fully the Borough will complete it after the Stormwater project.

Reallocate \$12,096.25 from the Legal Category to the Engineering Category in the Sludge Dewatering Project – Mr. Kavitski stated \$3,000.00 was kept in the Legal Category just in case it is needed. Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

WATER DIVISION

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve Oak Street Water Storage Tank Contract #24-03 General Construction Pay App #9 – Linde Corporation in the amount of \$108,275.83 and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2694-A).

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve Oak Street Water Storage Tank Contract #24-04 Electrical Construction Pay App #2 – G.R. Noto in the amount of \$21,015.00 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2694-B).

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve CO #1 Electrical Construction G.R. Noto in the amount of \$1,659.00 for Flood Level Float Switch in Valve Vault and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2694-C).

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the PENNVEST Payment Request #11 in the amount of \$130,184.33 for the Oak Street Tank Project and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2694-D).

Internal Cathodic Protection System – Corpro Quote \$31,189.00 – Mr. Kavitski recommended this quote be tabled until Spring. Brenden Miller stated this quote does not include the electrical, welding of anode support rings or welding and mounting of the hardware.

Mr. Kavitski stated Debra Wilkes of DEP said this could be included in the PENNVEST Loan so Authority funds would not have to be used.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to table until the December Meeting and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0.

Ratify Birkbeck Street Reservoir SCADA Computer with 3 Year Warranty for the cost of \$6,540.00
Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2694-E).

Core & Main Meter Purchase was covered earlier in the Meeting.

The Board was informed the Resolution to submit the Grant Application was not placed on the agenda. Mr. Kavitski stated the Board can add things to the agenda as long as the Board votes to do so. A Board Member would need to motion to amend the agenda and if second and vote is majority it could be done. Mr. Tierney made a motion to amend the agenda.

Atty Malaska stated it should not be done. The meeting should be continued and take the action at that time. There was a discussion regarding setting up a TEAMS Meeting but a Zoom Meeting will be held.

MANAGER REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager report. (Reference 2694-F).

Discussion on the analyzer screen at Well 9. Mr. Kavitski stated if you take a part out of a backup than you replace it.

Tier 3 Report must be included with the CCR stated Mr. Kavitski. Ryan Smith said it will be done on the 2025 CCR.

Ryan Smith discussed the Freeland Elementary/Middle School Expansion Project. He wants to plug a tee on Alvin Street and remove the closed valve to prevent a future leak. The plan is to service any other valves in the area while the main is exposed.

List of hydrants which need repairs. The Storz connectors need to be purchased and will be added to the continued meeting for tomorrow. If they can be purchased without the safety tabs, please do so stated Mr. Kuklis.

Operators requested hi-vis beanies for the winter and bomber jacket liners. Ryan Smith recommended to the guys to wear Carhart jackets under the rain gear, but he said he would bring to the Board.

The Board said yes to the beanies but no to the bomber jacket liners. If they would like that, they may purchase for themselves.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority purchases a lot for the guys compared to years ago.

Blower VFDs B & D in the same cabinet have failed and working to obtain quotes. There is incoming surge protection on the entire Treatment Plant, it just does not make sense. The fault happened on November 11th.

The Schneider drives are obsolete. There are five blowers at the Sewer Plant. May need to involve Black Birch for interface with the PLCs.

Ammonia testing being completed at the WWTP. The effluent for the ammonia levels are running 6,7, and 8 mg/liter.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if the Conductivity Meter has been installed yet. Ryan Smith said the order was to arrive in 2 parts. There is a quote for the installation today.

Mr. Tierney inquired about the Schwing Press; it seems to have numerous issues with the equipment.

Mr. Kuklis questioned how the Press worked properly with the piping being incorrect.

Ryan Smith said with the Press being down at the moment we may need to haul sludge because of the piping issue. The Board said the sludge hauling invoice should be given to PSI if we need to haul.

Mr. Kavitski stated the weekly report should contain these items and the Managers Report should be condensed for the meetings.

Ryan Smith said the weeks with the monthly meeting I would like to eliminate the weekly report.

Mr. Kavitski stated no we are trying to condense the meeting still provide the weekly report but not to include this report at the monthly meeting.

Mr. Tierney said he will get together with Ryan to try and streamline the reports for the monthly meeting.

Wyoming St PS Quote for the Plug Valve Replacement Installation - LB Quote was for \$24,020.00.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2695-A).

Biro's Quote for the Quarterly Cleaning at the Wyoming St PS at \$2,150.00 plus fuel, Septic is \$33.00 and Fuel-Service Van is \$15.84; Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2695-B).

Next cleaning is scheduled for January of 2026 said Ryan Smith.

North East Technical Sales Quote to install Conductivity Sensor, 3 new electrodes for pH, ORP, and DO. Calibrate entire system and review with plant operators on calibration and maintenance of the system.

Quote is \$1,300.00; Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

(Reference 2695-C).

Mr. Kuklis inquired where this is being installed and Ryan Smith said the effluent discharge at WWTP.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #199996 \$301.60; Invoice #200006 \$853.50; Invoice #200130 \$839.00; Invoice #200822 \$27,719.80; Invoice #200823 \$11,835.23; Invoice #200824 \$4,065.51 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2695-D).

ATTORNEY REPORT

Atty Malaska inquired about the cancellation of the coverage and if the Authority has a replacement for the New Year. Carlene explained Brown & Brown is working on obtaining a new insurance company.

Atty Malaska inquired if Ryan Smith had been in touch with Mr. Eachus's people and Ryan Smith said yes, they met virtually today to discuss entry points, how to conduct the samples and how many sets are needed.

Atty Malaska will work with Chris Ferdik to gather information for the Citterio letter.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Rainfall for the month was 3.79".

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the Union Contract, since the guys voted on and approved the Union Contract on Monday and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Highmark, SunLife Dental and Davis Vision Renewals for all employees and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2695-E).

ESRI (ArcGIS) Annual Renewal Software for \$2,803.00; Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2695-F).

Mr. Tierney inquired about Brittany and how much longer she will be with the Authority.

Mr. Kavitski stated for as long as the Authority wants her. She moved to Pittsburgh, but she is working remotely for the Authority. We do not want to lose her.

Mr. Fisher inquired how many hours she is working and Carlene said 36 to 40 hours per week.

Mr. Kavitski stated she is doing all the DEP requirements, mapping and other items. She is completing the Lead and Copper requirements for the customers every year.

Ryan Smith stated the Authority did Lead and Copper Sample Testing this year. There was no lead detection even at the addresses which have lead service lines. All lead service lines were to be added to the testing, but some people refused to cooperate. DEP informed Ryan Smith to document the refusals.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the corrosion control system it was designed to help coat the pipes.
Mr. Kavitski said yes and we need to remove the iron and manganese then we should be good.
Mr. Kuklis asked Ryan Smith how he is making out with the sample task list that he provided him.
Ryan Smith stated he has over seventy plus items on a running list.
Mr. Kuklis inquired if it was in Excel.
Ryan Smith said it is in Word Doc and the template which Mr. Kuklis provided he has not created one yet.
Mr. Kuklis suggested Excel because it would work better and give me or the Board a sample so we can see it. Ryan Smith said he would.
Mr. Kuklis said to update it as you see fit. Ryan Smith said he needs to prioritize his list and break it down by Water and Sewer Divisions.

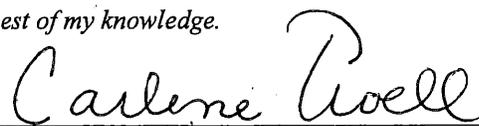
The Executive Session for Personnel is not needed.

Mr. Thomas made a motion to continue the meeting tomorrow at 10 AM and Mr. Tierney 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