

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 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  
A moment of silence for Dolores Falatko.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

Michael Spock, 1010 Carbon Street, Freeland - He spoke on behalf of the Fearnots Fire Department regarding a fire a few weeks ago. His concern was the hydrant opening difficulties.

Mr. Kavitski explained to Mr. Spock; the Authority will be placing compound on the stainless-steel connections to prevent seizing from overtightening. The Stortz connections which were difficult to open have been resolved stated Ryan Smith.

Joseph Stepansky, 911 Ridge St., Freeland - Chief of Freeland Fire Department, inquired about the hydrant flushing and if every hydrant was flushed.

Mr. Kavitski explained to Mr. Stepansky the Engineers have developed a flushing plan and it is done by forward movement to direct all solids out of the lines.

Ryan Smith said all hydrants are included in the flushing plan. There will be a maintenance plan filled out with every hydrant – duration period of flushing, condition of hydrant, operator time start and stop who performed, estimated flows, and special notes if problem with the hydrant connection etc. all will be documented. The compound will be added to all hydrants at the 2-inch threads and the Stortz connections. Joseph Stepansky inquired about the hydrant painting – Highland & Alvin, Maple & Schwabe, Burton & Chestnut, Front & Sabol and Carbon & Fern.

Ryan Smith said the hydrant painting will be completed with the correct color code first before the cold weather.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the number of hydrants.

Ryan Smith said between 100 and 110 hydrants. It will take one to two weeks to complete the flushing with the maintenance sheets completed at the same time plus dechlorinate the water per DEP Regulations. The diffuser and dechlorination tablets will slow the flushing process down.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about flow testing for each individual hydrant. Does the Authority have a flowmeter? Ryan Smith stated a pitot gauge is what the Authority uses.

Mike Spock asked for a copy of the hydrant flow testing for Foster Township and Joseph Stepansky asked for the Freeland Borough areas.

Mr. Kuklis and Mr. Kavitski stated the whole hydrant system will be given to both Fire Departments, so they have both for their information.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the dechlorination of the water – what about swimming pools and washing cars. Mr. Kuklis stated what about a fire situation.

Rick Kavitski, 706 Ingham St., Freeland – Well 6 Site - He is inquiring if Well 6 could be subdivided with the ability to purchase some ground there. October of 2024, I went to the courthouse several times to look at the deed with no luck. I called Dennis Evans, paid him \$1700 to survey the pins on the site. I would like to subdivide and purchase .29 acres of this area.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about which part of the Well 6 area he was interested in because he has concerns with the Well.

Rick Kavitski stated the lot will not have water or sewer connections. He is looking to cut down some trees and place gravel for a carport to park a trailer.

Mr. Kuklis inquired if this would affect the Well at all.

Brenden Miller of HRG stated if the Authority has a Source Protection Plan set in place make sure there is nothing in the plan which would affect this subdivision.

Ryan Smith stated the Authority does not have a Source Protection Plan right now.

Atty Malaska inquired if the entire parcel is owned by the Authority.

The Authority does own the parcel.

Mr. Fisher stated his concern is for any reason Rick Kavitski decides to sell the lot; what would the next owner do adjacent to our Well. Is there anything that can be placed in the Sales Agreement that would preclude doing certain things?

Atty Malaska explained the Authority could place restricted conveyances on current and future purchasers. Mr. Fisher stated this should be done.

Mr. Kuklis said that would limit access to what could be done at the location.

Atty Malaska said yes. I would need to speak to the Board regarding this situation and will need copies for official records. We need to look at the Freeland Borough Subdivision Ordinance, and it would be conditional on their approval, research of purchase price, and place covenants in the deed. He inquired about scheduling a hearing with Zoning Hearing Board. I will need a copy of the plan and take it under advisement first. Atty Malaska asked for contact information from Rick Kavitski.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the size of the lot and about fencing.

Rick Kavitski said .19 for the Well area and .29 for the other area; the whole parcel is under a half-acre.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes dated August 29, 2025, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve Executive Meeting Minutes dated September 4, 2025, and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0.

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

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve Executive Meeting Minutes dated September 17, 2025, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated September 17, 2025, and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve the Executive Meeting Minutes dated September 26, 2025, and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0.

#### APPROVE SEPTEMBER PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve August paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$378,126.64, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$272,414.68, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2679-A).

#### CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Kuklis made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$97,033.86, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$82,437.93, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$1,439.90, and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2679-B).

Discussion on the Ferguson Waterworks demanding payment of the outstanding invoice for the Wyoming St PS, plug valve, FMA never received credit on the parts returned. Atty Malaska suggests placing everything in writing regarding the returned items etc. and copying him on the email. This invoice is not on the current list of Sewer Division Invoices.

#### FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2679-C.

#### ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc., presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2679-D).

##### Sewer Area

**-SIUA and IPP Items** – Chris Ferdik of HRG discussed this area of the report. The Citterio Progress Report was received today. Inspection was completed on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and he is finalizing the report now. August 29<sup>th</sup> was a very productive meeting and the October 9<sup>th</sup> meeting with EPA representative, Erin Desandro provided crucial backing to FMA on its IPP enforcement. Citterio must focus on doing their job by complying with the local limits in their permit. A proposed extension of their permit to be done administratively through January 31, 2026, is on the agenda for tonight. Citterio Engineering Evaluation is due by end of October from Rettew. Chris Ferdik thinks things are progressing well with Rettew on board. Mr. Tierney wants to see progress from Citterio with all the meetings which were held.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if the approval of the administrative extension of their permit should be held until the Authority sees the Engineering Evaluation from Citterio. Chris Ferdik stated the Board can if they wish.

Atty Malaska stated the Board can table the extension and have a Special meeting By October 31<sup>st</sup> if they choose.

Chris Ferdik stated Citterio needs to comply with local limits and Rettew knows this now.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about the recovery of FMA costs and the penalties from Citterio. The total cost is \$303,000 and the Board wants 85% of the cost. If the report is a bad report, then full recovery of cost will be requested.

Atty Malaska stated he wants to review the report first.

Chris Ferdik will contact Rettew for an expected date of the Engineering Evaluation.

Chris Ferdik stated Citterio SPCC Plan was updated to include the NeutraQuat on October 13, 2025. NOVs are included in the Engineering Report.

FOG packages were sent out and still awaiting one FOG package back – The Other Side. Chris recommended stopping by the business to inquire about the paperwork response.

**-Sludge Dewatering Project** – Final Payment Request has not been completed yet; still waiting for DEP approval on the Change Orders. Close out documents for the construction contracts will be provided to the Authority and Solicitor. Platform Extension, HRG is awaiting quotes nothing back to date, possible site visits will need to be scheduled.

**-NPDES Permit Renewal** – Additional ten Cyanide samples are required and to be collected one week apart. See Engineering Report for additional information.

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

**-Chestnut Street Sewer Project** – Preconstruction meeting was held September 30<sup>th</sup>. Waiting on the Certificate of Insurance from Leiphart prior to the execution of the agreement. Leiphart will saw cut road, will test pit for slope of the sewer line and cover it after it is completed.

#### Water Area

**-Oak Street Water Storage Tank** – HRG conducted virtual Job Conference on October 7, 2025. Caldwell Tank has the painting well underway with completion of the painting on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. The inside of the tank is completed now.

HRG is working on obtaining pricing for Cathodic Protection on the tank, electrical surge/UPS protection, swing down ladder, and vehicle swing gate.

Linde has the material for the building, after constructed, the Electrical Contractor will arrive to start the electrical items inside the building. HRG has been corresponding with Keystone Engineering for the SCADA System. Brenden Miller will have Martin of Keystone Engineering send a schematic of the components he will be using for the project.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about PTD for Dark Fiber and asked Ryan Smith to inquire with PTD regarding installation.

Ryan Smith informed the Board the Pressure Transmitters arrived today.

Mr. Thomas inquired about having water in the tank before wintertime. Brenden Miller was not sure; there were fill tests and other things prior to using the water in the tank.

Ryan Smith inquired about the VOC testing and Bac-T testing; what is the exact order of testing and Brenden Miller stated he will investigate the order. Brenden Miller will send the testing specs to Ryan Smith. There will be Hydrostatic testing too so the exact measurement of overfill will be known.

Linde has AFP #8 in the amount of \$60,187.50 for the Board's consideration for approval. PENNVEST Payment Request #10 in the amount of \$103,884.27 is also on the agenda for consideration.

**-SRBC Water Conservation Grant** – Keystone, Garland and HRG have made a lot of progress with the WaterSight System. Digital Twin is up and running. Keystone is finalizing some things with the SCADA System. Staci Hartz has the GIS in the system and waiting for Keystone to finish so she can do the tagging and pump curves. There will be a start-up meeting scheduled once HRG is done.

Mr. Kavitski stated everything needs to be tested, double checked and possible simulation of the system.

Ryan Smith said each wellhouse will be gone over so all information input is correct too.

Brenden Miller stated the InHANCE quote is not needed for the project. Taylor of HRG and Carlene worked together to gather information for the WaterSight System with a report she already uses.

Brenden Miller spoke about HRG helping Carlene submit for the Grant Reimbursement through the SRBC website. The Authority is still waiting for the last of the invoices from Keystone Engineering.

**-Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study** – Ryan Smith informed HRG, the permit for the Corrosion Control Study was not received by DEP because there was no payment issued with the Study. Brenden Miller re-submitted the Study with a payment.

**-Iron and Manganese Treatment** – HRG has begun drafting the LSA Grant Application for the Fe/Mn Well Project. The project is intended to include the AdEdge Treatment Unit at the Birkbeck Plant and a blow off at Well 10. The layout for the blowoff has not been finalized. Engineering will be held off until PFAS settlement is investigated.

**-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.

Ryan Smith inquired about the grant regarding the mini excavator & trailer; the Authority pulled back from the Grant Application after learning Freeland Borough would be the owner of the equipment.

Chris Ferdik to discuss the IPP process at a conference meeting using the Authority as an example.

**SEWER DIVISION**

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the McCrometer annual renewal flowmeter dataloggers at the cost of \$2,980.00 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2681-A).

Resolution for Citterio Industrial Permit Administrative Extension until January 31, 2026, Atty Malaska informed the Board they could approve it tonight or wait until October 31, 2025, until the Authority receives information from Citterio, Mr. Tierney made the motion to table the Resolution to review results from Citterio first and Mr. Kuklis 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 #8 – Linde Corporation in the amount of \$60,187.50 and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2681-B).

Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve the PENNVEST Payment Request #10 in the amount of \$103,884.27 for the Oak Street Tank Project and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2681-C).

Resolution 4 of 2025 – Authorizing the Authority to Execute a Legal Services Contract with Grossman & Kelly LLP to Prosecute on a Contingency Basis Civil Legal Claims for Negligence Resulting in Injuries and Property Damage in MDL 2873 (PFAS) and Declaring an Emergency – Mr. Thomas made the motion to pass the Resolution and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2681-D).

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Legal Service Contract for Grossman & Kelly, LLP and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2681-E).

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Agency Assignment Agreement Pure Green Bio Ag Inc. and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2681-F).

**MANAGER REPORT**

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager report. (Reference 2681-G).

Well 17, the well meter has sporadic readings. Mr. Kavitski inquired if there was air in the line. Ryan Smith said he is not aware of any air and the meter is mounted vertically. Mr. Kavitski stated that it is very rare so there is something else going on there.

RAD sample test has come back from the raw water with a non-detect. Mr. Kavitski said HRG and Ryan Smith need to send a letter to DEP regarding the non-detect.

Informed Board an informational file review with DEP has been requested by Ryan Smith.

Mechanical Service Company for annual maintenance with load testing on all generators for \$6,245.00 and the 2-hour load bank testing for \$7,515.00, Mr. Kuklis made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2681-H).

Moyer Instruments Quote for Well 17 Meter was tabled.

Water Line Relocation at Yale Street COSTARS Quote from Core & Main \$32,473.87, Mr. Fisher said the actual fittings which the Authority needs should be replaced. Mr. Kavitski agreed with Mr. Fisher that the pipe should not be purchased to be placed into stock unless a main replacement is planned. The amount the Authority has in stock now we should be fine for repairs. The Authority needs to look at the ductile pipe being replaced may be able to use elsewhere was Mr. Thomas's suggestion. M & J is supposed to pull the old pipe out and give it to the Authority. Mr. Kavitski stated we need to look at the pipe once it is opened. Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority needs to pay Freeland Borough for M & J putting the water main in during their construction for the stormwater project. Ryan Smith will determine the fittings and materials needed for the job, which would be approximately \$5,000, Mr. Kuklis made the motion not to exceed the \$5,000 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Harmoni Towers has given the Authority an offer for one-time lump payment in lieu of the monthly rental income for the tower on the Authority land. The Board agreed to continue with the month-to-month rental only.

Triad actuator aeration control zone C will need a control board; this is currently not in use at this time but should be repaired later.

Stormwater Project on Pine & Chestnut Streets will start next year, Mr. Kavitski informed the Board.

FMA Operator will observe PAWC smoke testing.

Current inventory of the sewer main pipe will be given to J. Leiphart for the Chestnut Street Sewer Replacement Project. The Authority will have enough to complete repairs but not a project. Ryan Smith mentioned a Walnut Street area for potential replacement next year.

Effluent Conductivity (TDS) Probe – Northeast Tech Sales – Probe with Sensor and additional "j" box is needed. Mr. Kavitski stated in the future to consider having this tied into the SCADA system for automatic

reading. Installation would be at Effluent to monitor discharge limits; the Authority's is 1000. Mr. Kuklis made the motion to purchase at the cost of \$2,041.00 and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2682-A). pH Sensor Replacement Parts – Northeast Tech Sales for the cost of \$1,205.78, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2682-B).

Yale Street, 3 manholes, looking to replace one in-house and the other two FMA cannot do, ask M & J to help with the manholes, with a price not to exceed \$6000 per manhole, Mr. Tierney made the motion and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

#### ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #198664 \$716.00; Invoice #198671 \$3,438.00; Invoice #199432 \$25,768.06; Invoice #199475 \$15,381.25; Invoice #199476 \$7,307.00; Invoice #199477 \$1,483.50 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2682-C).

#### ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Malaska stated to send all contracts regarding the PFAS Settlement contracts to him and possible Zoom Meeting to see what the next steps are.

Atty Malaska will contact Atty McCaulley to inform him the Resolution to approve the administrative extension for their permit was tabled and inquire when the Authority will receive the improvement report. PAWC has agreed to complete a smoke test and provide the Authority with the results, and they also proposed a flow of 315,000.

Mr. Kavitski stated PAWC wants a larger number due to the I & I and nothing to do with the need for EDUs or flow. PAWC wants to provide the Authority with the flow without fixing anything.

Atty Malaska inquired about the smoke test; will it provide the Authority with the data we need.

Mr. Kavitski stated this will help but not give a total picture. Where are all the results to the camera of the sewer lines.

Mr. Tierney stated we had asked for all this information when we first started with PAWC and we were assured we would have this information. The Authority has not seen anything we have asked for to date. I think they should stay at 250,000.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority must spend the money to treat the I & I and PAWC should have to pay a surcharge. We have also asked PAWC to check the one stormwater drain and inform the Authority if connected to the sewer and we are still waiting for an answer.

Atty Malaska stated that even at 250,000 PAWC has only exceeded the surcharge a handful of times. The Board agreed to stay at the 250,000 for PAWC flow.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the South Street Sewer Extension, who is connected and PAWC still has not provided the information to the Authority.

Ryan Smith stated he contacted PAWC regarding Balas digging and installing pipe; PAWC has not provided any information.

Atty Malaska stated send a Right-to-Know to PAWC for this information and there should be a Grant Close Out Report.

Carlene Troell explained to Atty Malaska when the Sewer Main was installed the contractors did not connect the homeowners/business owners. It is up to the homeowners/business owners to find their own contractor and connect a sewer lateral to the sewer main. PAWC is not clear who is connected to the 940 Extension. There was discussion amongst the Board Members on who they thought was connected.

Ryan Smith thought the contractor core bored under Route 940 for Balas Distributing to be connected to the Route 940 Sewer Extension but not sure the business is connected.

#### OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Rainfall for the month was 4.03".

Allmax Software Annual Renewal is \$5,603.00; Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2682-D).

Lease Agreement for Well 6 – Mr. Kavitski explained to the Board; it was a placeholder until the Board decides on Rick Kavitski's request regarding Well 6 property.

Garland Communication System New Desktop Computer for \$1,429.00 for the Water Operators to use; Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2682-E).

PMAA Webinar -Solving Employee Problems, Mr. Kavitski recommended Ryan Smith to attend the virtual webinar for \$49.00, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 5-0. The Authority will pay for the webinar cost.

Mr. Kuklis inquired about the valve exerciser and how often it is used for exercising all the water valves and if all is documented for the Authorities records.

Ryan Smith stated the unit is a little undersized for clean outs during excavation. The volume is not what the Authority needs at times. He said everything is documented after completion.

Mr. Kavitski stated the type of truck you are referring to is not a valve exerciser, you are describing a vacuum truck.

Ryan Smith stated 3- and 4-inch stones tend to bind up the machine. He did speak with Wach Engineers regarding upsizing, but they could not guarantee it would work properly.

Mr. Kavitski stated the valve exerciser is not meant for excavation areas. It should not be used for this type of area; I do not want to see the machinery being damaged or ruined.

Mr. Kuklis stated the Borough's Street Sweeper has this type of operation and maybe the Authority could ask for help or to borrow the machine. This machine is supposed to be used to suction out the storm drains.

At this time, Mr. Kavitski turned the meeting over to Mr. Fisher, Vice-Chair; and Mr. Kavitski left the meeting. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss the Well 6 property area.

The Board returned from Executive Session.

Mr. Fisher made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kuklis second. Vote 4-0.

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

Paul Thomas  
Paul Thomas, Secretary

Carlene Troell  
Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary