

**MINUTES OF THE  
EASTON AREA JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY BOARD  
April 21, 2025 Meeting**

- ❖ The regular monthly meeting of the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority Board was held at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 21, 2025, at the EAJSA Administration Building, 50 South Delaware Drive, Easton, Pennsylvania 18042, with Zoom Meeting option. The meeting was open to the public.
- ❖ The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Mr. Robert Lammi. Mr. Lammi ordered the roll to be called at 5:00 p.m. Board Members were present in-person and via video conference option. Board members present at the call to order were as follows:

#	Member	Municipality	Term Expires	Present	Absent	Time Entered
1	Robert Blanchfield Treasurer	Palmer Township	12/31/2025	X		*
2	Jeffrey Bracken	Wilson Borough	12/31/2029	X		*
3	Luis Campos	City of Easton	12/31/2025	X		*
4	Patrick Caubel	City of Easton	12/31/2028	X		*
5	James Frank	Forks Township	12/31/2029	X		*
6	David Hopkins Vice-Chairman	City of Easton	12/31/2028	X		*
7	Paul James	West Easton Borough	12/31/2029	X		*
8	Robert Lammi Chairman	Palmer Township	12/31/2029	X		*
9	Joseph Mauro Jr	City of Easton	12/31/2025	X		*
10	Stephen Riegel Secretary	Tatamy Borough	12/31/2029	X		*
11	Robert Werner	City of Easton	12/31/2025		X	5:11
12	VACANT	City of Easton	12/31/2029			

\*Beginning of Meeting

\*\*Adjournment of Meeting

Board members attending via Zoom Meeting could hear each meeting attendee and be heard by each attendee.

Board member Werner entered the meeting after the call to order, at the time and place indicated below.

❖ **The following personnel were in attendance:**

Mike Gaul (King Spry law firm, Authority Solicitor), Jeff Morgan (SC Engineers, Authority Engineer), John Schimmel (Authority Accountant), Chuck Wilson (City of Easton Operations Manager of WWTP), Alexandria Hoffman (City of Easton Assistant Operations Manager of WWTP, and Authority IPP Manager), Yuselndy Zorrilla (City of Easton Office Manager of WWTP, and Authority Administrative Assistant).

**Agenda and any Amendment Approval:**

A motion was made by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Riegel, to approve the posted agenda without any amendments. **Motion Carried (10-0).**

❖ **Minutes Approval:**

A motion was made by Mr. Hopkins, and seconded by Mr. Mauro, to approve the minutes of the Board's March 17, 2025, regular meeting, as presented. **Motion Carried (10-0).**

❖ **Courtesy of the floor:**

Ms. Hoffman confirmed that the Authority had not received any correspondence through phone, email, or mail for public comment at the meeting. No members of the public attended the meeting.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Attorney Gaul stated he did not have a report but noted some legal nature items will be discussed later in the meeting.

**ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT**

Mr. John Schimmel, EAJSA Accountant, had no report. Mr. Schimmel stated that the Auditors contacted him, but everything seemed to be going well.

Mr. Blanchfield made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mauro, to approve the March 2025 bills for payment in the total amount of \$ 1,599,308.67 **Motion Carried (10-0).**

Mr. James made a motion, seconded by Mr. Caubel, to approve the Bond Funds Requisition 25-C2025-04 in the amount of \$ 61,128.01 in accordance with the Authority Engineer's recommendation.

**Motion Carried (10-0).**

**ENGINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Hopkins stated the Engineering Committee met on April 1, 2025. Mr. Hopkins stated there was a big agenda with items presented today for approval. Mr. Hopkins gave the floor to Mr. Morgan to continue with the report.

*Mr. Werner entered the meeting at 5:11 PM.*

**Mr. Morgan presented Item# 04-01:**

Mr. Morgan presented a proposed Professional Services Agreement (PSA) for a WWTP Boiler System and Methane Gas Quality Study.

Mr. Morgan stated Plant management reported to the Engineering Committee that the WWTP's two 1.5 MBTU methane and propane gasfired boilers used to heat the digesters and certain buildings at the plant are having significant internal build-ups of siloxane, which are causing operational problems and incurring elevated costs for frequent boiler cleanings. The Engineering Committee discussed this matter in detail and directed SCE to obtain a proposal to evaluate the plant's boiler system, and the quality of the gas produced in the plant's Anaerobic Digester System.

Mr. Morgan stated a scope of work was provided to AARO and Hazen to complete this evaluation. Based on their current workload, Hazen decided not to provide a proposal for this evaluation.

The Engineering Committee reviewed ARRO's PSA in the amount of \$33,750.00 for this evaluation and recommends that the Authority Board approve this PSA.

A motion was made by Mr. Mauro and seconded by Mr. Hopkins to approve ARRO's PSA in the amount of \$33,750.00 for the WWTP-Boiler System and Methane Gas Quality Study. **Engineering Memorandum # 04-01. Motion Carried (11-0).**

**Mr. Morgan proceeded with Item #04-02:**

Mr. Morgan presented the Second Street Pumping Station-Force Main Replacement Project.

Mr. Morgan stated on November 15, 2021, the Authority approved a proposal in the amount of \$98,150 for Atlas Technical Consultants, LLC (ATLAS) to perform detailed design engineering, permitting, and bidding services for the Second Street Pumping Station Force Main Replacement Project (project).

Mr. Morgan stated there was a significant amount of extra work completed as part of this project, which is detailed in the letter of ATLAS dated March 17, 2025. Mr. Morgan added that a majority of this extra work was related to modifications to the Authority's standard "front end" bid documents due to the Federal bidding requirements contained in the PA COVID-19 ARPA H20 Grant received for this project on January 5, 2024 as well as extensive work required to prepare easement documents and the Riverstar Properties Parking Lot Improvement Plan for this project.

The Engineering Committee reviewed ATLAS's additional fee request in the amount of \$ 62,300 for this project and recommends that the Authority approve this request.

A motion was made by Mr. Mauro and seconded by Mr. Hopkins, to approve ATLAS's additional fee request in the amount of \$ 62,300 for extra engineering work related to the Second Street Pumping Station-Force Main Replacement Project. **Engineering Memorandum # 04-02. Motion Carried (11-0).**

**Mr. Morgan proceeded with Item # 04-03:**

Mr. Morgan stated that, in anticipation of the Authority Board's possible approval of ALTAS's extra engineering work on the Second Street Force Main Replacement Project, ATLAS has submitted Invoice No. 2635506 from Atlas dated March 18, 2025, in the amount of \$ 55,390 for a portion of this extra work. Mr. Morgan stated that he did not want to present the Invoice until the Board first approved the extra work performed by ATLAS. The Engineering Committee recommends that the Authority Board approve the Invoice No. 2635506 for payment.

A Motion was made by Mr. Mauro, seconded by Mr. Werner, to approve payment of Invoice No. 2635506 from Atlas dated March 18, 2025, in the amount of \$55,390.

**Engineering Memorandum # 04-03. Motion Carried (11-0).**

**Mr. Morgan proceeded with Item # 04-04:**

**Second Street Pumping Station-Conditional Approval of Construction Support Services Proposal for the Force Main Replacement Project.**

Mr. Morgan stated ATLAS was previously retained to perform detailed design engineering, permitting, and bidding services for the Second Street Pumping Station Force Main Replacement Project (project).

Mr. Morgan added that the detailed design, permitting and bidding phases of this project have been completed, and this project will soon enter the construction phase. He noted that condition No.14 of the PADEP Water Quality Management/Construction permit obtained for this project requires that this project have proper oversight and on-site inspections by a Pennsylvania-licensed Professional Engineer (PE).

Mr. Morgan stated the Engineering Committee reviewed the proposed Construction Support Services Proposal from ATLAS in the amount of \$68,500 and recommends that the Authority Board conditionally approve this proposal, subject to a general construction contract with Wexcon, Inc. for this project.

A motion was made by Mr. Hopkins and seconded by Mr. James, to approve conditionally ATLAS's Construction Support Services Proposal in the amount of \$68,500, subject to the execution of a general construction contract with Wexcon Inc. for the Second Street Pumping Station Force Main Replacement Project. **Engineering Memorandum # 04-04. Motion Carried (11-0).**

**Mr. Morgan proceeded with Item # 04-05:**

Mr. Morgan presented for Board approval an ARM Group LLC Inspection Proposal for the Force Main Replacement Project.

Mr. Morgan stated that under the WQM Permit conditions, the Authority is also required to engage an environmental inspector and geologist during the construction of the replacement force main.

Mr. Morgan stated the Engineering Committee reviewed ARM Group LLC's revised Environmental Inspection and Geologist Support Proposal in the amount of \$60,000 and recommends that the Board conditionally approve this proposal, subject to a general construction contract with Wexcon, Inc. for this project.

A Motion was made by Mr. Mauro and seconded by Mr. Blanchfield to approve conditionally ARM Group LLC's revised Environmental Inspection and Geologist Support Proposal in the amount of \$60,000, subject to the execution of a general construction contract with Wexcon, Inc. for the Second Street Pumping Station Force Main Replacement Project.

**Engineering Memorandum # 04-05. Motion Carried (11-0).**

Mr. Morgan also provided an update on the Lehigh Drive Sewer Replacement Project. Mr. Morgan stated that by mid-May 60% of drawings should be completed. Mr. Morgan added that a potential meeting with the Water Authority may occur because the Water Authority may desire to replace a section of their water main. Mr. Morgan added that by the end of May, or early June, all drawings should be complete with all PennDOT details. An HOP application will be completed for the project and then submitted to PennDOT.

**PRETREATMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Mauro had no report.

Ms. Hoffman provided an update on the plant's new IPP Assistant Manager. The new hire's name is Karen Skibicki. Ms. Hoffman added Ms. Skibicki professional background is on air quality. Ms. Skibicki was employed by a company named Montrose Environmental for a long time where she did regulations, worked with DEP, EPA and also did plenty of data.

Ms. Hoffman stated that, on Tuesday April 8<sup>th</sup>, an excessive amount of a detergent-like smelling foam entered the Plant. Ms. Hoffman tried to figure out its source but thus far, has been unable to identify it. Ms. Hoffman is still investigating the incident.

Mr. Morgan stated that determining the source of the foam may be difficult because the Authority serves 11 Municipalities. The location of the last manhole and the areas it covers makes it difficult to determine the foam's original point of travel.

Ms. Hoffman stated that the Maintenance crew's investigation in the field found that the foam is probably coming from the South side region.

Ms. Hoffman stated that this foam event is not harmful to the Plant's functioning. Ms. Hoffman stated some precautions are being taken at the Plant, such as turning off the Agitator and spraying down some water to help

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alleviate the foam buildup.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Schimmel already provided an Audit update. Mr. Blanchfield reminded the Board about the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for April 23, 2025, at 12 Noon at the Plant.

#### **INSURANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Lammi stated there is no report.

#### **OPERATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Wilson reported that the A1 Aerator had oil leaking. It was taken back and is now ready. Mr. Wilson stated one of the seals had a V-shape, and the V got a crease and oil got into the Gearbox. Mr. Wilson stated it is ready to come back, but he needs to coordinate with Iron Hill to reinstall it.

Mr. Wilson reported that the B2 Aerator had an upper lip seal replaced by Philly Mixer XPS. It came back but now there is an issue with an oil pump. Mr. Wilson stated that an XPS technician will come down to take a look at it.

Mr. Wilson provided information about a Zoom meeting related to DEP's free PFA study program. Mr. Wilson summarized the outcome of the meeting by saying the Plant management's recommendation was to wait to test until all rules and regulations are finalized by the state.

Ms. Hoffman stated that, although the DEP study program was free, the Plant Management did not believe that the DEP's proposed study program results would be sufficiently reliable due to its methodology. As a result, the Plant management recommended against participation in the program.

Mr. Morgan stated that, back in January 2025, EPA had rushed to get out a draft risk assessment for sewage sludge and disposal before the Administration changed. The EPA draft assessment has been reviewed by a number of state wastewater agencies, which have been critical of it. Mr. Morgan stated that this was a very unrealistic study. The study assumed that study participants were families who live on a farm and only consumed the food produced at the farm, which had been fertilized with PFA's, and drank the water from a well subject to PFA migration.

Mr. Morgan stated any sludge testing should be held off unless required for a permit or a better study is available.

#### **ADDITIONAL REPORT**

##### **❖ Old Business:**

Solicitor Mr. Gaul stated he had three items for discussion, update, or possible action.

Mr. Gaul stated City of Easton approved an easement agreement for the Force Main Replacement Project. The Easement has been signed and recorded.

Mr. Gaul explained that the Authority essentially also had agreements in principle with Riverstar Properties and PD 91 LH LLC for an easement and consent.

Mr. Gaul stated that the Riverstar Easement would be revised to provide that the Authority would be responsible for obtaining City Zoning approval and other permit approvals for the additional parking improvements that Riverstar was requiring in connection with restoration of the easement area after completion of the Force Main Project. Riverstar has approved a more detailed plan for the parking improvements. The City's Zoning Department and Planning Department has reviewed the plan and

indicated that zoning approval will be given once a zoning application is made. The Authority will be responsible for any building or electrical permits for the work, but the Authority has made these the obligation of the Project contractor under the bid specifications, as is the Authority's practice, and does not expect any problem with their issuance.

The last detail was the deadline for the Authority's work in the easement area. Riverstar requires that the Authority substantially complete its work in the easement area no later than the substantial completion date for the project, as provided in the Project bid specifications, which would be agreeable to the Authority. The Authority has informed Riverstar that the estimated substantial completion date for the Project would be January 2026. Riverstar has not responded to the information regarding the estimated substantial completion date.

Mr. Gaul stated Mr. Morgan had circulated a proposed Notice of Award of contract to Wexcon prior to the meeting, and copies were distributed to Board at the meeting. Previously, the Board had conditionally approved the issuance of a notice of award to Wexcon, subject to the Authority receiving the necessary easements and consent from the City, Riverstar and PD 91 LHD. The question was whether the Board believed that the conditions had satisfactorily been fulfilled such that the Notice of Award could be issued.

Mr. Hopkins stated that the Authority should wait until it has a signed easement and consent from Riverstar and PD 91 LHD.

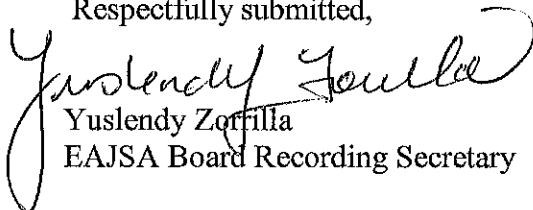
Mr. Gaul stated the Board was not scheduled to meet again until after the deadline to award the contract to Wexcon. Once the Authority received the signed easement and consent, Notice of Award would be issued based on the Board's prior authorization at the Board's March 17, 2025 meeting. Mr. Gaul read aloud the minutes of the March meeting. He asked the Board members whether they had any questions or different understanding. None of the Board members had a question or different understanding. Mr. Gaul also stated that a special meeting could be scheduled if necessary. The consensus of the Board was that a special meeting was unnecessary, and that the issuance of the Notice of Award was authorized once the easement and consent were received, which was expected to occur this week.

❖ **New Business:** N/A

Mr. Lammi asked Mr. Gaul if there was a reason for an Executive Session. Mr. Gaul responded, there was not.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Mauro, and unanimously carried, at 6:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Yuslenny Zorrilla  
EAJSA Board Recording Secretary