

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE GENERAL AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF FRANKLIN

January 14, 2025

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Members in Attendance:

John Eckel
Fred Leyda
Caleb Williams
Tracy Jamieson
Chad Ellis
Peter O'Polka
Jody Freni

Excused: None

Others in Attendance:

Kurt McFadden, City of Franklin
Devin Hines, Water Treatment Plant
Clint Hoffman, Water Network
Kyle Fritz, The EADS Group
Josh Kalp, The EADS Group
James Wetzell, City of Franklin
Nathan Bell, Waste Water Treatment Plant
Mike Moore, Waste Water Network
Brian Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
Alex Spaid, Dale Woodard Gent McFate
T.J. Parks, Recording Secretary
Helen Fielding, The Derrick
Charles Riche, Sandycreek Township Resident

Following the roll call, Mr. Spaid administered Oaths of Office to Mr. Eckel and Mrs. Jamieson.

3. Election of Officers

Resolution No. 1 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Ellis to nominate Mr. Eckel as Temporary Chairperson for the purpose of carrying out the election of officers. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to nominate Mr. Eckel as Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 3 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Ellis to close nominations for the position of Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 4 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Leyda seconded to nominate Mrs. Jamieson as Vice Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 5 – Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to close nominations for Vice Chairperson. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 6 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Leyda to nominate Mr. Williams as Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 7 – Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Leyda to close nominations for Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 8 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Ledy to nominate Mr. Ellis as Assistant Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 9 – Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to close nominations for Assistant Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 10 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to nominate Mr. O’Polka as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 11 – Motion by Mr. Eckel and seconded by Mr. Ellis to close nominations for Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Adoption of Agenda

Resolution No. 12 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Williams to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Approval of Minutes

Resolution No. 13 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to approve the minutes of December 10, 2024 as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Citizens’ Inquiries – None

7. Water

7.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff Updates

Mr. Hines

- Check valve at 9th Street is complete and functioning properly
- Completed and submitted Chapter 110 report

Mr. Hoffman

- The cost of the parts needed for the Parker Avenue project have not increased, however other items listed on the quote have. Mr. Hoffman said he would like to get the parts ordered to avoid future price increases.

2. EADS Group

Front Street Waterline and Allegheny Boulevard Waterline

Resolution No. 14 – Motion by Mr. O’Polka and seconded by Mr. Ellis to accept the Notice of Award Agreement with Terra Works, Inc. in the amount of \$1,319,999 for contract No. W05-21. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 15 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to accept the Notice of Award Agreement with Wilson Excavating and Utility Construction in the amount of \$1,003,371.40 for Contract No. W06-21. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Leyda asked if the contract includes the pit and control valve. Mr. Kalp replied that it doesn’t currently, but could be included if the project is completed under budget.

Mr. Kalp reminded everyone of the PENNVEST call on February 20, 2025 at 1 P.M. Closing is scheduled for March 4, 2025 and construction is slated to start in April or May of 2025.

Mr. Eckel asked if there would be an inspector for each project or one inspector to oversee both projects. Mr. Kalp stated that the agreement states one inspector for both projects, but can work in a second inspector for an additional cost.

Dam Removal

Mr. Wetzel said he received the LSA Grant Agreement today. Mr. Kalp will begin working on an engineering agreement. He has not received word on the status of the Growing Greener Plus grant agreement.

Barrett Flats Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Kalp estimates approximately \$500,000 for the demolition of the old treatment plant, provided no lead or asbestos abatement is needed. He will provide an estimate of what the additional cost would be if abatement is necessary.

Miller Hill Pump Failure

Mr. Kalp noted that all the work is complete.

DEP Notice of Violation Response

All permits for bulk water stations have been complete and submitted and are satisfactory, thus closing out the violation.

Washington Crossing Control Valve

Mr. Kalp survey will be completed next week and is receiving information from suppliers. Permit submission is expected in March 2025. The new valve will have to be incorporated into the existing SCADA system; Mr. Kalp is working with the SCADA programmer to see if that can be done.

Wendy Way Tank – LSA Grant Application Submission

Mr. Kalp reminded the Authority of the Local Share Account grant application that was submitted on November 13th.

7. B. Water Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Water Funds Balance is \$269,039.

Resolution No. 16 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Leyda to accept the financial report for January. Motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 17 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Leyda to pay the following bills. Motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for January	\$ 18,166.67
Water Fund Portion of HVAC Project	\$ 50,000.00
Dale Woodard Gent Law Firm for Water General Matters	\$ 260.00
The EADS Group for 2024 Engineering	\$ 1,091.50
Anthony Parks for December Meeting	\$ 50.00
Svetz Energy Services for 2025 Electric Power Procurement Services	\$ 2,563.75
The Authorities for 2025 Authority Membership Dues	\$ 1,350.00
The EADS Group for Front Street Waterline	\$ 7,938.00
The EADS Group for Allegheny Blvd. Water Line	\$ 3,147.85
The EADS Group for GACF Barrett Flats WTP	\$ 14,279.16
Water Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 134,066.12
Totals:	\$ 232,913.05

Additional items to be reviewed:
 Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund
 Pre-approved payroll for 12/13/24 12/27/24
 12/31/24 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Sewer

8.A. Operations/Project Reports

1. Staff

Mr. Bell

- Following the power outage that caused damage to the SCADA system, a new controller was ordered but ended up being obsolete. Mr. Bell reached out to Summit for a quote to install Allen Bradley controllers which he submitted to the insurance company, who has agreed to cover the additional cost as part of the claim.
- Completed Chapter 94 Report.
- Continuing RAS/WAS testing
- Met with Spatz Mechanical (formerly Whalen Contracting), as well as an upcoming meeting with Bisnuss who will be supplying parts.
- Boiler inspection at the Wastewater Treatment Plant went well.
- Having issues with thickener pumps which will hopefully be diagnosed at the end of the week.

Mr. Moore

- Mr. Moore had nothing to report aside from routine maintenance.

2. EADS Group

WWTP

Resolution No. 18 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. O’Polka to authorize The EADS Group to submit the Chapter 94 in the amount of \$3,500. The motion passed unanimously.

The plans and design for the emergency generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant should be completed and ready for bid by mid-April 2025. Mrs. Jamieson asked if previous design plans for an emergency generator were able to be utilized. Mr. Kalp said yes, however further design was necessary.

Mr. Fritz stated that the DEP semi-annual report regarding the sewer overflows will be submitted this month.

The flow logger for the Wastewater Treatment Plant is no longer operational. The Cost to replace with a new system is \$4,030 or \$3,030 for a refurbished replacement. Mr. Fritz recommended buying refurbished which meets the same specification requirements as new and is just as likely to be damaged as a new one. It will be paid for out of the operations budget item.

A-108 Phase I Sewer Replacement & CSO Elimination Project

Mr. Fritz reported that the PENNVEST board meeting will be held on January 22 at which time the request for an additional \$1.5 million will most likely be approved. Mr. Fritz and other EADS Group team members are working on finishing the checklist items required by PENNVEST. The next PENNVEST call is scheduled for February 10 at 2 P.M. and closing is scheduled for February 24 at 2 P.M. A coordination meeting with National Fuel was held on December 16, at which time Mr. Wetzel informed of PennDOT's plan to repave Grant Street. This will eliminate the resurfacing work called for in the plans to be eliminated so only ditch restoration will be required, saving approximately \$250,000 in project costs.

Mr. Spaid introduced the Reimbursement Resolution to ensure that the Authority will reimburse payments to PENNVEST. He explained that the \$4,694,458 described in the resolution includes the additional \$1.5 million that may or may not be needed to complete the project. \$2,090,000 includes engineering costs and \$16,715,542 is grant funds and will not be required to be repaid. Mrs. Jamieson asked if the funds allocated for engineering services as described in the Reimbursement Resolution reflect the costs of engineering services which have already been provided. Mr. Fritz explained that approximately \$800,000 has already been paid out of pocket and is considered in the total \$2,090,000. If the project does not require the full amount allocated for engineering services, then only the actual amount expended will be considered as the amount borrowed.

Mr. Spaid further explained that the Rate Resolution discusses the rate increase for 2025, as described in the 2025 budget, and includes the increase for 2026 that is required by PENNVEST.

Resolution No. 19 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Leyda to pass the Reimbursement Resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 20 – Motion by Mr. O'Polka and seconded by Mr. Williams to pass the Resolution to Borrow as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 21 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Leyda to pass the Rate Resolution as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Spaid explained that the Uniontown Heights Intermunicipal Agreement is not included in the packets but a draft of the agreement had been sent to Authority members previously. He gave the option to either adopt it now or wait until next month's meeting.

Resolution No. 22 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Leyda to accept the Intermunicipal Agreements. The motion passed unanimously.

8.B. Sewer Financial Report

Total Unrestricted Sewer Funds Balance of \$559,913.

Resolution No. 23 – Motion by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to accept the sewer financial report for January. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 24 – Motion by Mrs. Jamieson and seconded by Mr. Williams to pay the following bills. The motion passed unanimously.

City of Franklin General Services Fee for January	\$ 18,166.67
Sewer Fund Portion of HVAC Project	\$ 50,000.00
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Sewer General Matters	\$ 260.00
Dale Woodard Gent McFate for Uniontown Heights	\$ 177.59
The EADS Group for 2024 Engineering	\$ 8,565.00
Anthony Parks for December Meeting	\$ 50.00
Svetz Energy Services for 2025 Electric Power Procurement Services	\$ 2,563.75
The Authorities for 2025 Authority Membership Dues	\$ 1,350.00
The EADS Group for CSO Flow Monitoring – October, November, December	\$ 11,624.89
The EADS Group for WWTP RAS & WAS Pump Replacement	\$ 560.00
The EADS Group for A-108 Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Rep & CSO Elimination	\$ 9,589.04
The EADS Group for A-108 Phase 1 Sanitary Sewer Rep & CSO Elimination	\$ 23,780.96
Sewer Fund Monthly Invoices for Approval	\$ 27,572.46

Totals:	\$ 154,260.36
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Additional items to be reviewed:
 Pre-approved invoice and payroll reimbursements to General Fund
 Pre-approved payroll for 12/13/24 & 12/27/24
 12/31/24 YTD draft budget including a detail of invoices paid and revenue received.

8. Reports

A. Chair's Report:

Mr. Eckel asked Mr. McFadden to prepare an updated list of future projects.

B. City Manager's Report

Received an email from Gary Svetz of Svetz Energy Consulting Services regarding contract renewal for energy consumption during peak hours. The Authority collectively agreed to proceed with entering into the contract. A draft will be presented at next month's meeting for approval.

Resolution No. 25 – Motion by Mr. O'Polka and seconded by Mr. Ellis to authorize Mr. Eckel, Mrs. Jamieson, Mr. O'Polka, and Mr. Williams to act as signatories on financial transactions. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 26 – Motion by Mr. Ellis and seconded by Mrs. Jamieson to name Mr. Eckel as the primary signer on documents relating to the A-108 project, with Mr. Wetzel to sign in the capacity of Secretary and Mr. Williams as an alternate secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Requested time in Executive Session to discuss matters of negotiations.

C. Public Utilities Director's Report:

Mr. Hoffman and Mrs. Power have been working together to complete the service line inventory report. Several hundred have been identified with many more to go.

D. Mapping Update:

Nothing to report.

E. Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Spaid is working on the Relinquishment Declaration for the Shields property that had a Declaration of Taking filed against it due to a misunderstanding from the property owner.

The real estate transfer for property on Spring Street, previously owned by Roy Ewing, is completed. The Authority now owns the property.

Working on the Moreland Drive water tower lease agreement.

Still working on letters to Maple Street letters.

Confirmed that Sandycreek Township Intermunicipal Agreement does not need to be updated for the Allegheny Boulevard waterline project.

There will be additional paperwork to be approved at the February meeting for the Allegheny Boulevard project. They will be similar to the paperwork approved for the A-108 project.

Recommends holding a public coordination meeting relating to the A-108 project and for the public to direct questions, concerns, etc. to Mr. Wetzel.

10. Executive Session

The Authority entered into Executive Session at 7:20 P.M. Executive Session ended at 8:32 P.M. with no additional action.

Meetings

The committee meeting scheduled for January 23, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.
The next regular meeting is February 11, 2025 at 6:00 P.M. at City Hall.

10. Adjournment:

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:33 P.M.



Minutes prepared by T.J. Parks