Doylestown Township Public Water and Sewer Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes January 20, 2011

Members in attendance included: Wally Pattyson, Joe Paternostro, Joe Krumenacker, Ed Harvey, Gary Munkelt, Genevieve Querin, & David Williams. Board of Supervisors members in attendance: Barbara Lyons, Tom Scarborough & Rick Colello. Township Staff: Richard John and Sandra Zadell

I. Past Business

The Committee reviewed the minutes from November 18, 2010. On a motion made by Mr. Krumenacker and seconded by Mr. Pattyson the minutes were approved.

Mr. Harvey reported that the feasibility study from Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority has not been completed yet, and the Township has not received anything from them yet. He will keep the committee updated.

II. Review of Survey Idea for Area 2

The Committee discussed the survey they would like to do of Area 2. Mr. Paternostro suggested that the committee consider sending the survey along with a postage paid postcard which residents could use to mail in their responses. This would be cheap and easy for the residents to utilize this method.

Mr. Harvey stated that once the committee receives the responses they will track the data on a spreadsheet and try to increase the response rate we receive.

Mr. Krumenacker suggested a work group made up of Mrs. Querin, Mr. Pattyson and himself be created. They would email a draft survey to all committee members within ten days asking members to review and submit their comments back to the work group. The work group would then review all committees' comments, and a second draft would be submitted to members for discussion at the next meeting.

Mrs. Zadell suggested that the committee utilize survey monkey.com, a website that helps collect and organize survey data for a low monthly fee. Residents could log on at home and complete the survey.

Mr. Munkelt suggested an item on the survey which would ask residents if they would be interested in sewers at a certain cost point. The committee stated in consensus that this was a dangerous idea, since there is no way to know how much the sewer system would possibly cost in that area.

Mr. Pattyson stated that the wording of the questionnaire is very important, and that he like the idea of survey monkey and thinks that people would really utilize it.

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Mrs. Lyons suggested that the committee makes it as easy as possible for residents to respond to the survey. They could call in their responses to the office, mail in the post card, visit the website etc. She also stated that the only question in the issue is not whether or not people want sewer, but whether or not the area dictates a need for sewer.

Mrs. Querin suggested that the committee ask how many times a year residents are pumping their systems. Mrs. Zadell stated that the SMP program already collects all that data and it's not necessary to survey the residents for that data.

Mrs. Lyons stated that soils are the key issue with Septic Performance in the Township. She stated the presentation from Del Val Soils was good in explaining that issue. Also, the storm water reports are compelling.

The committee decided they would like to approve a survey at their next meeting, so that they can bring it before the Board of Supervisors by their first meeting in March to get approval of the survey.

The Committee discussed reorganization of their Board. Mr. Pattyson nominated Mr. Harvey to chair the committee. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Krumenacker. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Krumenacker nominated Mrs. Querin for Vice Chairman of the committee, and was seconded by Mr. Pattyson. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Munkelt re introduced the issue of the STEP system. Mr. Harvey pointed out that reviewing STEP system is a moot point since BCWSA won't allow them, and we can't do anything to change that.

Mr. Paternostro stated he would contact BCWSA to get information on why they will not allow the STEP system. Mrs. Lyons stated that individual committees should not be contacting anyone without the committee chairman and committees permission.

Mr. Pattyson suggested inviting a representative from BCWSA to the next meeting of this committee.

Mr. Williams asked what the next steps for the committee are.

Mrs. Lyons answered that once the feasibility study comes in the PWSAC will need to come before the Board of Supervisors to get the system and project approved to move forward. They need to get approval for a bid.

Mr. Harvey stated that once the Board approves a project the committee can move forward with looking for creative ways to help finance the system.

Mr. John stated that once the Board of Supervisors moves forward it is BCWSA who will seek grants, etc. not the township.

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Mrs. Lyons stated that in order to get the Board of Supervisors approval for the system the PWSAC will need to prepare another presentation that outlines the need again for the system. She stated they need to keep it simple and focus on facts, like soils. She suggested having Larry Heppner from Del Val there to help explain the soils issue.

The next steps to the Pebble Ridge project are:

- Get the feasibility study in
- Board of Supervisors must review and then approve the project
- If they approve it BCWSA will move forward with the project, put it out to bid, etc.

On a motion made by Mr. Munkelt, seconded by Mr. Paternostro the committee adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Sandra Zadell