

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2017

In attendance: Joseph Van Houten, Joseph Delikat, Gary Munkelt, Wally Pattyson, Joseph Krumenacker, Board of Supervisor Liaison, Rick Colello, Supervisor, Ken Snyder, Township Manager, Stephanie Mason, Special Projects Coordinator, Autumn Canfield, Executive Director of the Doylestown Township Municipal Authority, Keith Hass, resident, Dan Wood, resident Kevin Green

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

Minutes Approval:

Mr. Delikat moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Krumenacker seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Update on Phase 1:

Ms. Mason indicated that the project is moving along. The second Zoning Hearing Board meeting will be on March 23rd. All easements are taken care of.

Mr. Pattyson asked about an issue regarding the removal of trees. Ms. Mason indicated it was resolved.

Discussion with Rick Colello regarding contact between the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board and the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority:

At the February 23rd meeting the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority indicated communication between their entity and the Public Water Sewer Advisory Board should not be direct but rather sent through Stephanie and the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Van Houten indicated that this is cumbersome as they are a fact finding committee trying to get information to give to the Board of Supervisors. For example, Mr. Van Houten wanted to invite the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority to a meeting to discuss phases 2 and 3, but it was put on hold because they cannot coordinate with them. Mr. Van Houten asked how they could proceed effectively.

Ms. Mason indicated that Ben Jones of the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority wanted to know that the Board of Supervisors wants the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board to look into the area and engage in a dialogue. They would like to see a more formal request.

Mr. Colello indicated that Ms. Mason can be the focal point of conversation.

Ms. Mason asked that Mr. Colello get consensus from the Board of Supervisors that the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board can engage Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority in

discussion of areas of the Township that are of interest. Mr. Snyder commented that as liaison, Mr. Colello knows what is occurring and should be able to authorize communication.

As it is a request from Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, Mr. Colello will bring it up at the March 21st Board of Supervisors meeting.

Mr. Van Houten compiled questions for the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority and will share them with the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board in case they would like to add any for when they are given the permission to engage in discussion.

Report on February 23rd meeting with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority:

Financing of the Pebble Ridge/ Woodridge sewer project was discussed. The Public Water Sewer Advisory Board continues to seek funding option for the project. After discussing with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority, PennVest loans are a potential opportunity being researched. An application will be submitted and if accepted, low interest loans may be available for residents. Initially, the Township expressed concerns of taking on loans and the effect it would have on the recent bond rating and issuance. This concern has been addressed and correspondence from Ms. Lyons indicated her research on the matter indicated there would not be a problem. If the loan application is accepted by PennVest, it will be taken on by the Township and then transferred to Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority for control and collection.

Ms. Mason indicated that once the Zoning Hearing Board matter was resolved, plans could be finalized and bidding documents can be put together.

Mr. Krumenacker inquired if system replacement was covered under PennVest loans. Ms. Mason informed the group that PennVest has a separate program regarding septic systems unrelated to the loan proposed. Mr. Krumenacker suggested getting information from PennVest on this program to give to interested residents.

Mr. Van Houten pointed out potential costs people may not be considering in this project. These include hook up to the line in the street, closing existing tanks, etc.

Mr. Snyder asked what options residents in the area have if they have a failing system. Options are limited. If they do not have system replaced it is possible to have system pumped very frequently, weekly/bi-weekly, or to install a holding tank.

Ms. Mason indicated cost of the project may go down as Bucks County Water and Sewer are not constructing their own lines and will get estimates of how much their services would cost compared to others. They cannot do the work for the pump station.

Mr. Colello asked what could be done so the project goes to bid faster.

Ms. Mason indicated Gilmore and Associates puts together the bid documentation. She is confident they are working on it and she will find out how far along the project is.

Mr. Van Houten questioned the timeframe of the PennVest documentation.

Ms. Mason informed the group that there needs to be a meeting with them to find out what needs to be done and what documents are needed for application.

Permit Update:

Mr. Delikat discussed the document created to track permits for repair and replacement of septic systems in the Township. In 2014, permits for the previous ten years were obtained and information on types of repairs were collected. No updates had been done since that point. A list of the permits issued since then was obtained through the Bucks County Health Department and the Township provided Mr. Delikat what information it could, 48 of the 63 permits for phases 2 and 3. Mr. Delikat asked the Bucks County Health Department for the remainder of the permits. 6 of the remainder were new construction and he was able to obtain the other nine for documentation. 24 of the permits were for repairs, 6 for new construction, 1 miscellaneous and 32 replacements of systems. Once the list is checked over, Mr. Delikat will distribute the information to the Board. The Board now has thirteen years of data regarding replacement and repair of septic systems in the Township.

Mr. Van Houten discussed that the septic issues in conjunction with water test issues give an informative picture of problem areas in the Township. Once maps are updated, they will be part of the information that is given to Bucks County Water and Sewer.

Mr. Snyder questioned how phase 2 and 3 compare to the Pebble Ridge/Woodridge area and if there was concern about DEP requiring sewer in the area.

At this point, DEP has received the maps but red flags haven't been raised to them. Ms. Mason indicated that the soils in the area are different. Phases 2 and 3 have some areas with better soil. Mr. Van Houten explained that soil information still needed to be overlaid on the maps after an analysis is done.

Community Development Block Grant:

The Township submitted an application for a Community Development Block Grant in February. Certain people may qualify for funding and could receive it if 95 homes meet low or moderate income levels. A survey will be needed to determine eligibility. Ms. Mahaley has a draft of the letter that would be sent out for comment.

Mr. Snyder inquired about the Grasso Tract.

Mr. Van Houten indicated that the developer is examining bringing a water line and sewer line to the site but nothing has been decided.

Mr. Van Houten motioned to adjourn, Mr. Pattyson seconded. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Autumn Canfield