

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board Meeting Minutes - 7/18/19

In Attendance:

Joe Van Houten
Gary Munkelt
Joe Krumenacker
Dan Wood
Andrea Susten
Stephanie Mason
Keith Haas
Rick Colello

Guests:

Dan Browne - Stony Lane Circle
Evin Kimbel - Westaway Lane

Pebble Ridge Update

Provided by Joe Van Houten and Stephanie Mason

Meeting was held with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) last week. The project is moving slowly, but starting to move off of Almshouse Road. Continuing to have rock removal issues that are slowing the pace of the project. The subcommittee will be meeting BCWSA again later next week. An update on the project should be posted onto the Township website tomorrow (7/19/19).

People along Almshouse Road are already starting to hook into the system.

BCWSA will be sending out letters ahead of time when they are about to move onto a new street/neighborhood. BCWSA will meet with residents face to face to discuss what solutions will work best for each home for installation of laterals/stubs. They will be asking for residents to have a plumber present so they can better discuss the physical requirements for hooking into the system.

BCWSA has confirmed that recent flooding from heavy rains should not impact the pump station constructed for the project.

The Toll Brothers project on Bristol and Lower State is continuing to move forward. Each home built by Toll Brothers will contribute \$26,000 to the cost of the Phase 1 sewer project. With the addition of the Toll Brothers project, estimated costs for residents now stands at approx \$15,000 per home.

If people hook into the project during construction (not at completion), they will be paying monthly sewer service fees. However, they will not be charged for the actual construction of the project until the end of construction. Estimated by end of 2020.

Adding Water Lines to Phase 1 via Doylestown Township Municipal Authority (DTMA)

Keith Haas of DTMA leading discussion

Letters have been sent from the DTMA to residents to confirm the agreement to bring water to their home via extended water lines. The areas impacted are Stone Lane Circle and Westaway Lane, as they are the only streets to show sufficient interest. To date, 6 out of the 30 letters sent have been returned. If the project moves forward, a lien will be placed on homes until their share of the project is paid.

DTMA is evaluating the fiscal feasibility of extending water lines. They are aiming for a 70%-80% agreement benchmark before proceeding with extensions.

Proposed Ordinance for Mandatory Hookups to Existing Water Pipes

Keith Haas of DTMA and Joe Van Houten leading discussion

Supervisor Rick Colello has proposed an ordinance that if a resident has access to public water via an existing water line in the street, they will be required to hook into public water on sale of their home.

The rationale behind the ordinance is two fold.

- 1) DTMA would not have to hit the 70%-80% threshold of sign ups (see above) to justify beginning an expansion project because they would be almost guaranteed those homes will be hooking in at some point in the future.
- 2) Concerns about well water contamination. Currently the township has no water testing requirements for non-fecal coliform chemicals.

The DTMA wells are typically drilled deeper than home wells at 500 ft and tests for 70 different contaminants in their water.

Noted that Warrington and other municipalities also have this ordinance.

Additional details discussed about the ordinance:

- The ordinance would apply to any future water projects and line extensions; not just existing lines
- A homeowner's well can remain active after hooking into the DTMA system as long as it isn't connected to the home water supply. Could be used for pools, gardening, etc.
- Estimated amount to hook into existing line would be \$7,000
- Under the ordinance, if a home does not pay their share for the initial cost of a water project and they choose to tie in at a later date, they will pay the tap in fee as well as their share of the cost of the construction of the shared "pipe in the street".

- This does not apply to water lines currently in place

John Canterbury could not be at the meeting but sent a letter in favor of the proposed ordinance. Asked that the term “nearby water source” be better defined.

Water Testing for Private Wells

As discussed above, testing for private wells is limited to fecal coliform. Mr. Van Houten proposed that this committee begin the process of devising a more robust testing plan for the township. Suggestions included seeing what nearby townships are testing in mandated tests and researching the costs of multi-contaminate tests.

Discussion and planning on this subject will continue as the committee awaits the revised 537 plan.

537 Plan Updates

Discussion of the proposed revisions to the borders for Areas 2 and 3 in the updated 537 has been tabled until the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board will be on August 15th 2019 at 5:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned.