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**Doylestown Township
Public Water and Sewer Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2011**

Members in attendance included: Joe Krumenacker, Ed Harvey, William Lloyd, Joe Van Houten, Genevieve Querin, & David Williams. Board of Supervisors members in attendance: Barbara Lyons & Tom Scarborough. Township Staff: Richard John, Stephanie Mason and Sandra Zadell. Visitor: Shawn Touhill

I. Past Business

The Committee reviewed the minutes from January 20th, 2010. On a motion made by Mr. Lloyd and seconded by Mr. Krumenacker the minutes were approved.

Ms. Mason reported that the feasibility study from Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority has not been completed yet, and the Township will receive it as soon as it is finished.

II. Review of Survey Idea for Area 2 (Cycle 2)

The Committee reviewed the surveys that were distributed this month via email for members.

They discussed options for distributing the survey. Mr. Van Houten mentioned that he liked the idea of being able to go online to fill out the survey. They committee decided they would distribute the survey via mail and include a self addressed stamped envelope to help get a better response rate. They also stated that we would code the letters via geographic area, so that we can gauge where the responses came back and which neighborhoods have responded.

The committee discussed the purpose of the survey, and debated whether the purpose of the survey is to determine need, or to determine the neighborhoods desire for public sewer. Mr. Harvey stated that most importantly we will need to determine the need for sewer in the area, and secondly the factor of whether or not residents desire public sewer is very important.

Mrs. Lyons stated that need and cost are important factors in the decision for public sewer. She stated that if there is a clear need then there will need to also be a way to ask residents about their opinions on cost. She feels that there should be a range indicated on the survey of the cost of public sewer, because that fact effects the decisions people make about if they want sewer. Mrs. Lyons also stated most people from Cycle 2 haven't attended all the meetings on the Pebble Ridge area, and will need to be educated on the soils, etc. that pebble ridge residents already have learned about.

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Ms. Mason commented that along with the survey the committee will be sending a letter to residents explaining the survey. In that letter the committee should reference a cost range and the steps in the process.

Mr. Van Houten commented that the committee should have an established process and procedure that they follow in each new neighborhood that they study to see if Public Sewer is an option. If they follow the same process each time, there is less room for debate and it streamlines the process.

The committee went through the questionnaire question by question and voted on which questions they would like to see included on the survey. They began with a discussion on including an optional name section. They decided that they would like to include an optional area where residents can include their name, address and phone number. Additionally they will color code the surveys to correspond with geographic regions in Cycle 2.

The committee agreed via consensus that they should always refer to OLDS as Septic Systems on the survey as some people may not be familiar with the term On Lot Disposal System.

They voted to approve the following questions:

1. How long have you lived in the house?
2. How old is your home?
3. Do you experience additional problems with your septic system when there are more people visiting your home?
4. What type of Septic System do you have?
5. Have you made any repairs to your septic system? If so what repairs have you made and when?
6. A comments section

The voted to remove the following questions:

1. Do you currently have low water usage toilets, washers, showerheads, etc.?
2. Do you believe your OLDS is operating at 100% of its capacity?
3. If you answered to NO to question 8, what is your best estimate of its operating efficiency?

The committee discussed including a question about if people want Public Sewer or not. They decided to include a question, "would you be interested in having access to Public Sewer?"

The committee also decided that the survey will be sent with a self addressed stamped envelope to encourage more respondents. They will ask people to respond within 15 days and either mail it in or drop it off at the township building. The consensus of the committee was to withhold the mailing at this time.

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Mrs. Lyons stated that the committee will need to get Board approval before they mail the survey. They will also need to include a cover letter from the Board of Supervisors with the survey.

Mrs. Zadell will update the survey and email it to Mr. Harvey when all the changes have been made.

Mrs. Zadell reported that the next meeting of the Board of Supervisors will be the Storm water Meeting and that Conestoga Rover will be presenting their findings from 2010. She stated that Cycle 1 and specifically the Pebble Ridge neighborhood had very different results from their research and findings in 2009. The area was much improved and had far fewer instances of coliform bacteria. She and the engineers at Conestoga Rover believe this change could be tied to the Septic Management pump out cycle. Pebble Ridge Residents were required to pump in 2010. They will continue to monitor that area and hopefully see more evidence of the connection in their sampling in 2011. The theory would be that if the coliform bacteria rates rise as the time moves away from 2010 and from the most recent pumping, you can draw a direct correlation between Septic System functions and storm water pollution.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted:
Sandra Zadell