

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

September 17th, 2015

In attendance: Chairman Ed Harvey (DTMA representative), Members Gary Munkelt, Wallace Pattyson, Joseph Krumenacker, Joseph Delikat, Jim Dowling, Board of Supervisor Liaison, Rick Colello, Supervisor, Ken Snyder, Director of Operations, Richard John, Township Manager, Stephanie Mason, Special Projects Coordinator, Autumn Canfield, Resident, Bert Eck

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm.

Minutes Approval:

Mr. Pattyson moved to approve the meeting minutes. Mr. Delikat seconded. Motion approved 5-0 with 1 abstention.

Guests/Introduction:

Mr. Eck introduced himself as the father of the resident of 48 Pebble Ridge Rd and former owner of the property. He was present on behalf of his son who moved to the property in 2007.

Past Business:

Phase updates

Mr. Krumenacker asked if people who have new septic systems will have to hook up to sewer when it is installed.

Mrs. Mason explained that it differs.

Mr. Delikat stated no one has to connect unless there is a failure in their system.

Mr. Masson said that was correct for Pebble Ridge/Wood Ridge, but other sections have different ordinances. For example, one might say a resident needs to hook up to public sewer when they sell the home.

Member of board asked what ordinance.

Mrs. Mason explained that it depends on the ordinance that is passed when project is set. The properties involved are identified by tax parcel number. These properties are responsible for the cost of the project.

Mr. Krumenacker asked about phases 2 and 3.

Mrs. Mason responded that they are on their own merits.

Mr. Krumenacker pointed out that it would be wise in phase 1, if a resident needed a new system that they divert to a holding tank.

Mrs. Mason said the project will most likely be set for spring. If a major repair is needed, the Health Department will make the owner hook up.

Mr. Eck asked if water was part of the project.

Mrs. Mason said a survey went out asking about interest in including a public water project at the same time.

Mr. Harvey asked if Mr. Eck would be interested.

Mr. Eck said he absolutely would and asked if design was underway.

Mr. John explained the engineer talked to the sewer people. They have to get pricing, go to bid and get the real numbers back on project costs. We have not heard back from Gilmore yet so the topic is in limbo.

Mr. Pattyson asked about multiple lines in the ground.

Mr. John explained that it was not optimal from an operations standpoint.

Mr. Pattyson asked about the economic advantage of both projects run simultaneously.

Mr. John explained there would be multiple contacts out as no contractor will do water and sewer lines at the same time. There is some financial advantage where the contractors are happy knowing there is three to four years of work promised but they don't lay two different utilities on the same day, or side by side.

Mr. Harvey expressed that it was going to be in the drawing so it could go out for bid and they can at least see what numbers come back. There will be a cost savings by not ripping up the road twice.

Mr. Krumenacker asked if the largest charge was digging the ditch.

Mr. John said it was.

Mr. Colello believed it would save 15% of the cost if done at the same time.

Mr. Harvey wanted to look at water for phase two and three. He pointed out that the survey would have to be changed to reflect options of public water and sewer and undecided.

Mr. John said the first survey was sent to 168 residents. They received 60 responses back. Twenty-one people said yes to public water, twenty-four were undecided and there were fourteen no's (no was not an option).

Mr. Harvey suggested sending the survey to phases two and three after a few tweaks.

Mr. Krumenacker asked if the authority could handle the additional work.

Mr. John said they could.

Mr. Krumenacker asked what the downside is, expense etc?

Mr. John said he was not sure there was one. If anything there will be a usage bill and capital gain.

Mr. Harvey pointed out that the value of the house goes up. There would have to be a discussion of how to present the information to public and educate them.

Mr. Snyder asked what was being proposed.

Mr. Harvey said just the survey for now. It would ultimately become part of the book to the Board.

Mr. Snyder suggested a different type of letter to the residents of phases two and three as this would be the first time they are introduced to public water and sewer.

Mr. Harvey disagreed because it is just a survey letter saying sewer would be done but there is the possibility of public water as well.

Mr. Munkelt asked how many people on Cherry Ln. hooked up.

Mr. John said two. One sold this property and the other had oil in their water.

Mr. Eck asked about natural gas availability.

Mr. John said that it depending on the gas company and the formations in the ground.

Mr. Krumenacker expressed his agreeance with Mr. Snyder. There should be a write up of what is going on, maybe in the form of an article in the newsletter and newspaper. It is valid to get information out and a marketing campaign of some sort would be good so residents do not feel blindsided.

Mr. John suggested a lot of education. Putting both utilities in the same letter might be overload and suggested to break it up into two.

Mr. Delikat asked how much more it would be to add water.

Mr. John said maybe 14,000.

Mr. Harvey said we would know specifically come January or February.

Mr. Dowling pointed out we would know for phase 1.

Mr. Harvey said it would give us a barometer for future projects.

Mr. Pattyson asked about the quote going out to homeowners. He asked if the cost was divided by the number of lots involved and whether or not there was a difference if there was a grinder pump or other mechanism. Will everyone get the same bill?

Mr. Harvey said they would because the cost is for the pipe in the street and the grinder pump is a private on lot cost.

Mr. Pattyson asked about his property on Saddle Dr. If he is at the bottom of the hill, how is it going to get to him?

Mr. Harvey said if you are low and the station is high his guess would be by a pump.

Mr. Krumenacker believes the cost of grinder pumps for those who need them should be included in the initial cost.

Mr. Mason asked why when it is a private cost to the owner?

Mr. Krumenacker stated that other townships have included them in their projects because you cannot connect without the grinder pump.

Mr. Harvey said that bids are going out no grinder pumps included.

Harris letter

Mr. Harvey wrote a motion for the residents on 45 Doe Run rd., Stephen Pierce and Teresa Caroll regarding their request to be excluded from the current project and hook up to an existing line on their property. Motion states that the residents must immediately hook up to the existing line before the project is approved in order to be excluded from costs.

Mr. Mason stated that immediately should be changed to prior to.

Mr. Harvey agreed to changing "immediately".

Mr. Pattyson agrees with using the "prior to" phrasing vs. "immediately".

Mr. Harvey- motion reads that residents Stephen Pierce and Teresa Caroll at 45 Doe Run rd., tax parcel number 09-16-4 must connect to existing manhole cover 29 prior to an ordinance being approved to be removed from the Pebble Ridge/ Wood Ridge and vicinity project.

Mr. Delikat motioned to approve, Mr. Pattyson seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Update on Phase One

Mr. Harvey explained we have seven or eight easements out of the twenty needed.

Mrs. Mason explained that she and the solicitor met with property owners and attorneys.

Mr. Delikat asked how many people had attorneys.

Mrs. Mason indicated there was approximately three lawyers.

Mr. Pattyson asked how to figure out the cost for the easement.

Mrs. Mason said it was based on Bucks County Water and Sewer appraisal report.

Mr. Pattyson asked if main concern was amount offered.

Mrs. Mason said that some signed right away, some wanted a bigger plan and others had concerns about the vicinity to their wells, houses, tanks, etc.

Mr. Eck suggested doing a presentation to the residents.

Mrs. Mason said yes, a presentation at a Board of Supervisors meeting would be to the public as well.

Mr. Harvey said the residents get billed when project is done.

Mr. Delikat asked who bears the cost of the project until it is distributed.

Mrs. Mason said Doylestown Township and the Sewer Authority does.

Mr. Delikat asked where the funds come from.

Mrs. Mason indicated that it comes from the general fund.

New Business:

Mr. Harvey brought up an e-mail from Mrs. Mason in regards to storm water testing results. There were three locations in the township that tested positive for human coliform in the water tested. The locations were outfalls at Glen Dr. St. Lawrence Way, and Old New rd.

Mr. Delikat asked if it made sense to do an entire study of the township.

Mrs. Mason explained that we have to do stormwater testing per requirements of an MS4 permit. There are 150 outfalls and we test various areas. Over time, the company we use has been able to narrow down testing to "hot spots" that consistently test positive for coliform bacteria. This is one of the things the DEP looks at when they receive our reports. Residents asked how we knew the coliform was not from other animals like dogs whose owners failed to clean up after, farms, geese in the pond, etc. There are now tests that can isolate and identify DNA of samples sent. We had testing done at 5 historically hot spots at a cost of five hundred dollars each. Three of those five spots came back contaminated with human coliform.

The discussion continued with an explanation of where the streets are and whether or not they are in the phases the committee is currently working with. For some properties it might be necessary to work with other townships to have our residents hook up to existing lines that they have. The ultimate end is that there is human coliform contamination from some of these outfalls.

Mr. Delikat asked if there was a natural hook up into Warwick, the town we would possibly have to partner with.

Mrs. Mason was not positive.

Mr. Delikat asked how much it would cost to add those last homes to the project.

Mrs. Mason said that it would go to Warwick and not be connected to our lines.

Mr. Snyder clarified where the tests were done and asked if we could locate the specific properties.

Mrs. Mason explained that we cannot find out specifically where the coliform traces back to.

Mrs. Canfield explained that the company knocks on doors and sends letters asking for permission to enter the house and do testing and sometimes they are received well but most times are ignored.

Mr. Delikat asked how many outfalls are located in phases two and three.

Mr. Krumenacker asked if all outfalls were on drawings?

Mr. John said that there is a map with all the outfalls included. Anyone is welcome to drop by one day and count them.

Mr. Krumenacker asked what happens now.

Mrs. Mason said the stormwater reports will go to the state. The company will continue to do normal contracted testing.

Mr. Krumenacker asked about an obligation to pass the information on to the Board of Health.

Mrs. Mason indicated this has already been done.

Mr. Snyder suggested thinking about the situation in a different way. Maybe the people don't know and just need education.

Mrs. Mason indicates that the majority of residents deny it is their problem and point fingers at their neighbors.

Assignments:

Mr. Harvey assigned members of the committee the following assignments.

Project: Letters and reports and information regarding phases two and three broken into ten categories.

1. Intro- Joe Van Houten
2. Initial Survey- Joe Krumenacker and two members of his choice
3. Engineering- collection of the information we get in
4. Department of Health- Joe Delikat
5. Soil reports- Gary Munkelt (collection of information from Larry Hepner at Delaware Valley Univeristy)
6. Conestoga- Richard John and Ed Harvey
7. Evaluation- Joe Van Houten
8. Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority- Ed Harvey

9. Feasibility- Whoever we use to do report

10. Feasibility questions- All committee members. Someone track questions received.

The next meeting of the board will be November 19th at 5:00pm.

With no further business, meeting adjourned at 6:04pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Autumn Canfield

Special Projects Coordinator