

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2016

In attendance: Chairman, Joe Van Houten, Jim Dowling, Joe Delikat, Joseph Krumenacker, Gary Munkelt, Wallace Pattyson; Board of Supervisor Liaison, Rick Colello, Manager, Stephanie Mason, Intern, Kaci Milligan.

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

Minutes Approval: May 19, 2016

Mr. Munkelt motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Dowling seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Bucks County Health Department Update:

Brendon O'Boyle, BC Health Dept. Soil Scientist/SEO for the Doylestown Area, was on hand to review the works of the BC Health Dept. with on-lot sewage disposal systems (OLDS). He said that all new systems for any major subdivision, repair and replacements that he goes out to them and looks at the soil for approval for OLDS, following DEP regulations.

He said that he worked with the subcommittee of the PWSAB looking at Phase II and III (maps attached) looking at the new systems that had been installed probably over the last ten years in these areas of the Township. He indicated that BC Health Dept. never uses the phrase "failing system" but goes with "malfunctioning". Really truly only failures are those that have surfacing sewage and sewage backing up into the house. He indicated that the BC Health Dept. is easy to work with on installing holding tanks or the like.

Mr. Van Houten agreed based upon his personal experience.

Mr. O'Boyle also talked about Micro Mounds. Where sand mounds need 20 inches of good soil as the limiting zone, he indicated that DEP recently changed the limiting zone to allow for a Micro Mound, which is a long sand mound approximately 100 feet in length and only needs to have 10 inches of good soil. It is expensive, ranging from \$40,000 - \$50,000. It works well when a traditional system or sand mound doesn't work with the property. He did say that public sewers are the way to go if possible, because it doesn't use up the land.

The Committee reviewed the maps that were prepared by Ms. Milligan showing the Phase II area where minor and major septic repairs have been done. In addition, there was a map for Phase III, which showed the minor and major repairs that have been done. Also Cycle III of the Septage Management showed the coliform detected and letters sent to the BC Health Dept. in that area of

the Township. Also Cycle II was reviewed in the map that showed the coliform detected and the Bucks County Health Dept. letters sent. The last map is a culmination of all the previous maps.

Mr. O'Boyle said these were an excellent depiction of the problems that Doylestown Township experiences on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Van Houten inquired if BC Health Dept. is working with the municipality and DEP regarding the PFOA/PFOS water contamination recently.

Ms. Mason indicated that Metah Mitchener, BC Health Dept., is working directly with DTMA and DEP on that issue.

Also discussed private agency testing for new wells and Mr. O'Boyle said that those require elaborate tests for various VOCs, whereas the Township Ordinance only tests for fecal coliform.

Mr. Delikat referenced an area of the Township off McCarty and Norris that really wasn't looked at by the sub-committee, but may want to obtain that information.

Mr. O'Boyle said that he would be happy to work with the sub-committee again.

Mr. O'Boyle indicated that when malfunctions are identified the most important thing is that the property owner needs to be able to identify an area where a replacement system can be installed. Many times this is very difficult.

Mr. Delikat indicated that the repairs, although minor over a ten year span, are about 1% of the 1,300 or 130 malfunctioning systems.

The Septage Management plan for the Township has been very proactive.

Mr. Van Houten pointed out that unlike the Pebble Ridge Area that had very bad soils on top of some of the other issues with the OLDS and the need for public sewers, this area has better soils. However, there are problems in this area as well.

It was pointed out that St. Lawrence Way has a holding tank and fecal coliform in the area.

Mr. Krumenacker questioned the in ground systems on Turkey Lane that are old and are cesspools. Mr. O'Boyle clarified that they are really seepage tanks and were designed from the 1960's and 1970's. They were a brick tank that was built underground maybe 10 feet and then the sewage went from the house into a tank and then the effluent went into the seepage pit or tank and seeped out over time from the pit. Because it is not filtered it does cause high levels of coliform getting into the ground water. DEP stopped allowing the use of that system prior to 1975.

Mr. Krumenacker pointed out that is not a good system to have when the house is up for sale.

Mr. O'Boyle said that most of the properties in the Township that go up for sale require a new

system. He said 90% of them based on the test conducted by third party inspectors for resale required maintenance, replacement of the existing system.

Mr. Dowling indicated that sales data may be helpful especially as we go forward and older residents move out and newer residents move in. The replacement of systems at time of sale could be very costly.

Mr. Colello indicated that he believed the maps were very helpful showing the minor and major repairs that have been completed.

Mr. O'Boyle pointed out that sometimes the seepage pits with the older homes are allowed to be kept as long as things like the distribution box are reset.

Mr. Delikat indicated that Seller disclosures don't have to indicate certain things like that a new sewer system is being planned.

Mr. Van Houten said that if 90% of the homes for sale are going to have a problem then he would like to make the MOTION to move forward and work toward finalizing a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors that public sewers be considered for Phase II and III, which would be the areas east of Rt. 611 between Edison Furlong, Rt. 202, Swamp Road and York Road.

MOTION was seconded by Mr. Krumenacker.

Mr. Dowling raised a question on whether Phase II and III should both be included or be kept separate.

Mr. Van Houten indicated that it didn't really matter if they were together or not but both areas needs to have feasibility studies completed.

MOTION carried 5 to 1 with Mr. Munkelt voting nay.

Mr. Van Houten thanked Mr. O'Boyle for attending.

Review of the Committee's role to be placed on website:

After some discussion regarding the proposed wording it was agreed it would be revised removing the part about the OLDS.

Mr. Delikat will revise the document for the next meeting.

New Item: DEP Visit

Ms. Mason indicated that on June 29, 2016, at 2:00pm representatives from DEP will be in attendance to meeting with the PWSAB. Ms. Mason will also send an email to the Committee with some information on Septage Management Programs and 537 Plans that DEP the

Committee to review. The meeting will be at the Township building and a call in number will be provided if you cannot attend the meeting.

Reminder:

Mr. Van Houten reminded the Board that they are part of the Township and need to follow the Sunshine Law and be respectful of information that is shared and that of the seven members four make up a majority.

Update Phase I:

Ms. Mason gave a brief update on the progress being made.

Adjournment:

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 7:00pm on MOTION of Mr. Dowling, seconded by Mr. Pattyson. MOTION carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Stephanie J. Mason