

## **Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**April 20, 2017**

**In attendance:** Joseph Van Houten, Joseph Delikat, Gary Munkelt, Wally Pattyson, Joseph Krumenacker, John Canterbury, Board of Supervisor Liaison, Rick Colello, Supervisor, Ken Snyder, Township Manager, Stephanie Mason, Special Projects Coordinator, Autumn Canfield, resident, Dan Wood

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

#### **Minutes Approval:**

Mr. Delikat moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Krumenacker seconded. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Cancellation of Bucks County Water and Sewer Meeting:**

Ms. Mason indicated that Mr. Tomko was trying to coordinate a meeting with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) at the same time that she was coordinating a meeting regarding Phases 2 and 3. There was confusion regarding what was being covered at the meetings. Bucks County Water and Sewer were under the impression that it was the same meeting. Ms. Mason asked that the Phases 2 and 3 discussion be rescheduled for May.

Mr. Van Houten indicated that it appeared as if the group did not want to meet with them and that it would be difficult to move forward without speaking with them. There needs to be a dialogue regarding the findings the group has and what steps should be taken next. The area has been identified as having the need for sewers and the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board needs to be able to work with the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority.

Mr. Munkelt asked if there was any indicated that Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority could handle the extra capacity.

Ms. Mason said that the 537 plan should take into consideration development.

Overall, the Board needs to know if the BCWSA can handle the capacity of Phases 2 and 3 if they were added and if they are interested in the project.

Ms. Mason indicated that she believed there was a clause to limit plants and expansion. It would need to be researched.

Mr. Van Houten asked that there be a letter to BCWSA so the group can figure out how to move forward. The objective would be to come up with a master plan for the rest of the township.

Mr. Colello thinks that type of planning would be involved in a comprehensive plan and that it needs to be researched.

Mr. Van Houten indicated a goal should be set to have Public Sewer accessible to residents. Certain limits could be set but from a Public Health Standpoint, a majority of the Township may need sewers. It should be proactive and not reactionary. If the township waits for there to be a problem, it is already too late and takes years from that point to see action.

Mr. Colello believes that premise that the majority of the Township needs sewer isn't right. Some areas are doing great with septic systems.

Mr. Van Houten indicated that realtors and banks don't care.

Mr. Krumenacker discussed how every resident who has an issue has to take care of it themselves. The goal should be making Doylestown Township a first class community with sewers and no need to worry about septic systems.

Mr. Colello said other areas need it but it shouldn't be generalized. There needs to be research to show who actually needs it.

Mr. Van Houten discussed the development of an overall master plan with the purpose to layout planning now and save time later. Part of the master plan would be to identify areas for future review.

Mr. Colello indicated that it was a lot of work and that the premise that the whole township needs sewers is incorrect.

Ms. Mason said she believes it is based on need. The board should get a proposal from CKS Engineering to take to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Colello discussed the homeowners' right to not connect to public sewer if they don't need to for public health reasons.

Mr. Van Houten said there are two issues. The first is building the lines and the second is the individual tap-ins. The goal should be to have access to sewers and the Board needs to sit with BCWSA to determine if they are interested.

Mr. Delikat said areas without sewers should be determined and a priority list should be created. With that information a plan of what to do can be established.

A letter from the Board of Supervisors to BCWSA is needed asking them to help. The Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board wants to present BCWSA with the vision and ask how to make it happen.

Mr. Munkelt asked about financing and Mr. Van Houten indicated that the financing issue doesn't come up until the project is set.

Mr. Munkelt indicated he has been interviewing residents and it seems there is more interest in sewers if the cost can be financed over several years.

Mr. Van Houten said in Phase 1, loans from PennVest may be possible. Those loans would then be transferred to BCWSA to be collected.

**Old Business:**

The township will be going to the Zoning Hearing Board on May 25<sup>th</sup> regarding the pump station. Hopefully all issues will be sorted out by then.

A Department of Community Economic Development grant through the Commonwealth Financing Authority was sought for the pump station. Doylestown Township was awarded a grant of \$252,000. Overall, this will reduce the cost to the residents of the project.

The Community Development Block Grant was submitted. At first, a financial survey was required but Doylestown Township was informed that it will not be needed for the area.

Mr. Delikat asked how distribution of monies would be decided if awarded the grant. Would residents have to apply afterward?

Ms. Mason is unsure. It may be given as a lump sum to take off the project but it may not. The township would have to follow the requirements of the grant if it was received.

Mr. Van Houten asked for the letter to BCWSA to be drafted as soon as possible.

Ms. Mason will draft letter and have it sent.

Mr. Van Houten would like to have a meeting with the group prior to the next PWSAB meeting in May.

Mr. Pattyson asked for an update on the Grasso Tract project. Will they be providing water?

Mr. Van Houten indicated that project is moving forward. The water and sewer line may run down 313 into the development but this is a very preliminary concept.

Mr. Snyder indicated there aren't a lot of homes where the line would be placed. Is there an alternative? Can the line expand into the neighborhoods a different way?

Ms. Mason said her understanding was that it was a force main and there would be special equipment needed to tie in.

Mr. Snyder asked if it had to be a force main or if there were other alternatives.

Mr. Van Houten indicated the discussion leads to the master plan concept.

At this point, the owners of the Grasso Tract have spoken with BCWSA. The township is not yet involved. When plans are presented, the township will be involved.

Mr. Delikat motioned to adjourn, Mr. Pattyson seconded. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:27pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Autumn Canfield