

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board Meeting Notes - 8/15/19

In Attendance:

Joe Van Houten

Dan Wood

John Canterbury

Gary Munkelt

Andrea Susten

Pebble Ridge Update

Provided by Joe Van Houten

Bucks County Water and Sewer (BCWSA) held a meeting on 8/13/19 at the Doylestown Township Building with residents from the Pebble Ridge area to discuss continued concerns with drilling issues with the “blue rock” found coming off of Almshouse Road. John Butler of BCWSA discussed with residents in the nearby section the drilling issues with the blue rock and discussed possible alternatives with residents.

BCWSA provided cost comparisons of a gravity fed system vs grinder pump systems. Switching some homes to a grinder pump system would increase the cost for those residents, but reduce the overall project cost. However, in the long term, residents switching to a grinder pump could save money if they have the same blue rock issues on their property because they wouldn't have to spend as much drilling as deep through the tough rock. No decision on how to proceed was decided at this meeting. Residents were encouraged to discuss with their plumbers what solutions would be best.

The Board of Supervisors will make the ultimate decision on whether or not to change the number of gravity vs grinder pump systems. Board of Supervisors is hoping to get a consensus from the residents impacted.

The Bucks County Board of Health does not require a close out of a septic system in any specific time frame. An eventual closeout is required, but the time frame is flexible.

Sewer subcommittee will continue to meet once a month to approve bills and review construction schedule.

A second team is planned to join construction on the sewers sometime in October.

Pump station is almost done. Waiting on landscaping and paving of parking lot.

Public Water Mandatory Hookup Ordinance

Discussed how the Doylestown Municipal Authority (DTMA) has a fiduciary responsibility that new water projects can't result in a new cost to existing customers and how that impacts their planning for water extensions.

This committee has been asked to determine if there is a need for a mandatory hookup, based on water quality in private wells.

Discussed what data we already have that is available for testing. DTMA collects data from their wells. However, DTMA wells are typically deeper than most residential wells and may not provide an accurate picture.

Gary Munkelt is doing private testing with two agencies to compare results, one in Chalfont. Joe Van Houten will do one of the free testing kits from Home Depot to see if they have any value to them.

Committee will follow up with Keith Haas of DTMA for various batteries of tests. Will also follow up with Bucks County Health Department for suggestions. Will also look to reach out to other municipalities that require testing and see what they're testing for and how they handle it.

Miscellaneous

This committee will resume monthly meetings. Next meeting will be on September 19th.