

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

October 21st, 2016

In attendance: Chairman, Joeseeph Van Houten, Vice Chairman, Joeseeph Delikat, Jim Dowling, Joseph Krumenacker, John Canterbury, Wally Pattyson, Gary Munkelt, Board of Supervisor Liaison, Rick Colello, Supervisor, Ken Snyder, Manager, Stephanie Mason, Special Projects Coordinator, Autumn Canfield, Director of Operations, Richard John

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm.

Minutes Approval: September 16, 2016

Mr. Dowling indicated he was not Vice Chairman as previously listed in the September meeting minutes. Mr. Delikat confirmed he was Vice Chairman. Mr. Dowling motioned to approve minutes with this change. Mr. Pattyson seconded. All present in favor.

Phase 1 Update:

The easements are moving along and being wrapped up. Mr. Garton is preparing a Zoning Hearing Board application for a variance due to the pump station being partially located in the flood plain. Plans are moving forward with Gilmore and Associates. The project will hopefully go to bid in fall of 2017. At the moment, there are no obstacles present outside the floodplain location.

Mr. Snyder asked what the steps were between now and next fall. Easements need to be finalized. The variance must be approved by the Zoning Hearing Board. The request will hopefully go to the Zoning Hearing Board in the winter/spring and the project to go to bid in the fall.

The Township will also be submitting a grant for the Pebble Ridge/Woodridge and vicinity sewer project through the Department of Community and Economic Development. According to the grant information, to be eligible for reimbursement, project costs must be incurred within the time frame established by the grant agreement if the project is approved.

Ms. Mason is also looking into pursuing a Community Development Block Grant for the project. Under certain circumstances, she believes 80% low income households by survey, the Township may be eligible for a block grant. If talking about 80%, Mr. Van Houten doesn't believe the neighborhood fits the need and it would be a waste to pay to have the survey done.

Discussion 3M study in Phases 2 and 3:

Ms. Mason and Mr. John attended a meeting at DEP with Mary Stover from CKS Engineering. DEP suggested calling Pennvest to see if the residents qualify either through the project or individually for loans. Pennvest is a state program that helps fund public improvement projects and could give the residents another option for a loan. The group reviewed the 3M paperwork and what would be required for the Chestnut Valley Dr. area. Public meetings with residents of the area will be part of the process. The representatives from DEP also felt the information we have through our Septic Management Program and Stormwater Consultants is valuable information for the report. Items that need to be added include information on soil quality, age of homes in the area and nearest sewer line locations. Alternative situations for the area also need to be presented. The question of whether the current treatment plant could handle the new stress needs to be addressed. DEP has a map based on 537 and Chapter 94 information from municipalities.

\$25,000 is allotted in the current 2017 budget for the 3M study. It does not seem like Chestnut Valley Dr. will need this full amount so the excess will be used for other studies in the Phase 2 area. There is not an estimate yet for the cost of the work, but Ms. Mason will hopefully have a proposal for the next meeting.

Mr. Van Houten questioned why Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority do not bear some of the cost as the system ultimately becomes theirs.

Ms. Mason indicated that they would do a feasibility study. Mr. John indicated that they are a public entity and not for profit.

Mr. Van Houten questioned how that was different from the Doylestown Township Municipal Authority.

Mr. Krumenacker indicated it had been asked in the past and he was told it is because the service extends into other townships.

Ms. Mason will invite the Sewer Authority to come to the November meeting of the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board. If projects come to fruition after 3M studies are complete, the cost of the study is lumped into the project and divided amongst the residents in the area. If a project does not come of the study, the Township absorbs those costs.

Mr. Van Houten questioned negotiating for a better sale price to Bucks County Water and Sewer and it was decided that it was a question Mr. Garton would have to answer.

Distribution and Review of Sewer Map:

Mr. Van Houten reviewed the sewer map distributed at the beginning of the meeting. This map will provide members with a reference point when discussing where current systems are and new systems will be placed and should be brought to each meeting.

Mr. Krumenacker questioned whether the map should show forced mains or not.

Ms. Mason indicated that it did not currently.

Certain stations were identified near Green St. and Westwyck. The map only shows the Township with minimal fringe information past Swamp Rd.

Mr. Colello asked if the map could be updated as it had been indicated that it was dated.

Mr. John indicated that we would have to reach out to Bucks County Water and Sewer for an updated version of the map.

Mr. Krumenacker questioned using transparencies again for the maps, however it was decided that the maps of the phases already presented were sufficient.

Feedback regarding creating an ordinance:

Mr. Van Houten asked if there was any feedback on the creation of an ordinance to require excess space is allocation for replacement of on lot septic systems.

Mr. Colello indicated that the Planning Commission agrees with the Public Water and Sewer Advisory Board and believes it is an important ordinance. However, the space does not currently have to be indicated on a map and therefore is difficult to uphold as the permitting department would not know if the space has been set aside or not when looking at maps.

Mr. Van Houten indicated that both are needed, an ordinance for the allocated space and an identifying factor on a map. The suggestion was received by the Planning Commission, was sent on to the Board of Supervisors and is now with the Planning Commission again, who is working out details. Ms. Mason and Mr. Colello will give an update as to the status at the November meeting.

Mr. Van Houten expressed frustration with the pace of the Phase 1 sewer project. He asked if there was any way to speed it up.

Mr. Snyder questioned if any of the work could be done in parallel with each other.

Mr. Colello indicated he has asked the same question and was told it could not. It was a linear process with multiple steps.

Mr. Garton is working to get a packet together for the Zoning Hear Board approval and it will go to their meeting once it is ready.

Mr. Dowling asked why the group doesn't focus Phases 2 and 3 in the interim.

Mr. Van Houten expressed that Phases 2 and 3 were at a standstill until Phase 1 moves on and the mandated 3M is completed.

Mr. Krumenacker asked if surveying of residents should be done now in the area.

Ms. Mason indicated that the Township wanted to work with an engineering firm to collect data before surveying.

Mr. Krumenacker suggested putting out the service so we are aware what residents would like.

Ms. Mason indicated that as a requirement of the 3M a public meeting with the residents is needed.

Mr. Colello said he understood the frustration and would bring it up to the Board of Supervisors again and will say it needs to get moving.

Mr. Delikat suggested putting a game plan or timeline together for Phase 2 and 3 as a task on the next agenda. It was decided the task will go on the agenda for the November meeting.

Mr. Van Houten raised the question of forgoing the December meeting. Mr. Dowling motioned to forgo the December meeting. Mr. Pattyson second. The motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Delikat voting nay.

Adjournment:

With no other business, meeting adjourned at 6:40pm on MOTION of Mr. Dowling, Mr. Krumenacker seconded, MOTION carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Autumn Canfield