

Public Water and Sewer Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

January 21st, 2016

In attendance: Members Gary Munkelt, Wallace Pattyson, Joseph Krumenacker, Joseph Delikat, Sean Sablosky (EAC representative), Board of Supervisor Liaison, Rick Colello, Director of Operations, Richard John, Township Manager, Stephanie Mason, Special Projects Coordinator, Autumn Canfield, Residents, Bert Eck, Steve Peirce, Teresa Carroll, Legal Representative, Harris

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm.

Minutes Approval:

Mr. Munkelt moved to approve minutes, Mr. Pattyson second. All present in favor.

Old Business:

Pierce and Carroll request for hook up elsewhere-

Mr. Harris and his clients attended this meeting with the estimated pricing they received for connection to public sewer. They were able to find an engineer unassociated with the Township, the project and Bucks County Water and Sewer. They looked at the proposed sewer line based on the plan and determined there were two ways to get to the Bucks County Interceptor. One way (blue route) is direct but requires tapping into the interceptor rather than the manhole. The second way (green route) is less direct but goes to the manhole on the property. A third way (red route) was presented that represented what it would take to get to the proposed line in the project. Prices for these three routes are as follows:

Green- connection to the manhole- \$84,000

Blue- Bucks County Interceptor- \$76,000

Red- Proposed line- \$78,000

Mr. Harris suggested that Doylestown Township have their engineer look at the pricing to determine if it is accurate in his opinion.

Due to the pricing of the estimates, Mr. Harris and his clients have changed their original request and are now asking that their property be eliminated from the project. The cost of the project was far outside of what they anticipated.

The group did not anticipate such high numbers. The numbers presented are much higher than the understanding of the group.

Mr. Colello pointed out that the DEP requires the property owner to pay since the line goes by their street.

Mr. Harris did not believe this was correct as his plan did not show the line going in front of his clients' property. He pointed out that the township would need an easement from the neighbor as well.

Mrs. Mason explained that the plan they were working off of was the feasibility plan that was created some time ago. She brought out the plan for the project from spring of last year. Everyone in the project shares the cost of the line in the street equally. The cost isn't known yet because bids have not been acquired and easements are still being obtained. In this plan, the proposed line goes right to the property.

Based on this plan, Mr. Harris thought it would increase the cost of the proposed line.

At this time, there is no requirement at the time of sale for the homeowner to hook up to the public sewer line. However, other factors may require they do so. There is a possibility that during a sale, the buy is unable to obtain a mortgage without hooking into public sewer line. Tank malfunction would be another factor leading to required hook up. The proposed ordinance for the project was written this way and unanimously approved by the Board to send to the Solicitor who currently has it. The ordinance just needs the final seal of approval.

The plan presented is what everyone is working off of at the moment. There have been some tweaks but are still using this plan. Once final easements are acquired, project will go out for bid. DEP and BOH may have different requirements. They may not allow major repairs once public sewer is available.

Overall, if system is fine the cost of hooking into the line in the street should not be a concern. Only concern is paying for the line in the street.

Mr. Pierce commented that if the line had not been extended, his property would not be in the project at all.

Mr. Harris said that his clients' property was included in the project after a second group of homes were included. They now have to spend however much money on the line because the pipe was extended. He requested that the line not be extended so his clients are not subject to the costs of the project.

The downside to avoiding the project at this point is the increased cost in the future to hook into the line if need be. Mr. Harris said that this would be dealt with down the line and he will contact Mr. Garton to get a draft copy of the ordinance for the project.

Mr. Harris is the only one to make a formal request even though other properties in the project are large as well. Mr. Harris said that the issue was not the property size but the setback from the line. He understands that the more people involved in the project, the less the project will cost, but those who were added second, the ones with large properties, are set very far back from the road and the cost would be staggering.

When the group previously consulted with the lawyer, the assumption was going out the back door of the house and connecting with the existing manhole would be the cheapest option. However, after being reviewed by an engineer, it becomes apparent that it is much more extensive than originally thought. Mr. Harris and his clients took their leave with the request to be excluded from the project.

Assignments-

Mr. Delikat brought book inserts and Mr. Krumenacker and Mr. Pattyson brought questionnaires.

New Business:

Mr. Colello brought up concern about committee being too large. He suggests getting the committee down to a manageable size and return to monthly meetings. There needs to be redirection and would like to delay reorganization until March when more Committee members can be present.

Mr. Delikat brought up concerns about having a book as all copies would not be up to date. Mr. Colello said in March, a chair and vice chair will be appointed and they will ensure everyone has what they need. Mr. Delikat is also concerned with meetings every other month. Some people are away on vacation or business trips and those who are present are the ones who receive assignments to do.

Mr. Krumenacker said it took so long to get through Pebble Ridge, not much has been done since then.

Mr. Sablosky said that paper is an outdated method. The cloud is a better option as all members can access the same document and adjust it as need be.

Mr. Colello pointed out that data has been collected but the next step hasn't been taken.

Mr. Munkelt brought up what the purpose of the committee was. With a purpose, the goals can be outlined. Phase 1 had urgency to it. Phases 2 and 3 are not in as great a need for sewers. Without a purpose, there are no goals so only data has been collected.

This data is now over a year old so it needs to be updated. Some data was obtained from the Township, but the Board of Health had to provide other data for distant files.

Mr. Colello said Phase 1 is done. Committee members in the next phase need to start working to get the information together and present goals and a purpose.

Mr. Munkelt suggested education to the public as a purpose. Mrs. Mason believes education has been addressed through means such as the newsletter.

Mr. Colello said he will work on a resolution and that Phase 2 goals need to get going. There should be benchmarks for areas of completion and the project needs continuity and follow up.

Mr. Pattyson pointed out that there is not as great of a need for sewers in Phases 2 and 3 so it did not take focus.

Mr. Sablosky suggested a mission statement to help identify tasks, goals and purpose.

Mrs. Mason said to think about the name. Renaming the committee may help identify the group better. The group does not deal with public water and the name insinuates all members are in favor of public sewer.

Mr. Colello said to send him your thoughts in the next two weeks. He will assemble committee input and send it out for work.

Mrs. Canfield will send link for the GHD report to the committee so they can see it as well as the link for the storm water survey currently online.

Mr. Sablosky brings an EAC perspective to the group. He pointed out that Mr. Munkelt wrote a very informative article for the last newsletter and brought some research he had done on USB drives in regards to how properly functioning on-lot systems recharge the aquifers.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15pm. Mr. Delikat motioned to adjourn, Mr. Krumenacker second, all present in favor.

*Attached from previous meeting minutes***

Assignments from September 17th, 2015:

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 March, 17th at 5:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Autumn Canfield

Special Projects Coordinator