







# Public Water & Sewer Advisory Board

## Regular Meeting

### Minutes

425 Wells Road  
Doylestown, PA 18901  
215-348-9915

<http://doylestownpa.org>

Follow us on social media!    

---

Thursday, February 20, 2020

5:30 PM

Community Meeting Room

---

**In attendance:** Joe Van Houten, Gary Munkelt, John Canterbury (via phone), Bud Hutchinson, Jenny Kimbel, and Bob Schaffer.

**Staff in attendance:** Twp. Manager Stephanie Mason, Special Projects Coordinator Andrea Susten and DTMA Exec. Director Keith Hass.

**Board Member Liaison** – Dan Wood

**Absent:** Wally Pattyson

**Minutes Approval: January 16, 2020**

On MOTION of Mr. Munkelt, seconded by Mr. Van Houten the January 16, 2020, minutes were approved.

**Introduction of New Members to PWSAB**

Mr. Hutchinson, Ms. Kimbel and Mr. Shaffer, were introduced to the Board and welcomed. Each member went around the table and shared why they were interested in the PWSAB.

**Guests:** None

**Phase 1 Update**

Mr. Van Houten introduced Mr. Hass to explain the water expansion in the Pebble Ridge/Woodridge area.

Mr. Hass indicated that bids are on the street for the installation of public water for the project area. He indicated that a survey had been sent out last year and there was interest from residents on Westaway and Stoney Lane Circle. Costs were developed and with Toll Brothers doing, a project off Lower State Road bringing water to the area became possible. Mr. Hass indicated that funds are available to extend water lines along Lower State and further into the neighborhood. An existing water line on Woodridge will enable the DTMA to expand the water line to Westaway, Buck Road, David's Way, as well as along portions of Old New Road, and complete a loop to the water line on Willow Lane. This will assist in eliminating a dead end.

There will be no mandatory connection, but residents who wish to connect to the system will be responsible for the line in the street as well as their private connection costs. The DTMA is giving a \$2,500 incentive to sign up and complete the project now. It is a unique opportunity. DTMA is happy to be able to do this project at this time.

In addition, residents will be able to keep their private wells for irrigation purposes and filling of swimming pools. However, they will have to disconnect from the house to avoid back-flow.

There was discussion about potential connections from Old New Road with an existing North Wales line near Bristol Road.

The goal is to provide connection points for each of the properties so that no one will have to dig up the newly paved roads in the future.

Mr. Hutchinson questioned the impact on the existing sidewalks and curbs regarding the utilities.

Mr. Hass indicated that the goal is to work within the road right of way as well as the grass. If any easements are needed, they will be obtained. He indicated that there are not sidewalks in the area.

### **PRWR Sewer Project**

Mr. Van Houten provided a brief history of the sewer project going back some 20 years. He further explained how the project has evolved to its current construction. He indicated that studies from engineering firms had been done in the 1998 and 2008. In addition, the PWSAB collected data from the Bucks County Health Dept. all of the data was mapped. In addition, storm water data was used to determine the need for this project. Once the all the data was collected it was sent to DEP. They required the Township to complete a 3M Study of the area. This confirmed for DEP the need for public sewers. The current project began construction in the fall of 2018.

Mr. Van Houten indicated that his goal going forward is to make sure it is easier to determine the need for an area for public sewer. His hope is it will not take a 20-year process.

### **537 Plan Update**

Mr. Van Houten indicated that the Township is working with Carroll Engineering and Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority to update the Township's 20-year-old 537 Plan. The 537 Plan is the Township's official sewage facilities plan and sets forth how, when and where sewers may be needed, where existing sewer exists and how to get areas to treatment plants. In addition, the 537 Plan addresses OLDS and the SMP program. As part of the update, public meetings will be held. PWSAB will eventually be reviewing the drafts of the document.

Mr. Shaffer asked how the Board keeps data current. Ms. Susten indicated that, through the Septage Management Program, data is collected on properties that pump their septic systems. Their pumper/hauler reports are sent to us. In addition, the well testing that is required as part of it is reported as well. All data is kept in the Permit Management system, which is tied to the actual property. Queries can be run and follow up requests sent to residents for compliance are completed.

Mr. Hutchinson asked about closing septic systems. Ms. Mason indicated that we have that information on our website and the Bucks County Health Dept. oversees that.

**Pebble Ridge/Woodridge Sewer Project**

Mr. Van Houten shared a map prepared by Gilmore and Assoc., which identifies the progress of the project.

Mr. Wood indicated that the project is moving along but about a month behind due to weather and rock. At this point things appear to be on target for completion in the fall.

**New Business – The Study of Water**

Mr. Van Houten indicated that the Township is considering a Well Testing Ordinance. Due to various contaminants that have affected our area, the idea is that at the sale of home property owners would be required to test their water. If certain volatile organics were found, they would need to connect to public water, if available, or they would need a filtration system added to their home.

Mr. Shaffer indicated that he lives in an area where there is PFOS/PFAS and the DEP is monitoring it.

Mr. Van Houten indicated the cost of installing water is very expensive. The DTMA would be happy to obtain a PA DEP grant and install public water. However, at this point due to the highest levels affecting only eight homes DEP is not willing to expand water to the area. However, if the EPA limits change that would be another story.

Mr. Van Houten also indicated that the goal for the PWSAB this year would be to research and share information on well water and what residents can do to protect their existing wells. He wants the group to research what is out there and bring back their findings at the next meeting.

**Change meeting date**

Mr. Van Houten indicated that he will be traveling in March and he would like to cancel the March meeting. The Board would meet April 16 at 5:30. The Board members were agreeable to the modification in schedule.

Mr. Van Houten would like to rotate the taking of the meeting minutes with the new members. The new members expressed a willingness to take minutes.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 6:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted by

Stephanie J. Mason  
Township Manager