

MINUTES  
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE  
APRIL 5, 2022

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 7:20 p.m. following the Finance Committee meeting. Present were Chairman Elksnis, Commissioners Berlingo, Brown and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, WWTP Superintendent Mahone and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the March 1, 2022, Health and Sanitation Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

OAK HILL HERSHEY / HEIGHTS SEWER PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported the boring contractor moved equipment on site March 28, 2022. They will start to install the force main on the west side of Route 194 beginning at the location of the Oak Hill Drive pumping station. Three thousand feet has been installed and there is thirty-seven hundred feet remaining. The Highway Occupancy Permit has been received for the installation of the driveway for the Oak Hill pumping station. York County Conservation District completed their review of the NPDES general permit application for the fill site, and has requested additional information. They have indicated the Township will need to supply infiltration testing data compiled by a Geotech Consultant. GHD had received estimates from two different consultants and the lowest bidder is Pennoni at \$4,000, and can complete the work in a two-week time frame. GHD suggested the Township deal directly with Pennoni to save money. They will pass the contract on to the Township for signature when received.

Commissioner Elksnis requested an open discussion regarding the special assessment for the Oak Hill / Hershey Heights sewer installation. He stated that years ago there were a few assessment figures suggested, but not to exceed \$15,000. Commissioner Heiland asked the Committee's thoughts on reducing the fee \$7,500, plus the \$2,298 tapping fee. The Committee agreed. Chairman Elksnis stated the fee will need to be passed by resolution. Commissioner Heiland suggested the information on the website should be updated, along with the options for payment. Manager Rodgers reviewed the four options that are posted on the website. Commissioner Heiland suggested offering one of the options. Chairman Elksnis stated there were four options previously listed on the website, and would like to offer the residents a choice of options. Commissioner Heiland stated that he is okay with the options as long as the residents are aware of the interest charged if not paid in full.

JANET STREET AND BREEZEWOOD DRIVE SEWER PROJECTS: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported the Township is waiting for two sewer easements for

the Janet Street project. Manager Rodgers reported that the solicitor has sent notices. The notice for Bon-Ton builders has been returned undeliverable, and will be resent. The other property owner has the agreement, but has not signed.

The Township has received the approval letter for the Breezewood Drive project from the York County Conservation District. Hanover Land Services has started to develop the plot plans and easement descriptions for the sewer easements. Once we receive the wet lands crossing permit, the Township will contact the South Western School District about obtaining the easement.

PROPOSED FILL SITE AT THE PUBLIC WORKS BUILDING: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported Public Works has installed all of the E&S requirements and has begun the removal of the top soil on the first area to be filled.

YORK WATER REQUEST FOR SERVICES AND ADDITIONAL SEWER CAPACITY: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported the Township received an email on March 4, 2022, from York Water asking if Penn Township would be interested in providing additional sewer capacity for West Manheim Township. During a previous meeting with York Water, they inquired if the Township would be interested in supplying the services of our sewer jet truck in the event of them having a clogged main line. He asked the Committee for their guidance to the requests. After some discussion the Committee agreed that this is not in the best interest of the Township.

SYNAGRO REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF A FUEL SURCHARGE FEE: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported Synagro has asked if the Township would consider accepting a fuel surcharge fee due to the current cost of diesel fuel. They understand there isn't a provision in the contract for a fuel surcharge but wanted to ask anyway. They sent the Township a fuel adjustment calculation that basically would increase our cost .05% for every \$.05 increase in diesel fuel over \$4 gallon. However, they said they would appreciate any increase if we chose to use some other calculation. Commissioner Brown stated that request is somewhat reasonable given the current economy. Superintendent Mahone said the contract is subject to a price increase in October and will be based upon the consumer price index. The Committee decided to remain with the current contract, due to a price increase in October.

TRASH BAG BID: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported bids were sent out to suppliers and will be opened on April 12, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. at the Township office.

NEWSLETTER: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported the newsletter will be delivered by the Merchandiser this week.

GARAGE AND SLUDGE BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT BID: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported the existing roofs were installed in 1997 and need replacing. This is a budgeted item and Superintendent Mahone stated he would like to get a bid out as soon as possible so materials can be ordered. Manager Rodgers stated she will go on Co-Stars and will compile a list and forward to Superintendent Mahone.

OTHER MATTERS: Chairman Elksnis reported that the shredding event will take place on Saturday, April 23, 2022, along with the second annual food drive. Last year, the food drive was a success with a large amount of donations for New Hope Ministries.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE: There were several residents in attendance for the Oak Hill / Hershey Heights Sewer project.

Mr. William Bowman, 123 Oak Hill Drive, questioned the committee regarding the payment plans for the special assessment. Chairman Elksnis reviewed the four payment options. He stated that the State allows up to a 6% interest rate to be charged on any balance not paid in full. Chairman Elksnis stated that the connection date is still a ways out, approximately June of 2023. Mr. Bowman stated that it may be less stressful on the residents if the payments are spread out throughout the year, rather than an annual payment. Commissioner Heiland stated that the sewer invoices are sent out quarterly, and will be the flat rate of \$91.00 for the use of sewer, but assessment payments could be added to the invoice if that payment option is chosen. Mr. Bowman also asked the Committee if there was an incentive if the assessment is paid early or in full. Commissioner Heiland stated the incentive would be the lack of interest being added.

Cindy Staley, 865 Hershey Heights Road, questioned the status of the vacant house where the pumping station is proposed to be constructed. Chairman Elksnis reported the property was condemned by the Township who owns the property and the home will be demolished.

Judy Sieg, 853 Hershey Heights Road, reported that her husband had instructed the construction workers to park at the vacant house, due to safety concerns of all of the large equipment being parked on the street. Commissioner Heiland stated that he cannot say that the Committee would agree. Chairman Elksnis stated that he is sure the Contractor has safety regulations that they have to abide by.

Cindy Staley stated that traffic was a mess with the large equipment parked on the side of the street, they only had three traffic cones out. Chairman Elksnis stated that this will be looked into. Superintendent Mahone reported that the contractor has completed their portion of the work.

James Rinker, 870 & 886 Hershey Heights Road, just wanted clarification on the assessment per property. He thanked the Committee for coming to a decision.

Jack Corriere, 114 Oak Hill Drive, thanked Manager Rodgers for sending out the project timeline. He asked to go on record that is he is not happy with the Committee's decision of the assessment fee. He feels that the number was just cut in half. He feels that the American Rescue Funds should go towards this sewer project. He stated the Township is not being fair, and this decision will not be forgotten.

Perry Motter, 875 Hershey Heights Road, thanked the Committee for cutting the assessment fee in half. Chairman Elksnis stated that the Committee has put a lot of thought into this decision and has tried to be fair to the residents involved and to all the 17,000 Township residents.

Manager Rodgers asked for clarification from the Committee on the payment plans, if all four payment options will be added to the resolution or will one or two options be chosen. Chairman Elksnis stated that he would like to give the residents as many options as possible. Manager Rodgers stated that we need to be consistent. The Committee concluded that the four options should be offered, and once a resident has chosen, they cannot change their payment option, unless making a payment in full.

Commissioner Heiland stated that he wished Mr. Corriere would not have left the meeting, and wanted to address his comments. Commissioner Heiland stated that Mr. Corriere had mentioned the use the American Rescue Funds to pay for the project. Commissioner Heiland said that some of the funds are going to the sewer project, and he was trying to be fair to the Oak Hill / Hershey Heights residents, but he was also trying to be fair to the residents of the entire Township.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,  
Township Secretary