

MINUTES
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 3, 2023

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 at 7:06 p.m., following the Finance Committee Meeting. Present were Chairman Berlingo, Commissioners Black, Brown, Elksnis and Heiland. Also present were Manager Ledley, WWTP Superintendent Lank and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the September 5, 2023, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

OAK HILL HERSHEY HEIGHTS PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that both pump stations are operational. There was a minor issue with the Hershey Heights pumps that had been rectified. Notifications for connection were sent out to the Oak Hill Pump Station residents on September 26. The letters for the Hershey Heights residents will be sent out tomorrow. A punch list has been generated for Conewago and PSI. Conewago has stated that they have completed their part. The electricians will return to finish their punch list when they have the new breaker panels to install. Joao & Bradley have addressed their punch list, including lawn restorations and associated roadway work. Safety concerns need attention at the Oak Hill pump station due to the drop-off on the front sides of the parking area and the lack of electric meter protection.

JANET STREET AND BREEZEWOOD DRIVE SEWER PROJECTS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that the Township is awaiting Bon Ton to relocate their lateral at the Janet Street Pump Station.

The sewer crew has halted work on the Breezewood Project to help with other pressing projects, such as paving preparation. They have completed about 70% of the line to date, which was critical to get across the roadway prior to the start of school. They will continue and complete this project over the fall/winter months.

GRANDVIEW ACRES PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported the Township is waiting on right-of-ways and finalized prints to order the materials for the project.

BUDGET REVIEW: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that wages are increasing due to the union contract, supplies are up 5% as predicted by most vendors, and utilities are impacted by the addition of two new pump stations and the removal of two. The biggest change in capital outlay is the completion of the Oak Hill/Hershey Heights Project. For Disposal, increases in wages and supplies, mainly due to aging equipment, stock parts, and replacing the plant SCADA

system. Refuse & Recycling will see an increase in wages; trash collection and disposal costs are on the rise. Purchase of trash bags is necessary until the end of the current contract in 2025.

SHREDDING EVENT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported the shredding event is scheduled for Saturday, October 21st, from 8 am to 1 pm. He would like to schedule the Spring shredding event for Saturday, April 20, 2024. The Committee had no issues.

OTHER MATTERS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that they are monitoring Snyder/Campbells due to the incident in July, where there was a substantial amount of solids in their discharge line. On September 13, 2023, they received a notice of violation for exceeding their BOD Limit in pounds per day. They recognized the exceedance before the violation was issued and are closely monitoring their results. WWTP Assistant Superintendent Kline and WWTP Superintendent Lank met with their staff and engineer to discuss potential solutions and immediate corrections. Smith's Sanitary Septic Service was engaged to clean 150,000 gallons from their primary tank, and a discussion was held concerning the installation of a discharge meter on their final effluent. The EPA has been kept in the loop on all correspondence and seems satisfied with their progress and plans moving forward. They continue to reset their sampler every day to monitor their discharge, as no permanent fix has been instituted yet.

He also reported that the part-time recycling position has been filled. Michael Miller will begin on October 5, 2023.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were several residents in attendance to discuss the Oak Hill/Hershy Heights Sewer Installation project.

Mr. Jim Miner, 70 Oak Hill Drive, questioned the status of the discharge meters to determine the rate for usage of the sewer versus the flat rate, and when the invoices will be mailed. Superintendent Lank stated that invoicing will begin when connection is completed, rate will be prorated for that quarter. Chairman Berlingo stated that they are currently researching the usage of meters. He also asked about the paving of Oak Hill Drive. Commissioner Elksnis stated that the paving will be completed next year once all the residents are connected to the sewer.

Mr. Michael Brown, 75 Oak Hill Drive, commented that there are many residents that are metered pay more than the flat rate of \$91.00. He stated that he just wants the charges to be fair and equitable for all the residents.

Ms. Jennifer Jones, 210 Oak Hill Circle, had questions regarding the timeline with the meters, if she should wait for a decision prior to connecting, and if there would be a surcharge to read the meter. Commissioner Heiland stated that the solicitor is researching the issue.

Mr. Jack Corriere, 114 Oak Hill Drive, stated that he wants the Committee to investigate the meters to make it fair for everyone, and that the most updated meters should be considered so no one would have to come read the meter, or do a drive by. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with how this project began. He also stated that if you leave town and you

should not have to pay for water/sewer usage. Commissioners Berlingo and Elksnis stated that research will need to be completed as to the cost of software and personnel involved.

Ms. Darlene Miner stated that the electric company does not have to drive by to read the meter, it is all done electronically. She questioned why they should have to pay for the service when they leave town. The fees need to be equitable, and at least charge one amount per person in a household.

Mr. William Bowman, 123 Oak Hill Drive, reported that the topsoil is disappointing. His electric dog fence was never re-installed. Superintendent Lank stated that they are still working on the punch list of items to be completed. He reported that the fencing around the pump station needs to be more aesthetically appealing. He commented that it would be nice to know about the meter issue prior to connecting to the sewer system. He also commented that the current Board was not present when this project came to fruition, and stated that it was not DEP, but the Township who initiated this project. He stated that there were several deviations from the initial plan, and the Board made changes as the year progressed. He said there is inconsistency as misrepresentation of data. He said the plan did not specify the residents would pay for the sewer installation. He would like the Committee to reconsider charging the residents for the installation.

Mrs. Kathy Mathias, 101 Oak Hill Drive, stated that the residents should not have to pay for infrastructure, and she would like the Committee to reconsider the special assessment fee of \$7,500.

Ms. Vicky Baugher, 123 Oak Hill Drive, stated the streetlight at the intersection of Beaver Creek Road and Pigeon Hill Park Road has been out for three and a half months. Commissioner Elksnis stated that it needs to be reported to the office and the Engineer will investigate and either fix the light or contact the correct entity.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary