

MINUTES  
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE  
DECEMBER 5, 2023

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at 7:26 p.m., following the Finance Committee Meeting. Present were Vice-Chairman Black, Commissioners Brown, Elksnis and Heiland. Also present were WWTP Superintendent Lank and Township Secretary Sweeney. Chairman Berlingo was present via cell phone, and Manager Ledley was absent with notice. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the November 7, 2023, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

OAK HILL HERSHEY HEIGHTS PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank provided an update, indicating that work on tie-ins for both systems is still in progress. GHD is actively engaged in finalizing the closeout documentation for Conewago and PSI. PSI, meanwhile, has addressed the last item on the punch list. Mr. Bill Bowman has had his invisible dog fence repaired, and we will be reimbursing him for the associated costs, deducting the amount from Joao & Bradley's final payment.

JANET STREET AND BREEZEWOOD DRIVE SEWER PROJECTS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that the demolition phase is underway, marked by the removal of pumps and the control panel.

The Breezewood Drive project is slated to restart this week, with the finalization of the new gravity main installation.

CODORUS PUMP STATION: WWTP Superintendent Lank shared that the long-awaited replacement pump for Codorus Pump Station has arrived after a year-long wait for its construction. Our crew worked for several days on removing the old pump and preparing for the installation of the new one, with the expectation of completing the process this week.

SNYDER'S DISCHARGE: On the morning of November 27, 2023, WWTP Superintendent Lank reported an incident during our employees' visit to Snyders for sample collection. It was discovered that untreated wastewater was being discharged. The composite sampler, which collects samples every five minutes over a 24-hour period, was found to be half full of untreated wastewater. This indicated an ongoing discharge for at least ten to twelve hours overnight.

Upon notifying Snyders personnel of the issue, an investigation revealed that a bypass valve was open, allowing untreated water to directly flow into the discharge manhole. Snyders had been shut down for maintenance over the weekend, including a power shutdown. They

explained that a member of the maintenance staff had opened the valve to alleviate water from backfilling the on-site pumping station.

Currently, efforts are underway to collaborate with GHD to determine the appropriate steps for citing Snyders and imposing the necessary fines for the incident.

TRASH BAG BID: WWTP Superintendent Lank has informed that he intends to publish the invitation to bid this month, with the bid opening scheduled for January 15, 2024, coinciding with the Board of Commissioners meeting. To ensure an ample supply, we plan to procure enough bags (450,000 bags), projected to cover our needs until the conclusion of the original three-year contract if we choose not to exercise the option to extend the contract.

DISCUSS REPEALING THE POLICY FOR RESIDENTIAL DEDUCT METERS: Vice-Chairman Black introduced a draft resolution proposing the repeal of the policy regarding residential deduct meters. WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that individuals currently possessing such meters will be grandfathered in. However, even for those who are grandfathered, termination may occur if any reading for a twelve-month period is less than 4,000 gallons. This decision is influenced by the difficulty in reading some of the meters, particularly those over 40 years old, which may not be functioning properly. The Committee recommended to add to the Board agenda.

DISCUSS AMENDING THE SEWER ORDINANCE: Commissioner Elksnis reported that we are still waiting for the solicitor. WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that some language needs to be addressed by the solicitor.

OTHER MATTERS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reports that our sewer crew is gearing up to install a new service lateral for Treehouse Foods, allowing for an additional 3,900 gallons per day to support a new cleaning line. All necessary approvals and fees for this project have been secured.

In response to the failure of the original air conditioning unit for the centrifuge control panel, we have procured a new unit at a cost of approximately \$7,500. Our staff will handle the installation, crucial for preventing electronic components from overheating.

Additionally, plans are in progress to schedule a service for our centrifuge, likely in late January or February. This timing aligns with a slower period for sludge production.

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

Mr. Bill Bowman of 123 Oak Hill Drive inquired about the resolution pertaining to deduct meters, seeking clarification on whether it addressed the previously discussed meter-related issues concerning Oak Hill/Hershey Heights residents. WWTP Lank clarified that it did not; deduct meters are installed beyond the main water line and are intended for applications like pools and other stationary water structures. Commissioner Heiland emphasized that deduct meters are primarily designed for industrial use, not residential purposes, and noted the lack of clarity in the wording of the prior policy. Mr. Bowman further inquired about the Sewer

Ordinance, to which Commissioner Heiland responded that the amendment to the Sewer Ordinance is currently under solicitor review and draft documents are not for public review. He stated the ordinance would be publicly advertised and included on the Board of Commissioner Meeting agenda for a vote scheduled on December 18th.

Mr. Jack Corriere, 114 Oak Hill Drive, inquired if there was any further consideration by the Board for a provision for residents who frequently travel to temporarily suspend their sewer accounts, so they are not charged during their absence; like the trash program where charges are based on actual usage. Commissioner Heiland explained that implementing such a practice is not feasible, as it is not consistent with the policies of other utilities and clarified that it will not be pursued in the near future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney  
Township Secretary