

HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
AUGUST 4, 2009

The Penn Township Health & Sanitation Committee met in public session on Tuesday, August 4, 2009 at 7:16 PM following the Public Works Committee. Present were Chairman Rewa and Commissioners Prieber, Goldsmith, Heilman, and Felix. Also present were Manager Garvick, Township Engineer Bortner, Public Works Foreman Mahan, WWTP Superintendent Mahone, and Administrative Assistant Rodgers. The following items were discussed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Minutes from the July 7, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

CITIZENS REMARKS: None.

H2O PA GRANT COMMITMENT LETTER: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported on the \$900,000 that was awarded to the township for the proposed improvements to the wastewater treatment plant through the H2O grant process. The state will have to be named on the township's insurance policy as an additional insured if the Township accepts the grant. The money is broken down for certain portions of the project. This is a reimbursement type of grant, which requires the Township to spend the money first. The deadline for returning the commitment letter is sixty days from July 23, 2009. The Committee recommended accepting the grant but also requesting the grant review comments so that we know what the decision was based upon.

SEWER RATE INCREASE: Superintendent Mahone provided the Committee with a proposed sewer rate schedule reflecting an increase due to the financing of \$18 million for improvements to the wastewater treatment plant. He provided them with two options, which are the *minimum* increases required to make up the more than \$1.5M of projected yearly debt. The schedule does not reflect the additional debt required for engineering & design, contingency or the interceptor project. These items could increase the total debt amount to \$25M. The township expects to offset some of this expense with the H2O grant and some revenue held in reserve. However, until the project is publicly bid we have no real idea of how much the estimate can be reduced, if at all. The committee discussed different dates on when the rates should be effective and felt that a sixty-five percent increase was appropriate. They are proposing the increase become effective for the first billing period of 2010. There was discussion as to when the final bid specifications would be available. Manager Garvick informed the committee that once we settle on some more specific treatment processes, then CET can prepare bid specs. The Manager and Mr. Mahone are flying to Chicago in three weeks to look at some treatment processes that we may want to specify in our bids.

HESS DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM: Superintendent Mahone reported that we have not yet had to temporarily withdraw from the power grid as part of the HESS

Demand Response Program. The Township did receive its first payment check for participation in the program.

FALL NEWSLETTER: Superintendent Mahone reported that the deadline for articles or information for the fall newsletter is August 18, 2009.

SHREDDING EVENT: Superintendent Mahone reported that residential shredding events have been scheduled for October 24, 2009 and April 24, 2010.

WEST MANHEIM: Manager Garvick reported that he and Superintendent Mahone are meeting with West Manheim representatives about the current intermunicipal sewer agreement that was approved in 1989. West Manheim has some concerns about the provisions.

CITIZENS QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Roger Prieber requested that the Commissioners make all sewer customers aware that their rates will double at the first of next year due to the Federal government's concerns about the Chesapeake Bay.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeffrey R. Garvick, Manager