

**WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
7901 JONESTOWN ROAD, HARRISBURG, PA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2017
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

The November 21, 2017 regular meeting of the Authority was moved to the West Hanover Park and Recreation building at 628 Walnut Avenue due to anticipating a significant number of residents to attend.

Chairman Kreiser called the regular meeting to order at 6 p.m., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kreiser stated that residents would have five-minutes each for public comment and that any questions raised would be answered in writing from the Authority at a later date.

Mr. Kreiser announced that an executive session would be held at the conclusion of the meeting to discuss legal and personnel matters.

ATTENDANCE

Michael A. Kreiser, Chairman
Donald L. Steinmeier, Vice Chairman
Thomas Stewart, Treasurer
William Rehkop, Secretary
Joseph Sembrot, Assistant Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Enck, 7112 Hillside Road. Mr. Enck noted opposition to the low pressure system citing costs to residents and unreliability of the proposed system versus a gravity system.

Mr. Enck stated that he had a petition signed by 91 percent of the residents in the area affected by the proposed sewer project. He presented the petition to Mr. Kreiser. Mr. Enck added that he had also provided the Board of Supervisors with a copy of the petition at their meeting on November 20, 2017.

Patricia Fink, 635 Chestnut Avenue. Ms. Fink expressed concern that the residents were not notified of the change of location for the meeting.

Robert Feathers, 7229 Linglestown Road. Mr. Feathers stated that 90 percent of the residents are opposed to the low pressure system and asked what it would take for the Authority to change its mind and install a gravity system.

Mr. Kreiser responded that it would cost at least another \$20,000 per household to install a gravity system.

Scott Scheib, 7310 Cobblestone Drive. Mr. Scheib stated that he was present at the meeting with his mother, Marlene Scheib, who resides at 640 Walnut Avenue.

Mr. Scheib raised the question as to why the Houck Manor/Holiday Park area was not included when the original project was done and when the Township received Federal grant money to do the project.

Mr. Kreiser stated that the sewer was not available for Houck Manor/Holiday Park area when the original project was done. The project was supposed to be completed by 2016 but the Township requested an extension from DEP, which was granted with the stipulation that the project had to be completed by 2021.

Mr. Steinmeier stated that the Township received no Federal or State grant money for the original and subsequent sewer projects.

Mr. Scheib also raised the question as to why the extension for Houck Manor/Holiday Park was not done eight (8) years ago when the costs would have been less expensive.

Gloria Zimmerman, a West Hanover Township supervisor, was present at the meeting and stated that the extension request was submitted when some of the residents present at this Authority meeting came to the Township and asked to have the project delayed.

Marilyn Mullen, 7206 Linglestown Road. Mrs. Mullen stated that she resides in a 100-year-old house and that it will cost her thousands of dollars to install the sewer into her home.

She questioned why the Houck Manor area should be different from the resident of the Township when all of the new developments got a gravity system and not a low pressure system. She also questioned whether there was a capacity issue and whether that impacted the decision to use the low pressure system.

Mr. Kreiser stated that there was no capacity issue and that the treatment plant had just been upgraded in the past few years to handle additional flow.

Mr. Stewart stated that it was the responsibility of the Authority to extend the sewer in a fiscally responsible way, hence the low pressure system for \$1 million versus \$3 million for a gravity system.

Patricia Fink, 635 Chestnut Avenue. Ms. Fink stated it was her opinion that since the residents in Houck Manor would have to maintain their grinder pumps at a significant cost, they should get a major discount in their monthly or quarterly sewer rates.

Ms. Fink added that she believed that the property values would decline because of having a low pressure system.

Richard McNeal, 631 Walnut Avenue. Mr. McNeal stated that he would gladly pay a one-time fee of \$20,000 in order to have a gravity system.

Richard McNeal, Jr., 7363 Sleepy Hollow Road. Mr. McNeal stated he was present at the meeting with his father.

He raised the question as to why if the costs for the treatment plant were distributed amongst all rate payers, why would the Houck Manor/Holiday Park residents have to absorb all of the costs for their project.

John Ferster, 627 Chestnut Avenue. Mr. Ferster questioned why if a bond was obtained for the original project why it wasn't possible to do another bond for the Houck Manor/Holiday Park project.

Mr. Stewart stated that the Authority already had outstanding bonds in the amount of \$14 million and that the Authority is required to maintain fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Ferster raised a question as to why only the properties with issues couldn't be connected and let those properties without issues remain as they are.

Mr. Kreiser responded stating that was not possible due to how the infrastructure for the sewer had to be installed and also that the Township Ordinance requires any property within 150 feet of a sewer line to be connected to the system.

Dudley Gordon, 7104 Hillside Road. Mr. Gordon cited higher expenses for those residents with grinder pumps and asked the Authority to consider a reduction in rates for those properties.

Mr. Gordon also raised a question as to when the decision was made to install a low pressure system and if there was an opportunity for public comment before the decision was finalized.

Marilyn Mullen, 7206 Linglestown Road. Mrs. Mullen asked who the residents could contact at DEP to determine if anything can be done to remove Houck Manor as a needs area.

Mr. Salisbury stated that she could contact Mike Morris and Tim Wagner, Environmental Group Manager, at DEP.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting, October 17, 2017. ***Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Steinmeier, to approve the Minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.***

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Martin reported that the prepaid invoices totaled \$298,881.58, which included the semi-annual payments on the 2012 and 2015 bonds.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Steinmeier, to approve the prepaid invoices in the amount of \$298,881.58. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Martin also reported that the pending invoices totaled \$24,080.55.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Steinmeier, to approve the pending invoices in the amount of \$24,080.55.

Receipts for October totaled \$222,970.82.

OLD BUSINESS

Houck Manor and Holiday Park. Mr. Shope reported that in response to a letter from residents in the Houck Manor area to DEP, he, Mr. Aston, Mr. Salisbury, and Mr. Cichy from HRG met with Mike Morris and Tim Wagner of DEP regarding an inconsistency in the 2006 537 Plan, which did not show a low pressure system being installed but rather a hybrid system.

Mr. Shope also reported that the meeting went well and that they were advised by DEP to perform a Special Study to address the change in the chosen alternative for extending public sewer to serve the Houck Manor and Holiday Park areas of the Township.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Sembrot, to prepare the supplemental Plan and submit it to the Township to open up for public comment. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mr. Salisbury reported that he went to see Gerald Hile to discuss obtaining a right-of-way on his property to install the sewer system. Mr. Salisbury recommended that the Authority authorize the solicitor to write a letter seeking permission to go on his property to survey and prepare a drawing of the easement we are requesting. In addition, he recommended that the letter contain an offer of \$10,000 for the easement.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Rehkop, to authorize the solicitor to prepare a letter and easement document to obtain a right-of-way for Mr. Hile. The motion was unanimously approved.

LaQuinta Motel. Mr. Salisbury called the members' attention to the letter from the General Manager of the LaQuinta Motel stating that they would pay one-half of the repair bill, or \$2,751.75. The General Manager requested that the balance of the bill be sent to The Hershey Restaurant.

By consensus, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to LaQuinta Motel advising them that the reason the pump had to be replaced at the pump station was because of their lint problem and that if it has to be replaced in the future they will be expected to pay the entire bill.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Rehkop, to accept payment of one-half of the pump cost or \$2,751.75. The motion was unanimously approved.

Draft 2018 Budget. A brief discussion took place regarding the proposed budget, and it was agreed by consensus that salaries would be discussed in Executive Session and approved at the December meeting.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Steinmeier, to approve the proposed budget excluding salaries as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

7131 Beaver Creek Road. Mr. Salisbury reminded the Authority that they had authorized staff to send a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Rosenella regarding sewer billing from October 1, 2016 through December 31, 2017 in the amount of \$780. He reported that the Rosenella billing in the amount of \$780 was paid on October 31, 2017.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Richard Enck, 7112 Hillside Road. Mr. Enck stated that only seven (7) properties in Houck Manor showed deficiencies in the 2006 Act 537 Plan and that all of those deficiencies have been corrected. He asked why, if all of those deficiencies have been corrected, Houck Manor would remain a needs area.

He asked why DEP did not receive a copy of the plan showing the proposed low pressure system.

Mr. Enck stated that he was told by Fagers that 1.5 inch SDR 11 pipe, tentatively specified for the low pressure laterals, was only used for gas lines.

Richard McNeal, Jr., 7363 Sleepy Hollow Road. Mr. McNeal asked if he could obtain a copy of the plans. Mr. Miner advised he could do so if he completed a Right to Know Request and sent it to the Authority.

Corey and Kaitlin Parsons, 617 Walnut Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Parsons stated that they had to replace their septic system because of a code violation and that the new system was approved by the SEO. They wanted to know why the Authority didn't tell them about plans to extend the public sewer to Houck Manor.

They also asked whether Houck Manor can be re-examined as a needs area and whether or not it would be reasonable to rely on information from the 2006 Plan in 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Salisbury called the members' attention to correspondence that included a letter from a resident requesting a reduction in sewer charges for residents that do not occupy their home for a portion of the year. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the resident explaining that equality of rates apply to all homeowners.

Mr. Salisbury also highlighted a copy of the letter sent to DEP by residents of Houck Manor, a copy of a letter sent from Mr. Miner to Steven Hann, Esq. regarding Water Polo, a letter to the Authority providing an update on the Water Polo case, and an update provided by PMAA regarding new legislation concerning PA One Calls. Mr. Salisbury stated that a webinar would be held in December.

AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS

Tom Stewart. Mr. Stewart wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Don Steinmeier. Mr. Steinmeier stated it was very important for residents to stay in touch with their legislators.

Joe Sembrot. Mr. Sembrot had no comments.

Bill Rehkop. Mr. Rehkop had no comments.

Mike Kreiser. Mr. Kreiser wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

REPORTS

Manager. Mr. Salisbury submitted a written report.

Engineer. Mr. Shope had no further comments.

Solicitor. Mr. Miner and Mrs. Van Eck had no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Steinmeier, to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail A. Martin,
Recording Secretary