

**WEST HANOVER TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY
7901 JONESTOWN ROAD, HARRISBURG, PA
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2017
REGULAR MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER

The December 19, 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 matters.

ATTENDANCE

Michael A. Kreiser, Chairman

Donald L. Steinmeier, Vice Chairman

Thomas Stewart, Treasurer

William Rehkop, Secretary

Joseph Sembrot, Assistant Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Jamison, 7113 Linglestown Road. Mr. Jamison raised a question as to whether or not there were any areas in Pennsylvania where a low pressure system with at least 60 homes on it was constructed. He asked the Authority to provide a listing of those projects and whether or not the residents have experienced issues with their grinder pumps.

Patricia Fink, 635 Chestnut Street. Ms. Fink questioned whether the Authority would guarantee that the grinder pump system would function properly and who would be responsible to pay to make the system right if it failed.

Richard McNeal, 631 Chestnut Street. Mr. McNeal deferred his time to Richard Carl, who owns a property in West Hanover Township that was connected to public sewer at an earlier time using a grinder pump.

Mr. Carl stated that he owned rental property on Slate Ridge Road. He has had to purchase a new grinder pump on three occasions, as well as two circuit boards, and continues to be concerned about the extra expense of maintenance.

Mr. Steinmeier stated that the property behind Bucks Tavern on Manor Drive is owned by the Township. The Township recently replaced the grinder pump at that property at a cost of approximately \$2,600. He also stated that the grinder pump had been in use at that property for twenty (20) years.

Donald Espensshade, 842 Shawnee Drive. Mr. Espensshade stated that he resides in Holiday Park. He further stated that he has never experienced an issue with his septic system or well and did not believe that any of his neighbors have. He questioned why Holiday Park even had to be part of the project.

Mr. Kreiser stated that the Township's 537 Plan identified Holiday Park as needs area. Apparently there was testing performed that showed some failing septic systems. The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) determined the Holiday Park was a needs area likely based on lot sizes, the age of septic systems, and soil composition. Holiday Park is proposed to be mostly a gravity system.

Gary Shaffer, 793 Piketown Road. Mr. Shaffer asked why Holiday Park had to have public sewer installed when no new homes had been constructed in that area for at least thirty (30) years.

Dudley Gordon, 7104 Hillside Road. Dr. Gordon opinioned that the proposed project was an unfunded mandate to install and maintain grinder pumps. He recommended that the Authority assume responsibility for maintaining the grinder pumps.

Mary Brokans, 7036 Linglestown Road. She stated that originally her lot was not included in the original extension (along with four (4) others) so questioned why these properties are now being included. She raised a concern that there were meetings with no comment period and that residents, including the one residing at 7032 Linglestown Road, did not receive any mailing or other information regarding the project.

George Kirk, 839 Shawnee Drive. Mr. Kirk asked why builders would be able to connect into the system at a cheaper rate?

Mr. Steinmeier stated that the Township's Act 537 Plan and Comprehensive Plan reflect no intention to extend the sewer system beyond Holiday Park and Houck Manor.

John Gilbert, 646 Chestnut Avenue. Mr. Gilbert asked how many times the schedule for providing public sewer to Houck Manor had been extended. He opinioned that it was not the resident's fault that it has taken so long to implement the project and the consequence of extending the schedule has resulted in increased costs for the residents. He stated that it would be \$20,000 to \$30,000 for installation and that the residents were notified late, allowing only one (1) year to financially plan for the project.

Richard Enck, 7112 Hillside Road. Mr. Enck noted that the low pressure mains for the twenty (20) pumps in the low pressure/gravity system plan recommended in the Act 537 Facilities Plan Update had only a short distance to run to get to a gravity line, unlike the distance for the all low pressure system. He countered a comment by Chairman Kreiser that the time extension was requested by several residents in Houck Manor, countering that the extension had been requested by the Authority. He noted that a Special Study to re-evaluate Houck Manor as a needs area was rejected by the Board of Supervisors. He recommended that the Special Study should be done.

Wes Harris, 7424 Moyer Road. Mr. Harris stated his property is near Bower Lane and asked why Moyer Road was included in the public sewer extension to Holiday Park.

Mr. Shope responded saying that the Authority did not intend to extend the sewer from Moyer Road to Bower Lane at the present time. However, the sewer extension was designed to allow an extension to Bower Lane if needed in the future.

Richard McNeal, 631 Walnut Avenue. Mr. McNeal asked whether the installation of grinder pumps in Houck Manor would affect property values.

George Kirk, 839 Shawnee Drive. Mr. Kirk raised a question as to whether or not taxes would be increased to pay for the sewer extensions.

Donald Espensshade, 842 Shawnee Drive. Mr. Espensshade asked whether the sewer billing would be monthly or quarterly and also whether the rates for Holiday Park residents would be different from the rest of the public sewer system users.

Marilyn Mullen, 7206 Linglestown Road. Mrs. Mullen stated that she planned to sue the Authority members when her grinder pump failed. She further stated that a plumber assured her that the grinder pump would fail.

Richard McNeal, Jr., 7363 Sleepy Hollow Road. Mr. McNeal asked whether a Special Study for the low pressure system would affect the implementation schedule.

Corey Parsons, 617 Walnut Avenue. Mr. Parsons asked whether or not the recreation center was going to be part of the system.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting, November 21, 2017. ***Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Rehkop, to approve the Minutes as distributed. The motion was unanimously approved.***

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Mrs. Martin reported that the prepaid invoices totaled \$40,423.04.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Steinmeier, to approve the prepaid bills in the amount of \$40,423.04. The motion was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Martin also reported that the pending invoices totaled \$50,550.65.

Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Sembrot, to approve the pending invoices in the amount of \$50,550.65. The motion was unanimously approved.

Receipts for November totaled \$299,201.59.

OLD BUSINESS

Houck Manor (Special Study & Questions) and Holiday Park Easements. Mr. Shope reported that he was in the process of completing the final report for the Special Study and would be ready to send to the Board of Supervisors for review and action at the January meeting.

Mr. Salisbury reported that he did contact Mr. Hile regarding a right-of-way but has not received any definitive answer as to whether he would grant it or not.

Approve Salaries as Presented and Use CPI-W for COLA. ***Mr. Stewart moved, seconded by Mr. Rehkop, to approve the salaries as presented and to use the CPI-W for COLA increases. The motion was unanimously approved.***

NEW BUSINESS

Billing Issue. Mr. Salisbury called the members' attention to the information provided regarding a member's billing issue. The resident would like to have the legal fees removed. A brief discussion followed, after which it was agreed by consensus that the legal fees would remain as billed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dudley Gordon, 7104 Hillside Road. Dr. Gordon stated in looking at the financial information shown on the agenda, which showed a balance of \$6.2 million in reserve, that he thought that should be sufficient to pay for a gravity system alternative in Houck Manor as well as the proposed gravity system for Holiday Park. He also stated that he did extensive research on projects in Virginia, Tennessee, and New York. He added that for a sewer project to be successful, it required communication, which in his opinion, had not been very effective thus far.

John Ferster, 627 Chestnut Avenue. Mr. Ferster commented: "Why can't you change your minds like grown-ups and incur more debt like grown-ups?"

Mary Brokans, 7036 Linglestown Road. Ms. Brokans agreed that the communication had not been good and that residents were not aware that there was a choice as to the type of system to be constructed.

Corey Parsons, 617 Walnut Avenue. Mr. Parsons questioned whether everyone would have to use the same grinder pump and whether or not there would be one in stock should someone's grinder pump fail. He asked whether he could be grandfathered in and not be required to connect to the sewer.

Richard McNeal, Jr., 7363 Sleepy Hollow Road. Mr. McNeal stated he would like to see negotiations as to which system would be chosen and how the Authority would pay for it.

John Gilbert, 646 Chestnut Avenue. Mr. Gilbert asked if there was a way to revisit the issue with a meeting with DEP.

Richard Enck, 7112 Hillside Road. Mr. Enck commented that his friend had to pay \$2,000 in 1990 to hook up to the sewer. He asked why the Township could not apply for loans/bonds and increase the rate for all residents in the Township to pay for the project.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Salisbury briefly reviewed the correspondence.

AUTHORITY MEMBER COMMENTS

Bill Rehkop. Mr. Rehkop had no comments and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Joe Sembrot. Mr. Sembrot had no comments.

Tom Stewart. Mr. Stewart had no comments and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Don Steinmeier. Mr. Steinmeier stated that this meeting was his last after having served on the Authority for 15 years. He added that it had been a good experience.

Mr. Kreiser read a letter from the Authority thanking Mr. Steinmeier for his many years of service.

Mike Kreiser. Mr. Kreiser had no comment and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Gail A. Martin,
Recording Secretary