

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
AUGUST 30, 2007**

Committee Members in attendance were Chairman John Bealer, Robert Sloss and Edward O'Brien. David Crock and William Loux were absent. Also in attendance was Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bealer called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes [June 25, 2007]

Mr. O'Brien moved that the June 25, 2007 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Sloss seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Reports

A. Flow Report

Mr. Hannum discussed the June 2007 Flow Report data and stated that he had not received the July 2007 Flow Report from the Pottstown Borough Authority prior to the meeting. He noted that the June Flow Report showed a sewage flow reduction of 196 gallons per day/EDU from the May Flow Report. He stated that he had inspected Poplar Street due to its abnormally high flow rates. He stated that he had raised the manhole covers at this location, although he could not pinpoint what was causing the inordinate high flow rates for a location that receives sewage flow from a relatively small number of housing units. At that point there was an extensive discussion regarding the meter flow data that had been provided over the past year or more. Mr. O'Brien emphasized that it was inexcusable that a clear answer and solution had not been provided regarding why our sewage flow rates are so unpredictable. Mr. Hannum responded that our solution may involve the expenditure of significant funds for the purchase of new meters and equipment. Mr. O'Brien stated that he works at a location that has had minimal problems with the same meters for 10 years or more and cannot understand why we seem to have so many problems with our meters. Mr. Hannum stated that the Pottstown Borough and Upper Pottsgrove have experienced similar meter problems. Mr. Sloss stated that we should prioritize efforts to identify meter flow data problems. Both Mr. Layne and Mr. Hannum responded that we are working diligently to identify and provide solutions to both I&I and meter flow problems. Mr. O'Brien reiterated that he was not satisfied with meter data and that by having this incorrect data we may be costing the rate payers money. He added that a corrective action plan needs to be developed for Poplar Street. Mr. Sloss stated that the Sewer Fund pays for one-third of the

Public Works Department's Budget and questioned whether our Public Works Department was spending one third of their time handling sewer-related matters.

V. Updates

A. Wolf Run Project public water service installation

Mr. Layne stated that due to the recent announced State budgetary reduction in HSCA funding, it was not clear whether State Waterline Project Grant funding would be available for providing public water to Coolidge and Commerce Street. He added that Senator John Rafferty and Representative Thomas Quigley were supporting Township efforts to obtain needed funding for this effort. He further stated that staff was working closely with Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) officials to procure needed funding.

B. Regal Oaks

Mr. Hannum reported that our Township Solicitor, Charles Garner, has been working with PADEP officials to provide a mutually beneficial Consent Order & Agreement for the Regal Oaks Sewage Facility (Facility). He added that our staff has been working with PADEP officials to develop a corrective plan for this Facility. He further stated that Applied Water has provided satisfactory maintenance and operation efforts for this Facility since they have taken over Facility operations. Mr. Hannum stated that the new permit for this Facility, which will be provided by PADEP to the Township, would include mass limits, although total residual chlorine would remain the same. Mr. Sloss noted that the July 2007 Monthly Operations Report provided by Applied Water listed areas where needed improvements were identified. Mr. Hannum stated that he would contact Applied Water the next day regarding these items and provide an update on this matter by the next Sewer & Water Committee meeting.

VI. Old Business

A. Farmington West Project

Mr. Hannum stated that the legal descriptions were scheduled for delivery to the Township Solicitor tomorrow and that most of the signatures from the property owners had been obtained and the construction bids would go out in early winter.

I&I resolution effort

Chairman Bealer noted that efforts were still moving forward to identify and find solutions to I&I problems.

B. Budget review

Mr. Layne distributed a Sewer & Water Committee Budget Update to the Committee and recently approved Township bills for their review. Mr. O'Brien requested that the Committee be allowed to review the proposed 2008 Sewer Fund Budget prior to its going to the Board of Commissioners for final approval. He further requested that a five-year Capital Budget be developed for the Sewer Fund separate from the annual Township Budgets. Mr. Sloss noted possible 2007 Budget revenue shortfalls. Mr. Layne acknowledged that these areas had been identified and efforts were being made to resolve this problem

C. Master Plan - Future planning and funding issues

Mr. Hannum stated that staff had recently met with Pottstown Borough officials regarding the Township's future planning efforts with respect to sewer capacity issues. The Township did state at that meeting that the Township was seriously considering building its own sewage facility. Mr. Hannum and Mr. Layne stated that the Borough would get back with Township officials in two to three weeks regarding whether the \$2 million cost to the Township for providing additional sewage flows to the Borough via Farmington Avenue could be significantly reduced. Mr. Sloss recommended that the Township should pursue building its own sewage facility. Mr. O'Brien stated that there are benefits as well as liabilities when you have your own sewage plant.

VII. New Business

There was no New Business.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. O'Brien moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:12 P.M. Mr. Sloss seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jack Layne, Township Manager

**The next Sewer & Water Committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 P.M.
Monday, September 24, 2007**