

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
MAY 29, 2007**

Committee Members in attendance were Chairman John Bealer, Robert Sloss, Edward O'Brien and David Crock.. William Loux was absent. Also in attendance were Jane Hewitt, Chris Hannum, Township Engineer, Charles Garner, Township Solicitor and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bealer called the meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes [April 23, 2007]

Mr. O'Brien moved that the April 23, 2007 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Sloss seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

III. Reports

A. Flow Report

Mr. Hannum discussed the April Flow Report that had been previously distributed to Committee members. Chairman Bealer noted that the flow report for Farmington Avenue was not as promising as it had been for the previous month. Mr. Hannum stated that the uneven flows for March were what most collection systems were seeing this time of year. Mr. Hannum stated that the Turnberry system, which is the newest system, runs the tightest at this time. Chairman Bealer noted that only the main is new on Farmington Avenue and that the laterals are still a problem. Mr. Hannum added that the flows indicated are a combination of storm flow and infiltration. Mr. O'Brien stated that this matter needed much further study in order to pinpoint why the flows were so uneven.

Mr. O'Brien requested that LTL look further into the Farmington Avenue meter situation. Mr. Sloss emphasized that the Poplar Street meter totals were not correct. Mr. Henry Bealer recommended the use of Cast Iron Pipe. Mr. Hannum stated that we do have an I&I problem and that collection system maintenance is a mandate. Chairman Bealer stated that new laterals would be provided with the Farmington West project. Mr. O'Brien suggested that the Township implement an active I&I program. Chairman Bealer recommended to the Board of Commissioners that LTL Consultants be authorized to review the collection system and to provide a plan for correcting the I&I problems.

IV. Public Comments

Mr. Ingram asked several questions regarding the Grinder Pump agreement that he had received for his property. Responses to his inquiries included the fact that there is no Grinder Pump ordinance in effect and that the homeowner takeover the maintenance requirements for the Grinder Pump. Ms. Updegrave commented on the selection of a plumber for this endeavor and that the homeowner should be informed and be concerned regarding what they can put into their system once a

Grinder Pump has been installed. Mr. Ingram asked what would happen to his existing system once the new system is installed. Chairman Bealer responded that the old system would be pumped out and filled in. Ms. Updegrave stated that the Berks/Montgomery Authority sent out letters to their customers informing them of I&I problems. She added that she felt that these letters significantly helped to maintain a spirit of cooperation with their customers. Chairman Bealer concurred with this suggestion and stated that the Township could also send out letters to our customers/residents regarding I&I problems.

Mr. Sloss suggested that someone sit down with the homeowners that will be receiving Grinder Pumps to insure that they have a clear understanding of what is going to occur. Mr. Hannum responded that they have spoken to some of the homeowners already and will provide additional information to the homeowners. Ms. Updegrave added that some advertising that products can be flushed down a toilet is misleading because some items cannot be flushed down a toilet in a home that has a Grinder Pump. Mr. O'Brien recommended that the Township bid out an hourly rate for Grinder Pump repairs which would provide a better deal for residents. Chairman Bealer stated that the easement issues are impacting on the Farmington West project schedule.

V. Updates

A. Wolf Run Project public water service installation

Mr. Layne stated that the Wolf Run Project is still moving towards completion. He added that the \$475,000 proposed amendment for this project was moving towards approval at the Harrisburg Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection office.

B. Regal Oaks

Mr. Layne reported that the Regal Oaks Sewage Treatment Facility was being operated by Applied Water for the Township. Mr. Layne added that a contract had recently been awarded for the televising of the pipes in this system, which should significantly assist efforts to identify problems with the existing system. Mr. Hannum stated that a revision of the 537 Plan may be necessary if major system upgrades are needed for the Regal Oaks system.

VI. Old Business

A. Farmington West Project

Chairman Bealer stated that the Township would be holding additional meetings with residents where easement approvals would be needed. Mr. Garner added that four easement agreements had been signed.

B. Budget review

Mr. Layne distributed a Sewer & Water Committee Budget Update to the Committee for their review. The March beginning balance was \$204,130.17 and the March ending balance was \$194,035.00. He provided a listing of payments provided. Mr. O'Brien requested that additional detail accompany the listing of payments.

VII. New Business

A. Master Plan - Future planning and funding issues

Chairman Bealer stated that initial meetings had been held with Pottstown Borough Authority and Lower Pottsgrove Township representatives. He stated that neither the Borough Authority nor Lower Pottsgrove did not oppose our desire to obtain additional sewer capacity. Chairman Bealer added that LTL was attempting to establish more concrete numbers with respect to flow. Mr. Sloss stated that we should look at building our own sewage treatment plant as a viable option. Mr. Garner stated that we had additional available sewer capacity from both the Borough Authority and Lower Pottsgrove.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Sloss moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:42 P.M. Mr. O'Brien 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.
Tuesday, May 29, 2007**