

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 24, 2008**

Committee Members in attendance were Chairman John Bealer, David Crock, Jerry De Lena and Edward O'Brien. Also in attendance was Elaine Brodi, Gerald Brodi, Jack Lebow, Lisa Lawrence, David Diehl, Paul Carbo, Stephen Mooney, Deborah Mooney, Greg Shantz, Garner & Bauer, Chris Hannum, LTL Engineer and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bealer called the meeting to order at 7:08 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes [February 25, 2008]

Mr. De Lena moved that the February 25, 2008 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. O'Brien seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

III. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

IV. Reports

A. Flow Report

Mr. Hannum discussed the February 2008 Flow Report data. He noted that the flows were high during this period (i.e., up to 1 million gallons per day on Farmington Avenue) but that it was not a flow of record.

V. Updates

A. Regal Oaks Wastewater Treatment Facility

Mr. Hannum stated that the bids were due on March 27th for the Lining Project. He added that this was the first phase of the project to improve the Regal Oaks infrastructure. He also stated that the Sampler was in place. Mr. De Lena noted that a number of safety concerns were listed on the report submitted by Applied Water on Regal Oaks. Mr. Hannum stated that he would address this matter with Applied Water staff. Mr. Hannum stated that there was no exceedence in February. Mr. De Lena noted that the Regal Oaks Wastewater Treatment Facility was being monitored very closely by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Hannum acknowledged that this was the case. Mr. O'Brien requested that he be provided the Operator's Log and DMRs.

VI. Old Business

A. Proposed Corrective Action Plan

Mr. Layne noted that Mr. O'Brien had stated that the Township should request an extension from the Pottstown Borough Authority regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan. Mr. O'Brien expressed his concern with the past reliability of the existing meters. There was a consensus by the Committee that

staff should contact the Board of Commissioners regarding this matter. Chairman Bealer recommended that staff contact BCM Engineers regarding our request for an extension of the time for the Corrective Action Plan.

B. Farmington West Project

Mr. Hannum stated that the blasting permits would be issued and blasting would be occurring in the Project area. Mr. De Lena requested that we contact the residents residing near the area where the blasting is proposed to occur.

C. Budget review

Mr. Layne distributed the February 2008 Balance Sheet and the March 17th Payment Approval Report for review by the Committee. Mr. O'Brien requested financial information showing capital expenditures for sewer projects. Mr. Layne stated that he would provide this information at the next meeting.

VII. New Business

Mr. De Lena requested that we should survey what are the EDU rates for other municipalities in the area. He also stated that the Tap-In Fee and Connection fee could be increased in order to insure that there is adequate funding for providing needed infrastructure for proposed future developments. Mr. Carbo objected to there being any more increases in either sewer rates, Tap-In Fee, etc. Mr. De Lena attempted to explain to Mr. Carbo that the basis for his comments were to help insure that the Township was properly compensated by developers that constructed new developments in the Township not to add any additional burden onto existing homeowners. Mr. Carbo wanted to know how much of the \$180.00 quarterly sewer bill payment goes to Pottstown. Mr. De Lena requested that staff provide information at the next meeting specifying how many homes have metered water. Mr. Shantz stated that the Township made a concerted effort to keep from having to take over the maintenance and operation of the Regal Oaks Wastewater Treatment Facility but that ultimately we were forced to do so. Mr. De Lena also requested that staff review the EDU structure.

Mr. and Mrs. Brodi requested that the Committee consider assisting them in their endeavor to pay their sewer bill for their business, J & E Laundromat, which increased by \$1,200 per quarter. They noted that they were paying for 16 EDUs. There was a consensus by the Committee that staff should send a letter to the Borough requesting that they allow the Township time to review this matter and also how to analyze how their EDU charges were calculated. Chairman Bealer requested that Matthew Dallas, Financial Consultant for the Township, be invited to the next Committee meeting to discuss the 2008 Budget.

Mr. and Mrs. Mooney asked about the possibility of public sewer being provided in the Orlando Road area. Mr. Crock commented that small problems could be repaired but a time frame for providing public water and sewer in this area has not been specified.

Ms. Lawrence expressed her concern with the \$180 per quarter sewer rate. Mr. Hannum stated that 296 housing units were proposed to be constructed in the Township in 2007 that did not occur, which had a significant negative impact on the revenues that were received by the Township.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. O'Brien moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:30 P.M. Mr. De Lena 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, April 28, 2008**