

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 28, 2008**

Committee Members in attendance were Chairman John Bealer, David Crock, Jerry De Lena and Edward O'Brien. Also in attendance were Jack Schaeffer, Audrey Schaeffer, Elaine Brodi, Gerald Brodi, Kristene Arsenich, Mark Fair, 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 7:03 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes [March 24, 2008]

Mr. De Lena moved that the March 24, 2008 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. O'Brien seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

III. Reports

A. Flow Report

Mr. Hannum discussed the March 2008 Flow Report data. He noted that the average flow level for March was 378 gpd while it had been 455 gpd in February. It was noted that the EDU count had increased to 1,197 as opposed to 1,114. Mr. Hannum stated that the report data provided for 18 additional EDUs or a 1% increase for the Township.

IV. Public Comment

- Jack Schaeffer expressed concern regarding the proposed location of his sewer connection as part of the Farmington West project. He stated that he thought up until last week that the connection would be in the rear of his home as opposed to the front. He stated that LTL had stated that the cost of providing the connection in the rear might total approximately \$25,000. He stated that during the discussions with Township officials regarding this matter it had been his understanding that there would be no cost for this connection. Mr. Schaeffer stated that he would agree to an easement through his property provided that there would be a free hookup for both his properties.
- Mr. and Mrs. Brodi requested financial relief and support from the Township regarding the sewer bills that they have been issued for their Laundromat. Discussion focused on the need to determine what comprises the 16 EDUs that they are allotted for their Laundromat and why this was done. Mr. Hannum stated that we might want to reexamine this matter. Mr. De Lena noted that to switch from a quarterly flat sewer rate to a metered rate would not really help this type of business because of their high water usage. He added that the Township did not want to discourage businesses from locating in the Township due to sewer rates and/or the

process for measuring sewer usage. Mr. Hannum stated that we would look at the commercial portion of Township Resolution No.237.

Mr. Hannum stated that 86% of the Township's sewer customers have meters.

- Mr. Fair of 1859 Farmington Avenue requested that public sewer be provided for his residence. Mr. Hannum stated that the western portion of the Farmington Avenue is in the second portion of the Farmington Avenue West project. Mr. Fair stated that the Montgomery County Health Department is aware of the health concerns for his property due to an unreliable septic system. Chairman Bealer stated that the Township would review this matter and that something might occur sooner if a development occurs in this area.
- Ms. Arsenich of 1636 Laurel Lane asked when did her sewer measurement rate change from a metered to a flat rate. Mr. Layne responded that her rate had always been calculated on a flat rate basis. Chairman Bealer added that the increase in sewer rates in 2008 was necessary due to the loss in anticipated revenue in 2007.

V. Updates

A. Regal Oaks Wastewater Treatment Facility

Mr. Hannum stated that the Monthly Operating Report provided by Applied Water Management for the Regal Oaks Wastewater Treatment Facility was satisfactory. Mr. O'Brien suggested that LTL provide an annual formal inspection of the Regal Oaks Wastewater Treatment Facility.

VI. Old Business

A. Proposed Corrective Action Plan

Mr. Hannum stated that he had spoken with Tom Weld of BCM Engineers regarding the question of the reliability of Township's meter readings. He stated that the burden of proof would be the Township's responsibility. Mr. O'Brien stated that the municipality where he is employed certifies meters quarterly while Mr. Hannum stated that the Township certifies meters annually. Mr. Hannum reiterated that BCM was willing to look at the Township's meter issues. Mr. Hannum stated that we could begin the investigation process by doing smoke testing. Mr. O'Brien stated that the Township should utilize a system that projects future development. Following more discussion on this matter, Mr. De Lena moved that the Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the proposed Corrective Action Plan be submitted to the Borough of Pottstown through BCM Engineers and that BCM consider the problems and concerns that the Township has had over an extended period with the meter data provided. Mr. Crock seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

B. Farmington West Project

Mr. Hannum stated that the Farmington West project is going well. He added that the contractor is averaging installing over 200 feet of pipe per day along Chestnut Grove and one day installed over 400 feet.

C. Budget review

Mr. De Lena noted that User Fees could be charged under Act 57 to developers. Mr. Hannum added that under Act 57 up to 60% of an actual sewer bill could be paid by a developer once the sewer module has been approved. Mr. De Lena further stated that Tapping Fees should also be reviewed. Mr. Hannum stated that he would contact Matt Dallas, Township Financial Consultant, regarding this matter.

VII. New Business

There was no New Business.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. O'Brien moved that the meeting be adjourned at 9:08 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.
Tuesday, May 27, 2008**