

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2009**

Committee Members in attendance were Chairman John Bealer, David Crock and Edward O'Brien. Jerry DeLena was absent. Also in attendance were Russell Noll, Commissioner, Charles Garner, Township Solicitor, Chris Hannum, LTL Engineer, Frank Quinter, Public Works, Director and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bealer called the meeting to order at 5:03 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes [November 20, 2008]

Mr. Crock moved that the November 20, 2008 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Chairman Bealer seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

III. Reports

A. Flow Report

The Committee reviewed the January 2009 and December 2008 Flow Reports. Mr. Hannum stated that there was a spike in the December flows. He added that for 2008 the Township sewer flows averaged 280 gallons per day per EDU and are presently at the same sewer flow rate for 2009. He also stated that he will report at the next Sewer and Water Committee meeting as to the correct number of Township sewer connections (e.g., reports note that there are 1,150). Mr. O'Brien stated that he could not understand Pottstown's flow rate. He added that they showed high flows with low amounts of rainfall and low flows with fairly high rates of rainfall. Mr. Hannum stated that this was one of the reasons for the proposed upgrade of Beech and York Streets. Mr. O'Brien stated that Township meters have not and still do not "cut the mustard" and that this has been an ongoing problem for years.

IV. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

V. Updates

A. Regal Oaks

Mr. Layne provided a brief overview of recent Township efforts to procure State grant and/or loan funding in order to dismantle the Regal Oaks wastewater treatment facility and to provide a pumping station. Mr. Hannum stated that this endeavor would cost over three million dollars. He also stated that the capacity of the pump station would be 575 GPM, which would be sufficient to handle additional projected sewer capacity in the Township. Mr. Noll asked if the homes on Gilbertsville Road would be hooked into the proposed sewer expansion at Regal Oaks. Mr. Hannum stated that the specified 7 EDUs in this area would be

part of the expansion. He added that the 8” sewer force main should be able to handle the proposed future expansion.

Mr. Hannum stated that the pump station was comprised of durable and low maintenance pumps that would cost from \$7,000 to \$10,000 annually to operate.

It was noted that the Township would be able to reuse the emergency generator that is housed at Cherry Tree.

Mr. Garner stated that the Township had agreed to split the cost of the proposed \$1.6 million Beech Street upgrade that reduced the Township cost to approximately \$800,000. He added that the Township would need to purchase more treatment capacity in order to service Regal Oaks.

Mr. Layne added that Township staff was scheduled to inspect over 50 homes at Regal Oaks for sump pumps in order to identify possible I&I sources and solutions. Mr. Hannum noted that because Regal Oaks was such a small public sewer system the improper use of several sump pumps could severely negatively impact on sewer flows. He added that there were 132 homes at Regal Oaks, that 75 were presently hooked up to public sewer and that the remaining 57 would be hooked up over the next five years in the latest 537 Plan revision. He added that a small collection system would have to be built when this occurs.

Mr. Hannum stated that H2O “shovel ready” grant applications had been submitted to the State. It was noted that H2O funding award notification would occur by May 14, 2009. He added that the Farmington West Phase 2 project had also been submitted for funding under the H2O program.

Mr. Hannum stated that Consent Decree Agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) had been approved by the Township which established time frames for construction of the Regal Oaks pump station and other sewer projects in the Township.

In response to Mr. O’Brien’s statement that he had recently heard that H2O funding might not be readily available, Mr. Noll inserted that a State Spokesperson had stated at a recent State-wide Township meeting that he attended that H2O funding would be allocated and that over \$600,000 would be awarded.

VI. Old Business

A. Farmington West Project

It was noted that there were four homes remaining to receive public sewer connections under the Farmington West Phase 1 Project. Mr. Layne stated that the Township had reviewed the past SDR-26 pipe utilized for sewer connections and had recommended that the Schedule 40 PVC pipe be authorized. Mr. O’Brien

stated that he did not disagree with this proposed revision as long as it was in compliance with International Plumbing Code. Chairman Bealer stated that Schedule 40 was in compliance with this document. Therefore, Mr. O'Brien moved that the Sewer and Water Committee recommend to the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners that the Township Code of Ordinances be amended to allow for the inclusion of co-extruded composite PVC DWV schedule 40 IPS pipe (solid) as an acceptable material in addition to the currently used SDR-26. Mr. Crock seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

VII. New Business

A. Submittal of H2O and PENNVEST applications

Chairman Bealer stated that discussion on the H2O application had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

It should be noted that the H2O application included a funding request for four sewer projects (i.e., Regal Oaks Pumping Station \$3,025,041, Farmington Avenue West Phase 1 \$874,688, Farmington Avenue West Phase 2 \$1,870,398, Regal Oaks Phase 2 \$1,737,919 and the Regal Oaks Water Project \$2,293,500). The PENNVEST application was recently submitted to the State and it requested funding for the Regal Oaks pump station and Farmington West Phase 2 projects.

B. Joint Ad Hoc Committee meeting with the Borough

Mr. Garner stated that the Township and Borough Authority had continued to have continued productive meetings and cooperation with the Borough.

C. Bill Inquiry

Mr. Noll inquired as to the status of a request submitted by Walter Schaeffer regarding a quarterly sewer bill for \$240. Mr. Layne responded that the Borough had inadvertently distributed a quarterly sewer bill for \$240 and that there should have been two separate bills – one for the \$200 quarterly charge and \$40 for the time period when their home should have been connected to public sewer in July. He added that the Borough stated that they would be providing an explanation to pertinent Township sewer customers.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Crock moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:11 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 5:00 P.M.
Monday, April 27, 2009**