

**UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
SEWER & WATER COMMITTEE MEETING
MARCH 26, 2012**

Committee Members in attendance were Chairman John Bealer, Vice Chairman David Crock, Michael Henzes and Ed O'Brien. Jeffrey Nason was absent. Also in attendance were Mark Fair, Linda Teliha, Casey Trimmer, John Ochraneck, John Welkie, Nora Welkie, Joseph Costira, Terry Costira, Jessica Costira, Mary Ann McCarthy, Township Engineer, Charles Garner, Township Solicitor and Jack Layne, Township Manager.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Bealer called the meeting to order at 5:07 P.M.

II. Approval of Minutes [January 23, 2012]

Mr. O'Brien moved that the January, 2012 meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Henzes seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

III. Reports

A. Engineer's Report

The Committee reviewed and discussed the Engineer's Report that had been provided by Chris Hannum and addressed by Ms. McCarthy in his absence. Ms. McCarthy began her discussion by stating that the permanent meters had been installed. She added that the temporary meters had also been installed in different parts of Farmington Avenue and that these meters would remain in place for an extended period of time. Ms. McCarthy stated that the Act 537 Implementation Schedule was on schedule. She also stated that construction rehabilitation efforts were complete except for the work remaining to be done on the Klinger property. There was discussion by the Committee on the accuracy of the past and present meters. It was noted that the meter readings for the new meters showed a lower usage rate than the past meters with the exception of the Turnberry meter. Ms. McCarthy stated that the high meter reading might have been a result of the flume located in the bottom of the manhole cover area. Mr. O'Brien questioned why a meter was used in this environment that would not work properly. Ms. McCarthy stated that the Borough acknowledged that there was a problem with the meters. Granted that there has been a history of the Township having had problems with meter reading accuracy, Mr. O'Brien suggested that the Township consider having the meters calibrated on a quarterly basis. She added that approximately 15 laterals were noted to have problems in Regal Oaks.

IV. Public Comment

Ms. Teliha stated that Mr. Fair and other neighbors of his residing at 1859, 1873, 1887 and 1913 Farmington Avenue all had failing sewer systems and wanted to be connected to public sewer. Ms. Teliha noted that although up to seven homes might be impacted and would like to connect to public sewer, at least four out of the seven homes located in his area definitely had problems with their septic

systems. It was noted that the closest sewer main to Mr. Fair's home was 700 to 750 feet away from his home which makes it a very expensive project to connect his home and the adjacent homes to public sewer. Chairman Bealer stated that the preferred sewer connection for these homes would be for them to connect to the Berks Montgomery Municipal Authority (BMMA). It was suggested that the Township contact BMMA regarding this matter. Chairman Bealer further suggested that LTL review alternatives and develop costs and options for these residents. Chairman Bealer emphasized that whatever connection options are provided regarding this matter that the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PADEP) would have to approve any proposed sewer connection. Mr. Garner noted that what the residents in this area might ultimately need might be a private and not a public sewer line. Mr. Fair stated that he felt confident that once PADEP was cognizant of the problem that they had that PADEP would allow these residents to connect to public sewer. Mr. Garner reiterated that LTL should review all of the options that the residents would have in this area. Ms. McCarthy stated that the timeframe for these neighbors to connect to public sewer, even if allowed to do so by PADEP, could be up to two years because the Act 537 Plan would have to be amended. Ms. Costira stated that there have been days in their area where you could smell raw sewage. Mr. O'Brien emphasized that it would be important for the County Health Department to document the fact that the septic systems for these homes were failing. Vice Chairman Crock stated that the first and easiest option would be for these residents to tie-into BMMA. Mr. Fair stated that he would be speaking with his contractor regarding this matter. It was suggested that the Township contact PADEP regarding this matter. Mr. O'Brien noted that easements might also be needed. Following additional discussion on this matter, Mr. HENZES moved that the Township request that LTL review the sewer connection options and alternatives for the residents residing at 1859, 1873, 1887 and 1913 Farmington Avenue and that the Township contact BMMA and PADEP regarding this matter and then provide a recommendation to the Board of Commissioners. Vice Chairman Crock seconded this motion. The motion was approved.

V. Updates

No updates were provided.

VI. Old Business

A. Flow Report – Corrective Action Plan (CAP)

Mr. Garner stated that the action items identified in the proposed Corrective Action Plan (CAP) were on schedule. He added that the Township was considering the borrowing of funds to finance this endeavor. Ms. McCarthy noted that the meter readings for Turnberry Farms showed that they spiked in the middle of night, which seemed odd.

VII. New Business

A. Discussion regarding what the Township pays to the Borough of Pottstown

Mr. Layne stated that the cost charged by the Borough was based on the number of EDUs provided by the Borough to the Township. He added that Upper Pottsgrove Township has a larger population than West Pottsgrove but has more EDUs due to their having more commercial properties and therefore pay more to the Borough for sewer usage.

B. Miscellaneous

- Vice Chairman Crock requested that the storm drain located at Concord and Continental be looked at because it was breaking down.
- There was a consensus that the Committee would be addressing Township storm water regulations, issues and concerns as they continue to develop on Federal, State and local levels.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. O'Brien moved that the meeting be adjourned at 6:45 P.M. Vice Chairman Crock 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, May 29, 2012**