

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Monday, June 29, 2015 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Bowman presiding.

CALL TO ORDER: 7:01 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Commissioners BOWMAN, KALINOSKI, ZAPPONE, HECKER
Excused: SPIEGELMAN

Township Manager LEFEVRE
Township Solicitor CLARKE
Township Engineer POWERS
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO
Director of Public Works MICCIOLO
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY

Also Present: Commissioners LUKER, KLINE, SCHREBIER, JONES, SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, MYERS, GILLESPIE

MINUTES: Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2015 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association – Wissahickon Creek TMDL

Mr. Wrigley stated that he, along with Mr. Powers and Manager LeFevre attended several meetings over the last few months in regards to an official proclamation of the EPA to establish total phosphorus limits for wastewater treatment plant and MS4 stormwater programs. These limits are proposed for the Wissahickon as well as for all tributaries, and in Abington, the Sandy Run Creek, so we invited members of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association to further explain the matter to the Board.

Dennis Miranda, Executive Director and Lindsay Blanton, Water Quality Outreach Coordinator of the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association gave a presentation to update the committee on the revised total phosphorus limit of 0.04 ppm proposed by the EPA for the Wissahickon Creek Watershed area including the Sandy Run Creek in Abington Township.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline asked how will this TMDL change affect the upgraded wastewater treatment plant?

Mr. Wrigley replied the limit that the EPA has proposed for the Wissahickon is 0.04 ppm of total phosphorus and the limit for existing permit for orthophosphate is 1.85 and to go as low as 0.04 ppm will be extremely difficult to get to that type of removal. We may need to build more structures, which will be costly, to reduce the phosphorus coming from stormwater entering the creeks, and the discharge pipes exiting the stormwater structures may need their own treatment plants to remove the phosphorus before it enters the creek.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether it is the position of the WVWA to try to get the TMDL level higher?

Mr. Miranda replied the experts stated that the 0.04 ppm limit was not attainable, so we have support for that position. However, the goal is to move the TMDL and MS4 limits in terms of the process by alleviating the burden and spreading the issue equitably across municipalities.

Commissioner Kline asked has officials of the municipalities' expressed concern about the proposed TMDL?

Mr. Miranda replied it is universal that the 0.04 ppm limit is unattainable.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether WVWA is taking the role as an advocate for those municipalities to see a more reasonable TMDL.

Mr. Miranda replied we are part of that stakeholder process and support that effort and we will see to it to produce an equitable balanced approach towards water quality improvement. However, the reality is that all municipalities in the watershed will need to invest in improvements towards water quality.

Commissioner Kline asked has the WVWA been in coordination with the MCPC (Montgomery County Planning Commission) in regards to this matter?

Mr. Miranda replied yes, we have been in contact with Jody Holt of the MCPC.

Mr. Wrigley added that DEP proposed an alternate plan and they asked officials of the municipalities to send a letter to them stating they were interested in further discussions about their plan. Representatives of the EPA listened and were interested in what DEP proposed and they are somewhat onboard with their alternative plan, but DEP wanted municipalities to commit to the next step.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether there was any indication by officials of EPA or DEP as to whether or not they would create some type of funding stream.

Mr. Wrigley replied no.

Commissioner Kline said, so the Township is looking at another unfunded mandate by EPA and/or DEP. Has there been any consideration of what the cost-effect will be for the wastewater treatment plant for this change to be achievable?

Mr. Wrigley replied not at this time, and as of now, this change is not achievable. We can lower the phosphorus, and over the summer, the plant will be inspected in terms of what it is capable of and what the impact will be.

Commissioner Kline questioned whether any other wastewater treatment plants within the Wissahickon watershed can achieve this TMDL limit.

Mr. Wrigley replied no. Our plant is most likely the plant that could come close to it with what we have now.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked about the source of phosphorus.

Mr. Miranda replied phosphorus levels are primarily from stormwater runoff from lawns and driveways that contain manmade chemicals and it also comes from industrial waste.

For Professional Services – EPA’s Wissahickon Creek TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Hecker to authorize the participation and equal sharing of consultant’s fees associated with hiring John Hall Associates to evaluate and prepare a response to EPA’s proposed total phosphorus limit of 0.04 for the Wissahickon Creek Watershed area including the Sandy Run Creek in Abington Township in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00, to be funded from Sewer Operating Retained Earnings.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any comments from Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline clarified that John Hall Associates is not connected with DEP in any way. Is that correct?

Mr. Wrigley replied that is correct. Back in 2006, EPA tried to reduce phosphorus limits, and at that time, John Hall Associates was successful in reducing requirements to those limits. Also, John Hall is the only person with the expertise to successfully argue with EPA officials.

Commissioner Kalinoski commented there are many lawn services in Abington, so how will the issue of phosphorus from chemicals be handled?

Mr. Wrigley replied through education.

Commissioner Jones asked will John Hall's response to EPA consider the financial implications of pursuing a reduction that does not seem feasible as opposed to potentially putting those funds towards alternatives that are more functional.

Mr. Wrigley replied John Hall's immediate scope of work is just to answer technical comments as we are in the public comment phase now until the July 6th deadline.

Commissioner Myers questioned whether John Hall will be able to meet the July 6th deadline.

Manager LeFevre replied he received an email from EPA officials indicating an extended deadline until the end of July.

Commissioner Kline suggested obtaining as much information about the treatment plant as possible as it relates to what limits it realistically can achieve.

Mr. Wrigley replied the first step will be to find out how low we can go and what the impact will be and then determine costs.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments.

Susan Myerov, 2205 Wisteria Avenue, commented that EPA proposed a TMDL to address nutrient pollution in the watershed and most of the watersheds in this region are polluted by sediment and nutrients. The proposed limit is up for public comment in which Mr. Hall will respond to. Also, there has been an offer by DEP to come up with an alternative process in which the WWA is supporting to reduce pollution and that is an obligation for all communities.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that "the entire thing missing here is the source."

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Final Payment for Contract No. 144 – Structural/Mechanical

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to authorize the payment of \$36,972.50 to Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc. as final payment for the Centrifuge Installation contract to be funded from Account No. 02-00-000-7449.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Final Payment for Contract No. 145 – Electrical

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Hecker to authorize the payment of \$10,627.00 to AJM Electric, Inc. as final payment for the Centrifuge Installation contract to be funded from Account No. 02-00-000-7449.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Emergency Repair Storm Sewer System – 900 Block Rydal Road and Penbryn Park Pool House

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve the Engineering Department to hire a contractor to repair the large elliptical metal pipe in the 900 block of Rydal Road and the inlet and pipe in front of Penbryn Park Pool pump house, at a cost not to exceed \$28,350. To be funded from surplus funds from the 2014 Bond Issue.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Purchase (2) Two Chassis for Automated Trash Truck

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to purchase (2) Two Chassis to be used for the Automated Side Loaders at a cost of \$243,000. The funds for these Chassis to be drawn from Refuse Fund Balance.

Mr. Micciolo said the wait time on building the Chassis for these trucks has been running seven to nine months. The trucks ordered for this year will not be delivered until September due the wait for the Chassis. If we order the trucks in July, we should be able to have the new trucks in service by February or March of next year. There are sufficient funds to cover the Chassis in the Fund Balance and these two trucks will keep us on our replacement schedule for next year.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any comments from Commissioners. There were none.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments. There were none.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Expanding our Current Overlay Program

Mr. Micciolo said there should be a motion listed on the agenda to expend \$180,000 to mill various streets in Abington Township with funds to be drawn from Permanent Improvement Fund.

There is a total of 184 miles of Township-owned roadway that Public Works Department maintains. In 2014, \$310,000 was allotted to do normal roadway overlay in the Township using funds from capital.

As a result of the past extreme winter, an additional \$100,000 was allotted to do extensive road patching throughout the Township with funds drawn from Fund Balance.

A chart was presented to the Board showing the number of miles of road paving in the years of 2012, 2013 and 2014. Also, a chart was shown of the number of miles of roadway work that could be done in 2015, if funds are approved.

Commissioner Bowman made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kalinoski to approve an expenditure of \$180,000 to mill various streets in Abington Township with funds to be drawn from Permanent Improvement Fund.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any comments Commissioners.

Commissioner Kline clarified that due to Aqua's responsibility of working on half of the roadway that enables the Township to pave the entire road on some of the larger streets. Is that correct?

Manager LeFevre replied that is correct.

Commissioner Kline asked for a list of the roadways.

Mr. Micciolo replied that list will be included in the Board's packet.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, quoted numbers of roadway that she feels was a reduction over the years.

Commissioner Hecker replied that number of miles shown on the chart were far in-excess of what was quoted by the speaker in terms of actual amount of roadway that was milled and repaved. This work was done in coordination with Aqua and the Public Works Department and a comprehensive presentation was made this evening about why this is a good thing for the Township to do.

Commissioner Kline added that the chart also indicated that the Township leveraged Aqua's milling and repaving work that is done anyhow enabling the Township to repave more miles of roadway.

MOTION was ADOPTED 4-0.

Commissioner Bowman asked for any general comments relating to Public Works.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, asked why a Public Works truck was parked on the Boy Scout Preserve.

Mr. Micciolo replied they maintain a pump station there.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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