

The stated meeting of the Public Works Committee of the Board of Commissioners of the Township of Abington was held on Monday, February 29, 2016 at the Township Administration Building, Abington, PA., with Commissioner Hecker presiding.

**CALL TO ORDER:** 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL:** Present: Commissioners HECKER, FARREN, KLINE, MYERS, ROTHMAN

Township Manager LEFEVRE  
Township Engineer POWERS  
Director of Code Enforcement MATTEO  
Director of Public Works MICCIOLO  
Director of W.W.T.P. WRIGLEY  
Legal Counsel GALLAGHER

Also Present: Commissioners SANCHEZ, MARKMAN, DiPLACIDO, ZAPPONE, GILLESPIE, KALINOSKI, SCHREIBER, SPEIGELMAN

**MINUTES:** Commissioner Sanchez made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Rothman to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2016 Public Works Committee Meeting.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Consent Assessment Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Myers to authorize the acceptance of PaDEP's "Consent Assessment of Civil Penalty" in-lieu-of litigation, for sanitary sewer overflows in 2014 and 2015, including authorizing the payment, not to exceed \$5,800.00 from the Contingency Expense Account No. 02-10-200-5299.

Commissioner Hecker called on Manager LeFevre.

Manager LeFevre said the Township is required to report any sanitary sewer system overflow and breakdown of equipment to DEP. In 2014 and 2015, reported were five overflow events in which the damage was repaired to the system related to those overflows. DEP fines municipalities for overflows and we countered with a proposal of paying a fine in the amount of \$2,500 as opposed to \$5,800; however, the full amount is before the Board for consideration this month because the deadline for approval by DEP is early April.

Commissioner Hecker asked how was the amount of \$2,500 determined?

Manager LeFevre replied Mr. Wrigley determined that the cost of \$500 each for the five overflows is DEP's average fee.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Commissioner Myers commented that many years ago, Twin Brooks had a situation with the pond and was fined by DEP in which we were able to negotiate the fee down. She urged Mr. Wrigley to continue to negotiate the cost of the fine.

Commissioner Rothman asked does DEP need to explain how they came up with that number?

Mr. Wrigley replied they have formulas and calculations to determine their fines.

Commissioner Spiegelman said if DEP accepts \$2,500 or a lower amount, would that come back before the Board or will this motion cover it?

Manager LeFevre replied this motion will cover it; however, if we get an answer before next Thursday's full Board meeting, the exact amount will be listed in the motion.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any public comments.

Lora Lehmann, 1431 Bryant Lane, commented that she feels "overdevelopment causes fewer places for water to be absorbed, so water goes into the sewer system causing overflow of the sewer system costing hundreds of millions of dollars."

Mr. Wrigley replied cleanout pipes are inspected making sure the plugs are not removed.

Commissioner Kline clarified that the overflows were caused by the blockage of heavy cloth rags. Is that correct?

Mr. Wrigley replied that is correct.

Commissioner Myers asked was there an event that cost the several million dollars?

Manager LeFevre replied no.

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Ordinance No. 2116 – Old Welsh Road Sanitary Sewer District and Sewer Assessment

Commissioner Hecker made a MOTION, seconded by Commissioner Kline to advertise Ordinance No. 2116 establishing the Old Welsh Road Sewer District, assessing the branch of sanitary sewers on Old Welsh Road for adoption at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Commissioners on April 14, 2016 at 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any comments from Commissioners or staff.

Mr. Powers explained that the homes on Old Welsh Road are the last ones that do not have sewer service, so this is the process where we go out for bid and the property owners will be assessed for this work being done.

Commissioner Kline commented that our last meeting with the neighbors was held on January 26<sup>th</sup> with 28 homes being affected, and Mr. Powers along with consulting engineers are in the process of putting together draft easements to be sent to each property owner. April 1<sup>st</sup> is when this project will be sent out for bid and residents are aware of the preliminary financial impact.

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

MOTION was ADOPTED 5-0.

Commissioner Hecker asked for any general comments relating to Public Works. There were none.

**ADJOURNMENT:** 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael LeFevre, Township Manager

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