

MINUTES
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 4, 2025

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 7:06pm. Present were Chairman Fanelli, Commissioners Arnold, Baile, Elksnis and Heiland. Also present were WWTP Superintendent Lank, WWTP Asst. Superintendent Kline, Township Manager Sweeney, and Asst. Township Manager Klinefelter. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the January 7, 2025, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

REFUSE AND RECYCLE CONTRACT FUTURE: WWTP Superintendent Lank discussed the Bid Specs that were reviewed by the Commissioners and Township Solicitor. Commissioner Heiland reviewed key points of the bid specs like the tote sizes, billing duties, etc. It is setup to be a 5-year contract with a two year extension option. The Committee recommended putting the bid proposal on the agenda to be approved for advertising.

OAK HILL HERSHEY HEIGHTS PROJECT: Superintendent Lank reported there are two properties that still need to be connected. One has been, sold with an agreement to connect. We received As Built plans for the project and closeout documentation has been completed.

GRANDVIEW ACRES PROJECT: Superintendent Lank reported the project is still 35% complete. They are going to pull the equipment and restart the project once the weather improves.

VAC TRUCK REPLACEMENT: Superintendent Lank reviewed the current Vac Truck that Public Works is using and the status of it. The truck is getting older, and the cost of upkeep is increasing. He is proposing the purchase of a new Vac Truck and committing to the purchase in 2025, as the build-out for a truck is around 18 months and would need to be on the 2026 budget. The estimated cost of the truck is \$500,000. Commissioner Elksnis asked

if the Township would need to pay for the truck while it's being built. Superintendent Lank responded that he is under the assumption that the Township would not need to pay until the truck is received. The current sewer plant vac truck would be given to the Public Works Department. Assistant Manager Klinefelter stated that the LSA grants could potentially pay towards the purchase of this vehicle.

SEWER RATES: Superintendent Lank reviewed the current sewer rates and the potential need to increase the rates. The cost of running the WWTP is increasing and much needed maintenance to the sewer system is continuing. The state may impose PFAS testing to be done which will be an estimate of \$800 per test which would need to happen multiple times each quarter. The Committee reviewed the rates of area municipalities to compare. Commissioner Heiland said it would be nice to see Revenue VS Expense for a span of years for the Sewer to see the increase of expense vs the revenue. Superintendent Lank is going to put together a proposal and will submit it to the Commissioners.

REVIEWING ORDINANCE 836, KEEPING OF CHICKENS: Chairman Fanelli went over the Avian Influenza (Bird Flu) and the possible risk it poses to birds within the Township. Penn Township currently has an Ordinance for the keeping of Chickens by residents. Chairman Fanelli discussed inconsistencies he noticed within the current Ordinance and possible changes that can be made. For example, he proposed a potential expiration for the chicken permits with the need to renew after a period of time. There are also grammar mistakes within the current ordinance. The Committee reviewed the ordinance and the changes that Commissioner Fanelli proposed. The Committee discussed different options of conveying information on the Avian Flu to the current permit holders in the Township.

OTHER MATTERS: Superintendent Lank stated that they received their second NPDES draft permit for the plant and are currently reviewing it for additional comments.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: Wesley Bolish, 5 Winifred Dr, asked for more information regarding the trash bid process. Commissioner Heiland explained that they are currently putting together a bid proposal that will be sent that Haulers can then send their proposals to the Township. The Township will not know of any potential rate increase until proposals are opened. This contract will be moving to the tote system and away from the bags. Wesley also brought up the billing for water and sewer. He does not understand why they are being billed for water that is not going into the sewer system. Currently the sewer billing is done by water meter readings. WWTP Superintendent Lank said that an option is going to a flat rate amount instead of

reading the meters, but there will need to be more review and discussion on the rates going forward.

Lenny Rice, 125 Hirtland Avenue, thanked the Committee for the handling of the Chicken Ordinance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Klinefelter
Township Secretary