

MINUTES  
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE  
JUNE 4, 2024

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. Present were Chairman Berlingo, Commissioners Baile, Brown, Elksnis and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Ledley, WWTP Superintendent Lank, and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Berlingo announced there was an executive session held on Monday, June 3, 2024, following the Penn Township Public Works Committee meeting to discuss personnel matters. She further announced that there will be an executive session following the Finance Committee meeting this evening to discuss personnel matters.

Chairman Berlingo addressed the public in attendance, she reported that currently the public is unable to purchase trash bags at Walmart due to their vendor coding system. As soon as they update their system, we will place a notification on our website. There are several other vendor locations listed on our website where you may purchase the bags.

She announced that Joel Washok from Penn Waste will present alternative trash collection options. She noted that the current contract will remain effective until the end of 2025. The purpose of tonight's meeting is not to make decisions but to explore available options. She emphasized the importance of gathering input from attendees regarding their thoughts on the current trash system and encouraged them to submit their feedback and assist throughout the year.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the May 7, 2024, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS:

Ms. Carolyn Boyle, 605 Hammond Avenue, expressed her support for the current bag system. She believes it is fair because each household pays for the trash they produce, unlike other communities with higher flat fees. She acknowledges that while there are occasional issues with the bags, the system overall is economical and fair.

Mr. Gregory High, Grandview Road, expressed his support for the bag system, emphasizing its cost-effectiveness for smaller households. He prefers paying for bags over a set fee, as it means those producing more trash pay more. Gregory also highlighted his use of the recycling center and noted that while some people do not recycle properly, he finds the current system very economical and effective.

Mr. Bill Hoff, 56 Kaitlyn Drive, also supports the bag system, seeing it as fair and proportional to the amount of trash produced. He compared the system to dining out, where larger groups naturally incur higher costs. Bill believes that any new vendor should maintain a proportional payment system, as a flat fee would unfairly burden those who recycle diligently and produce less waste.

Mr. Chris McClellan, 4249 Grandview Road, voiced an opinion against the current bag system, despite its economic aspect. He finds it inconvenient, especially if running out of bags at the last minute. Mr. McClellan prefers single-stream recycling and curbside yard waste pickup, citing difficulties with current recycling and yard waste disposal methods. He mentioned positive experiences with integrated trash services in Carroll County, where bulk trash and yard waste were handled more efficiently. He is willing to pay more for a more convenient and comprehensive system, including single-stream recycling and yard waste collection.

Ms. Bonnie Stiffler, 30 Wilmar Avenue, expressed support for the current bag system but mentioned an issue with some households not adhering to the rules. She noted that some renters in her neighborhood leave trash bags out for extended periods, possibly using non-Penn Township bags, which causes issues with trash pickup and attracts animals.

REFUSE AND RECYCLE CONTRACT FUTURE WITH PENN WASTE REPRESENTATIVE:

Mr. Joel Washok, representing Penn Waste, began by introducing himself as responsible for municipal contracts across York, Lancaster, Cumberland, and Dauphin counties. He reported the waste industry is moving towards automated collection systems, utilizes mobile carts with automated arms for efficient and safer waste handling to reduce worker compensation claims and enhances collection speed. Mr. Washok stated that Penn Waste offers three cart sizes—96-gallon, 64-gallon, and 35-gallon—for both trash and recycling, accommodating different household needs. He explained that costs for these carts can be structured into the contract rate, depending on the municipality's preferences during bidding. He underscored the flexibility in service levels and billing arrangements, noting that while Penn Waste can handle customer service calls, municipalities often manage billing to avoid complications with delinquent accounts. He confirmed that Penn Waste would continue to provide additional services like bulk item pickups, metal collections, and could add seasonal brush pickups under automated collection models. He addressed questions about potential cost increases, citing CPI adjustments as per contract terms, and explained the intricacies of waste disposal costs impacting future pricing. He stated that there is mandatory participation in trash services under state regulations but noted exceptions for temporary service suspensions. Throughout the discussion, Mr. Washok emphasized Penn Waste's readiness to collaborate with Penn Township to tailor a waste management solution that balances service efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and resident satisfaction. He concluded by offering to provide sample carts for residents to evaluate and reiterated Penn Waste's commitment to supporting a smooth transition to modernized waste management practices.

OAK HILL HERSHEY HEIGHTS PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that there has been only one additional connection made since the last update, leaving seven connections still pending. The county officials engaged with four residents last week to discuss their applications for assistance, aiming to expedite the process which, if all proceeds smoothly, is expected to conclude in approximately two months. One resident is pursuing alternative funding options independently, while the solicitor is actively investigating two properties for potential fines. Additionally, a site inspection revealed that Joao and Bradley, the contractors, have remaining soil restoration tasks, and our team has been addressing water drainage issues in the Hershey Heights area, along with restoring the yard where materials were previously stored.

JANET STREET AND BREEZEWOOD DRIVE SEWER PROJECTS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported the solicitor is reviewing documentation for a pending agreement for the Breezewood Drive property.

FINE SCREEN PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that the manufacturer required us to take one unit completely offline and remove all access panels to capture detailed images of the internal drive system. This action was necessary as part of ensuring the integrity and functionality of our system, as the upgraded parts which will be assembled on-site with materials shipped directly to us, resulting in significant cost savings compared to shipping them to Florida for assembly. The decision was prompted by issues encountered at another plant where similar practices were attempted, revealing significant wear in the underlying mechanism. By inspecting our system's internal drive system, we aim to verify its condition and suitability for retrofitting. Thus far, the manufacturer has expressed satisfaction with our progress, indicating that we remain on track with our objectives.

NPDES PLANT PERMIT UPDATE: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that our plant's permit expired on June 30th, 2022, and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) typically takes several years to issue a new one, often spanning two to five years due to data analysis and EPA-driven regulatory changes. Recently, DEP issued a comment letter proposing new limits and chemicals for monitoring. We have requested the opportunity to conduct additional testing to demonstrate compliance and show that we currently have no issues with these pollutants. We are collaborating with GHD to review the data, and initial findings suggest promising prospects for potentially reducing some of our monitoring limits.

OTHER MATTERS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported they recently received radios from the police department, as they upgraded to a new system. They have conducted tests and found that these units provide communication in areas where even cell phones have limited reception, such as Codorus's pump station. Our maintenance mechanic, was able to communicate with Superintendent Lank from inside the pump station underground to his desk, enhancing safety protocols significantly. This capability has proven crucial during alarm calls, ensuring prompt responses and the well-being of personnel. Looking ahead, discussions with the fire chief have indicated a need for additional units as they transition to newer models. Public Works has expressed a requirement for about half a dozen more units, and we are also considering additional units for flexibility in operations.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Carolyn Boyle, 605 Hammond Avenue, raised concerns about the spatial requirements for the mobile cart and its maneuverability in cul-de-sacs with parking on both sides. Mr. Washock responded to her, suggesting that the cart needs at least two feet of clearance on either side to operate safely without obstructions. He then added that crews relocate the cart to a secure area if necessary to use the arm safely, avoiding any potential damage or obstruction. Another topic addressed was the handling of yard waste, with a suggestion that utilizing H&H for free disposal rather than hiring external services could be a cost-effective solution, particularly since

H&H currently accepts yard waste at no charge. She also mentioned utilizing the hazardous waste disposal opportunity at York County, which was well-received and appreciated.

Lenny Rice, 125 Hirtland Avenue suggested a visual demonstration of Penn Township bags next to the toters for better estimation of capacity. He expressed interest in understanding how many bags could fit into different sizes—specifically the 96-gallon compared to the 64-gallon and others. He inquired about potential price variations based on size, assuming smaller sizes would cost less, though acknowledging it would depend on bidding outcomes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney  
Township Secretary