

MINUTES
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2020

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 8:55 p.m. following the Finance Committee meetings. Present were Chairman Elksnis, Commissioners; Brown, Cromer, Heiland and Van de Castle. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, WWTP Superintendent Mahone and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the August 4, 2020 Health and Sanitation Committee meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: None.

OAKHILL HERSHEY HEIGHTS SEWER PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported that work continues to acquire the easements for the project. On August 5, the Township Manager sent a letter to DEP requesting a five-year extension on the completion of the project due to the impact of COVID, to date no response has been received. On August 19, 2020, the township received a list of projects that were approved for the round of the H2O grant program, and unfortunately, the township was not approved for any funds through this grant.

MULLERTOWN SMOKE TESTING: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported that on August 24, 2020 letters of notification were mailed to the residents in the Mullertown area explaining the upcoming project. The contractor (Utility Services Group, Inc.) (USG) will also be notifying the resident one week prior to the start of the work. The project is currently scheduled to begin on September 21, 2020.

CENTER STREET STREAMBANK RESTORATION: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported on August 20, 2020 the Township met on site with ARRC to discuss the start of this project. Discussions were on the type of materials to be used, procedures for the placement of materials, the E&S plan and make the necessary notifications within the next 2-3 weeks. The township has ordered geotextile fabric and silt bags for the project.

SHREDDING EVENT: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported the next shredding event is scheduled for October 17, 2020 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be some new limitations and requirements for this event. There will be a requirement to show proof that you live in the Township and there will be a 5-file box limit on what will be accepted.

NEWSLETTER: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported the Newsletter proof has been approved and the newsletter should be delivered the week of September 21, 2020.

PROPOSED CHICKEN ORDINANCE: Commissioner Elksnis opened the floor for discussion on the proposed chicken ordinance. Commissioner Heiland reported this is a popular question that he has been asked by several residents. Commissioner Heiland stated that the ordinance is not specific to lot size. Manager Rodger stated that section 2, item 4C should address that issue as it states tract of land contain a single or two-family dwelling only. Commissioner Brown questioned the severity of the penalties for violations of the ordinance. The committee agreed to remove the penalty of imprisonment, and recommended adopting the ordinance.

2021 BUDGET REVIEW: WWTP Superintendent Mahone reported on the Sewer Revenue Fund. He reported he is anticipating on a cash carryover of \$2,105,000, an increase in sewer rents, and a \$3,200,000 carryover for the Oakhills/Hershey Heights Construction project, with an estimated total revenue receipts of \$10,290,651. Superintendent Mahone reported on Sewer Expenditures. The budget includes increases in wages for the AFSCME employees and social security taxes. An increase cost of chemicals, along with vehicle operating expenses. The cost of engineering services has decreased due to the cost being built into capital outlay. Insurance has increased by about 2.6%. Capital Outlay cost of \$3,850,000, which includes easement acquisition for Oakhill/Hershey Heights, as well as installation and construction inspection of the sewer system, elimination of Janet Street Pumping Station and the elimination of the Breezewood Drive Pumping Station. Commissioner Heiland questioned if the elimination of the pumping stations had to happen next year, or could the project be moved out further. Superintendent Mahone reported that the project could be pushed out, but suggested that the design and the easements should be obtained. Commissioner Elksnis asked if they needed to be removed or can they be repaired. Superintendent Mahone stated that they are small stations, and it is getting to the point mechanicals will need to be replaced, he added that in the long run it is more beneficial to have the stations removed. Commissioner Elksnis asked if one station was more urgent than the other, Superintendent Mahone indicated that Janet Street should take precedence. Commissioner Heiland questioned why is there a decrease projected to actual wages. Superintendent Mahone reported that he included costs to hire a maintenance mechanic II. He added he would like to get someone on board to obtain experience due to possible retirements in the near future. Superintendent Mahone reported that the overall increases were at about a 2.1% at \$10,290,651. Superintendent Mahone next reported on the budget for solid waste, starting with the revenue including the sale of the refuse bags, bins, recyclable materials, he is projecting a 10.87% increase in revenues at \$1,198,800. He stated that there is a possibility that the \$74,000 904 Performance Grant may show up this year, then the funds would be carried over to next year. There were increases in expenses, due to wages, pensions and insurances. The decrease in refuse expenses was due to the bags being bid for two years in 2020 and they will not need to be bid in 2021. There was a decrease in General Expense; in 2020 budget the amount was increased due to the anticipation of having to pay to have the recyclables hauled away, this never occurred. Superintendent Mahone reported a decrease in expenses of 6.9% at \$1,094,300. The committee will review further.

OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Elksnis reported he discussed the issue of the brown water at the municipal building with WWTP Superintendent Mahone, and his suggestion was to flush the pipes on a regular basis. The building was a school in the past, and plumbing is not being used currently as it was in the past, so the water is sitting in the pipes too long, he also suggested the hot water should be flushed as well.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE: None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney
Township Secretary