

MINUTES
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, November 7, 2023, at 7:18 p.m., following the Finance Committee Meeting. Present were Chairman Berlingo, Commissioners Black, Brown, Elksnis and Heiland. Also present were Manager Ledley, WWTP Superintendent Lank and Township Secretary Sweeney. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the October 3, 2023, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

OAK HILL HERSHEY HEIGHTS PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank has informed us that several residents have successfully connected to the new system, and ongoing work is in progress. The closure of Conewago's contract is anticipated to occur very soon. However, PSI still has some outstanding tasks that need completion. Last Thursday, our staff, along with GHD, conducted a walk-through to assess the progress of Joao & Bradley's restoration. The current state is significantly improved, but a conclusive evaluation may only be possible in the spring.

JANET STREET AND BREEZEWOOD DRIVE SEWER PROJECTS: WWTP Superintendent Lank has provided an update that the lateral connection for Bon Ton is scheduled for completion this week. This marks the final connection to be removed from the Janet Street Pump Station. In the subsequent steps, we plan to proceed with shutting off the power, removing the mechanical components, and initiating the station's demolition in December.

The Breezewood Project is set to resume in December, with the aim of achieving completion by the year's end.

GRANDVIEW ACRES PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that the Township is awaiting the finalized prints before proceeding.

SHREDDING EVENT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that the shredding event was successful, albeit with a slightly lower turnout than usual. The event saw 154 vehicles, contributing a total of 8,800 pounds of material for shredding. He extended his gratitude to the Commissioners for generously volunteering their time for the event.

DISCUSS AMENDING THE SEWER ORDINANCE: Chairman Berlingo conveyed that the committee is currently collaborating with the solicitor to determine the appropriate course of action moving forward.

OTHER MATTERS: WWTP Superintendent Lank has reported that Synagro serves as our sludge hauler and is responsible for disposal as per the contract, they are instituting a 3% increase,

based on the current Consumer Price Index (CPI). Given that last year's CPI was 7%, this increase appears to be quite reasonable.

Superintendent Lank successfully sold all of our Phosphorus credits to another municipality, totaling 1,214 credits sold at \$3.00 each, resulting in \$3,642.00. Unfortunately, there has been no success in selling nitrogen credits, as they appear to be abundant this year.

Upon receiving the UTZ flows for October, Superintendent Lank identified a total solids violation on October 5th. He promptly issued a notice of violation, marking a considerable duration since the last violation was issued.

Last week, Township employees, including those from wastewater, administration, recycling, and public works, underwent CPR and AED training over two days.

A new flammable cabinet has been procured for the plant to house all fuel cans, alongside the acquisition of two handheld gas detection meters for use in confined spaces. These specific units were chosen because the fire company can calibrate them for us. One meter is designated for the plant, while the other is intended for the sewer and highway crews.

DEP approval has been obtained for Treehouse Foods to proceed with the installation of a new discharge line accommodating 3,900 gallons per day (gpd) of flow.

Superintendent Lank expressed the desire to move forward with advertising for the trash bag bid, as the production process is expected to take several months.

The old recycle box truck has been taken to the scrap yard for disposal, and a check for \$593.65 is anticipated as reimbursement.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were several residents in attendance to discuss the Oak Hill/Hershey Heights Sewer Installation project.

Ms. Jennifer Jones, 210 Oak Hill Circle, inquired about the status of the sewer meters and sought clarification on how residents would be notified. Commissioner Berlingo assured her that updates would be posted on the website. Ms. Jones also mentioned calling the office to inquire about the possibility of paying her connection fee with a credit card. Commissioner Berlingo responded that they would investigate the matter. Superintendent Lank added that if online credit card payment is feasible, there would be a \$3 fee per \$100 for this service.

Mr. Jack Corriere, 114 Oak Hill Drive, inquired about any ongoing discussions regarding the possibility for Township residents departing for an extended period to be exempt from paying their utility bills. He used the trash bag service as an example, suggesting that a similar approach, paying for what is used, should be considered for sewer services as well.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. Sweeney, Township Secretary