

MINUTES
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
February 3, 2026

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, at 7:03 pm. Present were Chairman Arnold, Commissioners Heiland, Baile, Elksnis, and Rice. Also present were WWTP Superintendent Lank, Township Manager Sweeney, and Assistant Township Manager Klinefelter. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the January 6, 2026, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

TIMBER LANE UPDATE: No further work has been completed due to the weather. There is approximately 150 feet of line remaining to be replaced.

DISCUSS SEWER RATES: WWTP Superintendent Lank reviewed that the Township started these discussions last February and continued up until July, when it was decided to wait and see how the 2025 income versus expenses were looking. Last month, Superintendent Lank gave an overview of the last rate increases along with some overview of how the expenses have been in comparison to the last rate increase. When the Township tabled the discussions in June, the Commissioners had settled on an increase of \$11.00 additional to the base rate, putting it at \$66.00 for up to 7,000 gallons. It was also discussed that to increase the cost of every 1,000 gallons over the 7,000 would go up \$1.00, to \$7.00. There was also a proposed increase to the flat rate customers, which do not have city water or a meter to \$94.00, a \$3.00 increase. The amount that the flat rate customers pay is closer to where we should be based on the rate of inflation. The \$11.00 increase to the base rate would yield an estimated \$325,000 per year, and for 2025 we expended more than \$700,000 dollars than we collected. Superintendent Lank stated his opinion is the Township should wait to increase the flat rate customers until the next round of increases. Most of the people on well water are usually much more conservative with their water use than someone on city water, and they are paying an amount that is close to where the rate should be at. There are 162 accounts that pay for the flat rate, which is approximately 2% of our total billing. Last year the Township progressed to the point that the Solicitor had completed a draft ordinance for the proposed increases. It would not take much effort to make a few changes to get it completed and it already calls for it to start with the October billing for quarterly readings that end in August.

Just as a comparison, Superintendent Lank said he was paying \$125.00 per quarter flat rate and just increased to \$145.00 per quarter. Assistant Township Manager Klinefelter stated that Spring Grove Borough is increasing their Sewer rate to \$229.00 a quarter flat rate. A discussion ensued, determining that further data is needed to determine the proper rate increase. The Committee discussed when and how the public should be notified of any potential rate increase.

OTHER MATTERS: Commissioner Heiland asked how many trash bags were left and should the Township sell them to the residents. Superintendent Lank estimated the number of bags remaining to be 81,000. The Commissioners agreed to hold off on selling these until later in the future.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS: There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Klinefelter
Township Secretary