

Union Township Board of Supervisors
Workshop – Engineering Act 537 Updates - Sewerage Issues
July 11, 2016

The Board of Supervisors Workshop on sewerage was called to order by Chairperson Larry Spahr at 6:10 p.m. The meeting was held at the Union Township Municipal Building, 3904 Finleyville-Elrama Road, Finleyville, PA. The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Board Members in Attendance by roll call were Larry Spahr, Charles Trax, Paul Chasko, Heather Daerr, and Deborah Sargent. Also in attendance, Debra Nigon–Secretary, Mr. James Harshman–Township Engineer and several individuals from his office.

Mr. Harshman reviewed with the Board the list of documents which may possibly need to be requested which he prepared from copies of the KLH Invoices that were supplied to him by the office for this purpose. Some of the projects are completed, thus no documents are necessary. There was an Act 537 Site Map that he would like a copy of as well as a letter to Union Gardens dated August 31, 2015 which had something to do with a revised E&S plan and revised storm water plan.

Mr. Harshman and members of his team moved a table up in front of the Board table and Mr. Harshman invited the Board members and Road Superintendent to take seats around the table along with the various engineers from his firm to review the sewer routing concept drawings which had been prepared for the Workshop.

James Harshman suggested to the Board that they incorporate the areas where there are malfunctions and sewage issues together into the Act 537 plan so that there is no duplication of effort and costs. It was noted that, in regard to the Mingo Circle and Finleyville-Elrama Road areas, PCSA has no interest in having these customers since it is out of their watershed, especially since there are customers that are in their own watershed which are not yet sewered. However, due to the holding tank and malfunction issues experienced by these customers, Mr. Kovach understands that the Township may have no choice since the septic malfunctions and holding tank issues must be addressed. Mr. Harshman explained that, in order to better obtain grant funding, the Township would want to have their Act 537 plan approved, with another item for consideration being becoming “shovel ready” which means having the permits in place. There were financial sheets prepared by his office for all three problem areas: Overlook Street area, the Mingo Circle Area, and the unsewered Finleyville-Elrama Road area. All of the funding in these financial sheets for all three projects is dependent on grant money being received. Also, the financial scenarios involve a significant contribution by the Township. All three financial scenarios detail a combination of Township contribution, loan, and customer payments. In regard to the loan portion, Mr. Harshman also said that, right now there is very little difference between bond issue rates which are at around 3% and PennVest rates.

First they reviewed the Mingo Circle Act 537 plan update. The cost of the project is almost \$21,000 per home. With the Township contribution and financing, it would put the average homeowner at approximately \$100 per month. The plan is a gravity/pressure system combination. There would be a lot of grinder pumps involved in the project as a gravity alone

solution would cause the design of the pipes to zig zag all over the property owned by residents. The plan is a bare minimum to fix the problem, but it is expandable. The pump stations are expandable. When the system is in and done, it should be owned and operated by the authority. The Township will be responsible until the debt is paid off.

In regard to the Overlook Street sewerage project, the plan has stayed the same since planned by KLH. The price is approximately \$19,000 per home. The average homeowner would be at \$80 per month. There are 26 EDU's in the intermunicipal agreement but that includes one vacant lot which was left out of the plan for now.

~~In regard to Finleyville-Elrama Road Sewerage, the cost is about \$15,000 per home without a lift station and \$22,000 per home with a lift station. Customers are looking at \$100 per month. The pressure main ties into the road. A grinder pump is located at each property, but eventually they will max out on grinder pumps. System is not expandable. The plan is a combination of gravity and lift station. The lift station would be on the Township's Nike site property. Mr. Spahr said that the by-laws of the sewage authority may say no lift stations as it used to be in the PCSA by-laws unless they were changed. The design would be gravity to the lift station. From the lift station it would then be pumped up the hill.~~

~~In regard to all three plans discussed, the next steps would be development by the engineer of a Task Activity Report. Approval of the cost estimate to do the Act 537 Plan would be necessary for Harshman CE Group to proceed. The DEP approves or not the Act 537 plan and will reimburse the Township at 50% when the plan is done.~~

In regard to the Finleyville-Elrama Road Sewerage design and financing, the cost is about \$15,000 per home for the first alternative and \$22,000 per home for the second alternative. The \$15,000 per home option, which would run about \$100 per customer, includes a pressure main tied into the road and a grinder pump at each property. This plan is not expandable as eventually they will max out on grinder pumps. The alternative plan, a combination of gravity and a lift station, would not be as limiting and is recommended. The alternative requires construction of a pump station along with one gravity sewer line and one force main. According to the concept design, the lift station would be on the Township's Nike site property. The sewage would be pumped back up the hill at the lift station. Mr. Spahr said that the by-laws of the sewage authority may prohibit lift stations as this language used to be in the PCSA by-laws unless they were changed.

In regard to all three plans discussed, the next steps would be development by the engineer of a Task Activity Report which will generate the cost estimates for the Act 537 Plan Revisions. Approval of the cost estimate to do the Act 537 Plan Revisions would be necessary for Harshman CE Group to proceed. Once the DEP approves the Act 537 Plan, they will reimburse the Township at 50% of Act 537 planning costs.


Debra A. Nigon, Secretary