

April 25, 2013
Scotland, PA 17254
Public Hearing

The Greene Township Board of Supervisors held a Public Hearing on Thursday, April 25, 2013, at the Township Municipal Building, 1145 Garver Lane, Scotland, PA. This Public Hearing was held to gain public input regarding the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update.

Present:

Charles D. Jamison, Jr.
Todd E. Burns
Travis L. Brookens

Daniel Bachman
Gregory Lambert
Gina Griffith
Welton J. Fischer

Visitors: See list

The Chairman called the Public Hearing to order at approximately 7:00 P. M.

The Township Engineer explained that the state requires every municipality to prepare an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan. The Township completed this plan in the 1970's under the Clean Water Bill. This plan governs and plans for all the sanitary sewage that is generated within the Township, including public sewer which serves 80% of the Township. The Plan also governs on-lot systems and the sewage treatment plant at Letterkenny Industrial Authority. The last update to this plan was submitted in 2008. In the fall of 2009 a series of unusual storms occurred and it was evident that the collection system was not performing properly. DEP recognized this and required the Township to prepare a Corrective Action Plan which was submitted in the fall of 2009. This delayed the work on the Act 537 Plan Update. In 2010 we were hit with another series of bad storms which identified the Fayetteville area as a problem area. As part of the Corrective Action Plan, this forced us to complete our plan update and to identify the problem areas and what would be done to solve the problems. In 2011 the Authority engaged Gannett Flemming who modeled the entire system and identified the deficiencies and how to correct them. Gannett Flemming has prepared a plan update which has been available at the Township and the Authority for the past 45 days for the public to view. It has been submitted to the neighboring Townships and the Franklin County Planning Commission. Comments have been received back from Chambersburg Borough as well as Guilford Township and the Guilford Township Authority. The Franklin County Planning Commission had no comments. The update has also been presented to the Planning Commission who recommended that the Supervisors enact this Resolution.

Dwayne Delgrande of the Greene Township Municipal Authority stated that the first aspect of this plan is rebuilding the Fayetteville interceptor. Environmental studies required by DEP and the EPA will begin in May. The next step will be preparing "in-house" drawings over the summer which Gannett Flemming will assist with. An archeological study will be completed as well. Over the next two or three years construction activity will then begin on the Fayetteville interceptor. He explained that following that phase of the improvements, monitoring will begin on various flows and different drainage basins in order to determine

which one of the drainage sub-basins to repair first. He explained that this will be an on-going process for many years to come. Mr. Delgrande stated that they have invested in the best flow meters that money can buy in order to get good data. This data shows that the sewers are hydraulically overloaded. The Authority recently took on a substantial amount of debt to pay for this and a new treatment plant in Chambersburg. He explained that these repairs will be made substantially with tapping fees from any new development that would occur in the Township. The plan will be submitted next week and they will again negotiate with DEP for another round of taps.

Mr. Malarich with Gannett Flemming stated that the steps to this process are spelled out in the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act 537 and the responsibility for planning is placed on the municipality. The planning can be designated to the Authority but it is the Township's responsibility to take action to adopt the plan. The requirements are that the plan be prepared and provided to the public through a 30 day public comment period. It also requires that other municipalities within the system are provided copies. Both of these requirements have been completed, so the only remaining requirement for the Township is to consider the plan through an adoption process specified by Act 537 and adopt the Resolution.

Rich Leatham with S&A Homes addressed the Board and asked if there will be negotiations with DEP on the amount of additional connections released after the plan is submitted. He stated that it's been at a standstill since June of last year and typically they have only been releasing 10 taps every six months.

Dwayne Delgrande stated that he does not know how the negotiations with DEP will go, but the moratorium will have to be lifted, to what degree remains to be seen. The fact that the Township has adopted this plan, the Authority has taken on a substantial amount of debt, and there is a legally binding covenant to make improvements, he thinks things will be different from now on. He stated that the Authority has made a lot of progress in identifying the problems and is committed to solving them. Supervisor Burns asked for a brief outline of the next steps of the corrective action plan and the status of the interceptor upgrade after the adoption of the plan. Mr. Delgrande stated that the schedule within the plan itself outlines that information. This will be initiated in the month of May and he will begin the drawings this summer in order to get this project designed and built.

Michael Brown stated that the due date for this amendment is May 12th and DEP has a review period to formally approve it. There are time sensitive environmental assessments that need to be made during certain times of the year, which is why it's important to do this now. The immediate step after receiving the formal approval by DEP is the Fayetteville interceptor project along with continued investigation further identifying the other issues. He stated that this won't resolve all of the problems, but it will address an immediate need. Phase II would be prioritizing basins in terms of trying to reduce the amount of inflow from rainfall events that is entering the system, which is more of a several year task.

The Engineer stated that DEP does not want the Authority to concentrate solely on phase I. They want them to continue finding and working on other fixes within the system concurrently while working on phase I.

The Chairman noted that another leak was recently found in the system which is estimated to be around 25,000 gallons per day and this will need to be corrected in the very near future. He asked if there has been enough metering at this point to go in to design if DEP approves the plan. Mr. Delgrande stated that there are many facets to the metering, and we will probably end up improving the metering in some places, but there is enough data to design the interceptor. He explained that there are some meters that are wearing out and will need to be replaced. Supervisor Brookens asked if the release of taps would happen closer to the submittal or closer to the end of the review period. Mr. Delgrande stated that he has been told repeatedly the release will be in the month of May. The Chairman asked if DEP has committed as to how many taps would be released and Mr. Delgrande stated that they never do, it's subjective. The Solicitor asked if when referring to basins and sub-basins, if that means collection areas? Mr. Delgrande answered yes.

There were no further comments offered by either those in attendance or by any Board Member.

Following review and consideration, on a motion by Todd E. Burns, seconded by Travis L. Brookens, and by a vote of 3-0, the Board unanimously voted to adopt Township ***Resolution No. 2013-16***, the Act 537 Plan update as presented.

There being no further business before the Board regarding this Public Hearing, the Chairman adjourned at approximately 7:24 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Assistant Secretary