

October 21, 2014

The Strasburg Township Board of Supervisors held a special meeting on Tuesday, October 21, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. at the Refton Community Fire Company, 99 Church Street, Refton. Present were: Peggy Dearolf, Michael Weaver and Thomas Willig; Administrator Mark Deimler; Solicitor Josele Cleary; Josh Fox, HRG; Tom Whitehill, Whitehill Consulting.

Guests: State Representative Keith Greiner, R. Dale Winters, Chris and Chritine Peterson, Julie and Landis Hersh, Helen Long, John and Sandy Derr, Darlene Greist, Cathy Welk, Kevin Kelly, Phylis Wells, Bob and Darlene Devonshire, Duane Martin, Ken and Jodi Harnish, Evan Raeburn, Allen Gruver, Anna Kuhns, Gladys Bert, Jon Kaiser, Alan Eshleman, Kevin and Christy Peters, Lloyd and Lois Mellinger, Travis Dombach, Jacob Thompson, John Harnish, Mike Kuhns, Wayns Sauder, Deirdre Dunn, Josh Lingle, Elvin Horst, John Eichelberger, Jr., Richard Lefever, Ron Pennington, James Glessner, Solomon Yoder, Ron Breckbill, Jim Steinman, Shirley Shank, Willie Mellinger, Jens Louv.

Willig welcomed all in attendance and introduced the panel and Representative Greiner.

Deimler, Fox and Whitehill gave a history of the project from the 1998 DEP directive to update the Township's Act 537 plan to the DEP present mandate to construct a waste water treatment facility to serve the area. They also stated the Townships intention to own and maintain the individual grinder pumps rather than have the property owners assume that burden.

Fox and Cleary presented information pertaining to the funding through PennVEST and its requirement for mandatory connection to the system to ensure its viability. The Township received \$1,600,000.00 in grant money and a \$1,400,000.00 30-year loan at 1%. They also stated the Township's need to acquire easements and rights-of-way to install the main lines and grinder pumps. Grinder pump agreements will be necessary as well to allow the Township access to the pumps for repairs. There will be another meeting before the end of the year for property owners to sign and notarize the agreements. Any property owner who refuses to sign an agreement will force the Township to exert eminent domain to take possession of the right-of-way therefore increasing the overall cost of the project. These points answered questions from the audience.

Whitehill and Fox gave a brief description of the treatment facility and its construction. The facility will be fairly invisible with little to no odor. There is limited ability for expansion to accommodate current empty lots in the service area and will not support additional development. Lateral boring will be used as much as possible to limit noise and earth disturbance. Overall water quality should improve over the first 2-3 years of operation as nitrates and seepage are removed from the soil. These points answered questions from the audience.

Fox presented the estimated costs and fees. The estimated project cost is \$2,800,000.00. The estimated user fees are a \$3500.00 tapping fee which will go directly toward the debt service and an \$83.65 monthly flat fee which goes jointly toward the debt service and accruing a fund for the maintenance and operation of the facility. The estimated annual maintenance cost for the facility is \$65,000.00. Property owners are responsible for the cost of connection from their house to the main line and abandonment of their septic system. Those arrangements are their responsibility. Actual costs will not be known until project bids come in with the final total cost for construction next spring. These points answered questions from the audience.

All of the presenters stressed the diligent work done by the Refton Sewer Committee, Township staff and Board of Supervisors to acquire adequate funding, keep costs down and select the best system to serve the area.

Willig thanked Senator Smucker and State Representatives Cutler and Greiner for their assistance in obtaining funding for the project.

Deimler stated the USDA has assistance for low income families and senior citizens to manage the tapping and connection costs. The forms will be available at the Township office.

All in attendance were invited to stay and look at a service area map provided by Fox to see the final location of the main lines and their proximity to individual properties and to ask any additional questions they may have of the panel.

There being no further business before the Board, the Supervisors adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Judith G. Willig
Township Secretary