

MINUTES
HEALTH & SANITATION COMMITTEE
JANUARY 3, 2023

The Penn Township Health and Sanitation Committee convened on Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 6:30 p.m., following the Public Works Committee Meeting. Present were Chairman Berlingo, Commissioners Allison, Brown, Elksnis and Heiland. Also present were Township Manager Rodgers, Police Chief Hettinger, WWTP Superintendent Lank, Township Engineer Bortner, and Township Secretary Sweeney. Fire Chief Clouser arrived approximately 7:15 p.m. The following items were discussed:

ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the December 6, 2022, Health and Sanitation Committee Meeting were approved as submitted.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS: There were none.

OAK HILL HERSHEY HEIGHTS PROJECT: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported Joao & Bradley had to be contacted due to a sinkhole forming around a manhole that is located at 2221 Broadway in close proximity to the property owner's driveway. They will need follow-up in the spring when they complete the punch list.

JANET STREET AND BREEZEWOOD DRIVE SEWER PROJECTS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that he had nothing to report since last month, the Township is still waiting for supplies for Breezewood Drive.

NPDES PLANT PERMIT UPDATE: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported the permit application was submitted last December and the permit expired June 30th of 2022. This is not uncommon; it can sometimes take years to get a new permit issued and you just continue to operate under the old one. DEP sent the Township a letter of deficiency on December 2nd, which contained a list of items that needed follow-up or additional information. The response was sent on December 27th by GHD, our engineer, because our response was due within thirty days of the letter.

OTHER MATTERS: WWTP Superintendent Lank reported a notice was received from the Public Utility Commission, who manages the One Call System. They were requesting an Alleged Violation Report concerning an incident that occurred on June 3rd, 2022, where the contractor hit an underground electric line. He reported we had no details in house, but our engineer GHD had an inspector on site during the event, he filled out the requested report and included the Inspectors notes on the event.

Commissioner Elksnis asked for an update on the new televising system. WWTP Superintendent Lank reported that a new camera rig was purchased, replacing the very

old, outdated rig. They were able to trade the old van for \$33,000. The van is currently getting outfitted with camera equipment, the estimated date of delivery is April of 2023.

Chairman Berlingo addressed the citizens in attendance. She stated the Penn Township refuse bag increase occurred on January 1, 2023. The bags increased from \$4 to \$6 and was voted on by the Board of Commissioners on December 19, 2022. The increase is directly related to Penn Waste increasing cost for the collection of the bags. In 2022 the cost was \$2.37 to collect the bag. The cost has increased to \$4.24 for 2023, \$4.49 for 2024, and \$4.76 for 2025. The cost of fuel and services continues to increase, which affects our cost for bag collection but also the cost for curbside recyclables collection, and bulk item pick up. The rate of disposing of the trash has increased as well.

WWTP Superintendent Lank reported the benefits of the pay as you throw trash disposal system. This system encourages recycling, the more you recycle, the less trash you have. Other costs that go into the bag include tipping fee, recycling center, electronic recycling, metal and bulk item pick up, brush and limb collection, and shredding events. The Board has investigated other systems, and the pay as you throw is the most economical.

CITIZEN'S QUESTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE REGARDING DISCUSSION ITEMS:

There were several citizens in attendance and asked questions, had comments regarding the cost of refuse bags. Those residents were: Shane Snyder, 146 Mussetta Street; Theresa Bocklage, 213 Jasmine Drive; Rebecca Jacoby, 5 Timber Lane; Alec Paul, 1242 Brian Lane; Robert Gunnarsson, 48 Cardinal Drive; Leonard Rice, 125 Hirtland Avenue; Gail Larman, 8 Heights Avenue; Gina De Maria, 8 Meadowview Drive; Brooks DeAdder; 30 Kaitlyn Drive; Troy Thomason, 115 Little John Court. Questions and Comments were addressed by the Committee members.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Sweeney,
Township Secretary