

NORTH EAST TOWNSHIP WATER/SEWER AUTHORITY MEETING

April 25, 2016

7:00 PM

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Dave Montgomery at 7:22 p.m. In attendance were Teresa Sculley, Bill Heald, Bob Brown, Gordy Post, Julia Gorniak, Tom Lowes, Attorney Robert Jeffery, and Deb Miller.

In attendance from the public was Peter Hess.

Chairman Montgomery asked for comments from the public.

Peter Hess, who owns three subdivided lots on the northwest corner of Findley Lake Road (Grahamville Street), inquired about the possibility of public sewer being installed. The three lots have perked and have been approved for septic. His concern is that if homes are built and have approved septic systems, if public sewer is installed then those homeowners would have to hook in to the public sewer. He is hoping that by speaking with the Board, his fears would be lessened. The last sewer manhole is located on Loomis Street, approximately 600' from his property.

Erie Power Holding owns the property located directly behind Mr. Hess' property. There is a 50' buffer, which is zoned residential, between their property and Mr. Hess' property. There is vacant land across the street and east of Mr. Hess' property that came into question as to whether it could be developed.

Gordy Post stated that if Mr. Hess builds homes with septic systems and future development results in public sewer being installed, then those homes with septic systems would be required to hook up. It is probably a remote possibility of that happening as it would be very expensive to install public sewer.

The concept of using a small grinder to pump into the existing sewer was mentioned. The issue with that setup would be the upkeep, electricity, longevity, and responsible party of the system.

After discussion, the Board was unable to give Mr. Hess an exact answer to his question.

Mr. Hess also inquired about the water services available for those three lots. He was under the impression that the water line was on the north side of Grahamville Street and then cut across the street to the south side. He was concerned that one lot was not going to have water available. Chairman Montgomery stated that the water runs in front of all three lots on the same side of the road. Mr. Hess asked about the cost to hook into the city water. Currently the Borough assesses a tap fee of \$910 and the Township's tap fee is \$800 plus parts (approximately \$500). The Township's tap fees are currently under review and will probably be increasing.

With all public comments addressed, Chairman Montgomery asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2016 meeting. Bill Heald made the motion to accept the minutes with a second from Julia Gorniak. All in favor, motion passed.

The nomination of Secretary was revisited. Chairman Montgomery opened the floor for nominations. Present Secretary, Bob Brown, no longer wants to hold the position. A nomination for Teresa Sculley was made for which she declined. Gordy Post made the motion to nominate Bill Heald who accepted the nomination. At this time, there were no more nominations. Teresa Sculley made the second to nominate Bill Heald. All in favor, motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The auditing firm, Felix & Gloekler, P.C., submitted their engagement letter to be signed by Chairman Montgomery. Gordy Post made the motion to have Dave Montgomery sign the letter with a second from Bill Heald. All in favor, motion passed.

ITEMS FOR BOARD ACTION:

At this time, Chairman Montgomery asked for a motion to approve bills as presented (see attached). Gordy Post made the motion to approve all bills, with the second from Bill Heald. All in favor, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Attorney Jeffery advised the Board that they will have to re-examine their current policy on water leaks and making no adjustments on accounts.

The Commonwealth Court recently had a ruling regarding extraordinary circumstances with leaks that did not go into the sewer system. He stated that the Board should discuss this issue and make a formal recommendation to the Supervisors.

The Board then discussed an unrelated case to the above mentioned topic. A resident of the Township had a \$2,700 water/sewer bill because of a leaking toilet. This resident is asking for some relief on his bill. Attorney Jeffery stated that the Board could make a recommendation to the Supervisors. Some thoughts that were discussed is that it has to be a provable leak. Also, concern about setting a precedent and treating everyone the same. Another point to consider would be when adjustments should be made. Should it be a certain percentage above and beyond their average bill?

Gordy Post stated that it is highly unusual that any adjustments be made. Best case scenario would be at cost. Teresa Sculley added that if the Township rate was given, the bill would have to be paid in full within a year.

No final recommendations were agreed upon. The Board can revisit this issue and come up with suggestions or recommendations to the Supervisors.

With all business addressed, a motion to adjourn was made by Tom Lowes with a second from Gordy Post. Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.