

NORTH EAST TOWNSHIP WATER/SEWER AUTHORITY MEETING  
January 23, 2017 - Re-Org  
7:00 PM

Meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Julia Gorniak at 7:03 p.m. In attendance were Teresa Sculley, Tom Lowes, Gordy Post, Bob Brown, Attorney Robert Jeffery, Engineer Clay Fails, and Deb Miller. Bill Heald joined the meeting at approximately 7:15 p.m.

There were no meetings in the months of November and December 2016.

In attendance from the public were Mario Cote, Don Lafferty, Ed Sveda, and Fritz Rickrode.

Vice-Chairman Gorniak opened the floor for public comment.

Ed Sveda asked about the West Law Road sewer extension. Engineer Clay Fails stated that he sent the plan in to DEP and now it's in their court. He reached out to DEP; however, has not heard from them. The plan was submitted on January 4, 2017.

Mr. Sveda asked if the plan submitted starts at the Pisano residence and goes all the way to the Rickrode property. Engineer Fails stated that approval was submitted for both phases but construction only of Phase 1. The Rickrode residence is in Phase 1.

At this time, Vice-Chairman, Julia Gorniak, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2016 meeting. Gordy Post made the motion to approve the minutes, as presented, with the second from Tom Lowes.

In the absence of Secretary Bill Heald, Vice-Chairman Julia Gorniak turned the floor over to Treasurer Gordy Post for nominations of Chairman. Tom Lowes nominated Gordy Post for Chairman; which Gordy accepted. Julia Gorniak made the second. All in favor, motion passed. The floor was now turned over to Chairman Post for nomination of Vice-Chairman. Tom Lowes nominated Julia Gorniak and nomination was accepted. Teresa Sculley made the second. All in favor, motion passed. Nominations for Secretary were now entertained. Teresa Sculley nominated Bill Heald, with the second from Julia Gorniak. All in favor, motion passed. Nominations for Treasurer were next. Teresa Sculley nominated Tom Lowes, who respectfully declined. Tom Lowes then nominated Teresa Sculley; which was accepted and Julia Gorniak made the second. All in favor, motion passed. Officers are Gordy Post, Chairman, Julia Gorniak, Vice Chairman, Bill Heald, Secretary, and Teresa Sculley, Treasurer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Chairman Post read Dave Montgomery's resignation letter. Afterward, Gordy stated that it was a pleasure to work with Dave. He recognized Dave's expertise and deep knowledge of water/sewer systems noting that he was going to miss him.

Julianne Creed remitted a letter of interest to serve on the Water/Sewer Authority Board.

At this time, Chairman Post asked for a motion to approve bills. Bill Heald made the motion to approve all bills, with the second from Julia Gorniak. All in favor, motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Engineer Fails updated the Board on the Haines' sewer project. The Doghouse manhole has been set. The inspector from Greenman-Pedersen said it looks good. One 15' section of pipe was left out for future if a bypass is needed. The existing sewer line has also been videoed, a copy of which is at North East Township. Everything looked good.

Chairman Post asked about the proposed pier on the plan that was to be placed over the existing sewer line. Engineer Fails shared that the pier was set slightly to one side of the existing sewer line.

Attorney Robert Jeffery presented the Board with a Developer's Agreement between Jeffrey Haines, North East Township, and North East Township Water/Sewer Authority. This agreement stipulates that the Developer is to put forth an escrow in the amount of \$5,000, that the property owner is responsible if any damage occurs to the existing sewer line, and bears all costs related to the project. The property owner is responsible and the obligations of the Developer are passed along in the event the property is sold.

Julia Gorniak made the motion to accept the Developer's Agreement with the second from Bill Heald. All in favor, motion passed.

A Developer's Agreement was also presented for the West Law Road Sewer extension request. This is a standard Developer's Agreement. A motion was made from Bill Heald to approve the Agreement with the second from Tom Lowes. All in favor, motion passed.

The subject of making it mandatory to hook into pressure sewer lines was revisited. Attorney Jeffery stated that there are court cases regarding this that would allow flexibility on the Township's part. Currently, the Township's Ordinance is unclear. If it becomes mandatory there are several areas that would need to be addressed. Would it pertain to Township projects only or Township and private projects. Who would be responsible for initial grinder pumps and maintenance. Would grinder pumps be included in the project costs.

Other issues include the policy regarding existing lines. Engineer Fails believes that the policy should move forward and not affect grandfathered lines. Chairman Post would also like to look at the 150' rule.

Chairman Post asked how quickly the Board has to decide as he feels that more time should be taken to think about it. The Authority will hold its next meeting on March 27, 2017 unless a special meeting needs to take place before that. Attorney Jeffery stated that the Township Supervisor's are looking for the Authority to adopt a policy while the Supervisors will adopt the Ordinance.

Ed Sveda commented that he would like to see everyone have to hook in but also feels that it's not fair if someone is only dumping a buckets worth of waste into the system as the cost of grinder pumps is very expensive, approximately \$10,000.00. He is asking that common sense be used when writing the policy.

A question was asked if owners of vacant property had to help with the costs. The answer was no. The explanation was given that there must be a dwelling in order to hook up. With no building, there is nothing going into the system.

The \$7,200 tap fee came up for question. Attorney Jeffery stated that there is one \$7,200 tap fee into the existing sewer line, and it is not assessed to everyone. Mario Cote asked if his property was split into three portions, would those three parcels split the \$7200 initial tap fee. Attorney Jeffery replied yes.

Board member Teresa Sculley asked for clarification of the initial \$7,200 tap fee for Phase 1. If the original people pay the \$7,200 she wanted to know if they also pay for Phase 2. The answer was no.

Mario Cote asked if the Township would pay for anything. Chairman Post replied that he can't answer that question and there is no Supervisor present to answer either. Attorney Jeffery added that if the Township were to help with the installation, they might be looking at bidding it out and having to pay prevailing wages, etc. It would probably be more expensive.

Ed Sveda added that the arrangement is to split the cost of putting the pipe in from the existing manhole to Phase 1. Then everyone is on their own.

Mr. Cote asked about the water line on West Law Road that runs in front of his property. He cites that if it's the policy to run lines to the end of a property line, then why wasn't it done on his property. Because he feels that a mistake was made at some point, would the Township help pay to run the water line to the end of his property. Chairman Post again stated that he can't answer that question. It is a question for the Township Supervisors.

Chairman Post added that in the past things were probably done that shouldn't have been done; however, Supervisors have changed over the years, and rules have gotten stricter.

*OTHER:*

With the vacancy of two Board members, discussion took place as to decrease the Board from nine to seven members. Tom Lowes also indicated that when his term is up, he will not re-up for another five years.

In order to keep nine Board members, the Supervisors will need to make an announcement at their meeting and ask for letters of interest. The Authority will need to form a committee of three to interview interested parties.

Attorney Jeffery stated that in order to change to seven Board members, there must be a request, from the Authority, for a change in the bylaws. A Resolution then must be adopted for the change.

Bill Heald made the motion to decrease from nine to seven Board members, with the second from Bob Brown. All in favor, motion passed.

With all business addressed, Chairman Gordy Post adjourned the meeting at 8:41 p.m.