

APPROVED FEBRUARY 26, 2009



T H O R N B U R Y T O W N S H I P
D E L A W A R E C O U N T Y
S e w e r C o m m i t t e e
6 Township Drive
Cheyney, PA 19319-1020
www.thornbury.org

Brian MacEwen, Chairman
George Morley, Vice-Chairman

Jack Howley
R. Ted Jacquet
Susan Ricciuti

MINUTES
Thornbury Township Sewer Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 22, 2009

The Thornbury Township Sewer Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, January 22, 2009 at the Township Administration Building, 6 Township Drive, Cheyney, Pennsylvania. Chairman MacEwen called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: George Morley, Chairman
Brian MacEwen, Vice-Chairman
Jack Howley
Susan Ricciuti
Ted Jacquet

ABSENT: 0

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: 2

AGENDA

Chairman MacEwen reviewed the Agenda, as follows:

- Reorganization
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes - November 20, 2008 – Regular Meeting
- Old Business
 - Blanton, 453 Brinton Lake Rd. – Sewer/Septic Inquiry
 - West Side Sewer Project – Update
 - Brinton Lea, Woodbridge Rd. Gravity Design
- New Business
 - Township Manager's Report
- Next Meeting – Thursday, February 26, 2009
- Adjournment

REORGANIZATION

Mr. MacEwen stated he would like to discontinue as chairman due to his busy schedule. Mr. Morley indicated he would accept the position of Chairman in 2009, but would like someone else to be chairman for 2010. The other members did not as yet feel ready to become chairman or vice-chairman. The members were in favor of Mrs. Ricciuti's suggestion that the Sewer Committee compose a hand book of information and protocol, which would be beneficial in handing the reins over to the next person. Mr. Morley stated that the Sewer Committee may evolve to a sewer authority or there may be an arrangement with Delcora.

MOTION: On a motion by Mrs. Ricciuti and seconded by Mr. Jacquet, all members voted “aye” to elect Mr. Morley as Chairman and Mr. MacEwen as Vice-Chairman.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. Morley seconded by Mr. Jacquet, all members present voted “aye” to approve the November 20, 2008 meeting minutes, as corrected.

OLD BUSINESS

Blanton, 453 Brinton Lake Rd. – Sewer/Septic Inquiry

Present-Mr. Blanton

Mr. Blanton stated his settlement scheduled on March 19 for 453 Brinton Lake Rd. is contingent on getting public sewer. Mr. Morley stated the planning module, which is scheduled for Township approval at the Board’s February meeting should be sufficient evidence, as the Township already has an agreement with Concord Twp. for the capacity. Mr. Blanton preferred a gravity system. Mr. Morley felt 453 Brinton Lake Rd. was high enough to go with gravity and recommended Mr. Blanton discuss the possibility tying into a gravity line with Jim McCann or Lloyd Noll from Pennoni Associates, because Thornhill will have low pressure, except for a gravity line nearby. The only problem will be obtaining a permit to cross Brinton Lake Rd., a State road. Mr. Morley suggested Mr. Blanton contact Mr. Seagraves after Feb. 4.

West Side Sewer Project – Update

Brinton Lea, Woodbridge Rd Gravity Design

Mr. Jacquet was surprised with the cost of the gravity system being \$130,000, that there is no contingency and when calculating the additional cost for residents he takes \$130,000, then credits low pressure to that, and I don’t know what that means. Mr. Morley stated that some of the low pressure system will be cut out, but additional design is needed. At the intersection of Woodridge and Stoneridge, at the manhole, low pressure will continue up the road, but it has not been designed yet. The hold up is the gravity pocket and if agreed, then low pressure will be added to it. The Buckley easement has been granted and could be used. Mr. Morley stated that some laterals are shorter and some longer and I’m not sure the \$1000 per lateral should be taken out. Mrs. Ricciuti stated a standardized way of looking at gravity was needed, and only put it where there are existing lines to keep the capital costs as low as possible.

After a brief discussion regarding costs, Mr. Morley stated that he was concerned if the sewer committee decides to tell the Board to tie in 6 homes into a gravity system, we don't know if they are willing to pay an extra \$9,000, unless you canvass them first. It was determined that Mrs. Ricciuti would canvas 6 residents soon as soon as Mr. Morley gets a revised sheet from Pennoni. Mr. Morley will discuss the following with J.P.: (1) a "special purpose tapping fee", and (2) if backing out low pressure, is it \$75 per linear foot. Mr. MacEwen felt the costs could be different, as he heard that there are 4 components to a tapping fee. There may be a special purpose tapping fee. There was a consensus to rule out the lateral and the easement, as it does not follow the lines of the hybrid system, only supplies 1 home; and being consistent with Thornhill by not supplying public sewers in private easements. Mrs. Ricciuti will also try to get Mr. Noll at her meeting with the 6 neighbors.

The members discussed and determined that nothing was needed in writing from the residents. Mr. Morley stated that the gravity system pays for itself between 10 and 20 years. Mr. Jacquet stated that as more engineering is done, the cost should go down. The members discussed and determined that the Township could not pre-qualify the contractors and there already is a recommended pump. The members felt that the Board needed to firm up financing so that the Sewer Committee could relay to the residents any finance options. Mr. Morley questioned if one of the 6 homes chooses not to tie in right away, will they have to pay the extra fee later. The members discussed the \$75 per foot vs. the cost per house with costs varying from \$8,500 to \$10,000. Mr. Jacquet felt Mr. Morley should ask Pennoni to explain the \$75/ft. Mrs. Ricciuti preferred to use a cost per house figure rather than the \$75.ft. The members determined if 4 or 5 of the 6 homes desire a gravity line, then all 6 will be responsible to pay. If the homeowner declines to pay for the infrastructure, then the Township will place a lean against the property. If the line is run in front of a home, the home is on the hook for the extra \$9,000, but not the \$5,000-\$6,000 grinder pump. Mr. Morley will discuss with the Board the yearly maintenance requirement for the grinder pump. Mr. MacEwen stated that if someone does not connect for 10 years and the Township has paid the homeowner's \$250/year, then after 10 years the Township paid for the edu, but \$250/year cannot be ongoing. Mr. Morley will check the agreement. When the homeowner's system fails, then the homeowner will be required to tie in.

A discussion ensued regarding whether the sewer lines will be run up the middle of the streets or along the side of the streets. Mr. Morley felt that the contractor would patch the streets and then the streets would be placed on the Township's repaving program.

Mrs. Ricciuti will meet with the neighbors before Feb. 4. Mr. Morley will obtain information and revised cost sheets.

NEW BUSINESS

Township Manager's Report

Per Mr. Jacquet's question, Mr. Morley will ask Mr. Seagraves about the financial details.

A discussion ensued regarding the new pending Open Records Law requiring all Township volunteers to have Township e-mail addresses and save their emails. Mr. Morley stated that the Sewer Committee was not an official mandated commission, only an adjunct committee. Resident, Mr. Miller (Bolingbroke Rd.) stated that Mr. Anderman recommended that all emails be placed into an electronic folder. E-mail addresses will be issued once this becomes a law.

NEXT MEETING – Thurs., February 26, 2009

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Ted, seconded by Mr. Jack, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zitarelli
Sewer Committee Secretary

cc: Sewer Committee Members	Ted McCandless, Code Administrator
Board of Supervisors	Lloyd Noll, Township Sewer Engineer
James McCann, PE, Township Sewer Engineer	Robert P. Anderman, Esq.
Jeffrey Seagraves, Township Manager	Suzanne Howat
Elizabeth Geoghegan, Subdivision Coordinator	