



# PETERS TOWNSHIP SANITARY AUTHORITY

## NEWSLETTER

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT [www.ptsonline.org](http://www.ptsonline.org)

MARCH 2010

ISSUE 5

### OPEN HOUSE

### NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

The Authority Board and Management invite all of its customers to attend an Open House to tour the new office building at 111 Bell Drive. The Open House will include a variety of activities designed to help our customers understand the services we provide, and the role we play in protecting the environment.

**Date: March 26, 2010 Time: 1:00—4:00**

### BOARD MEMBER RECOGNITION

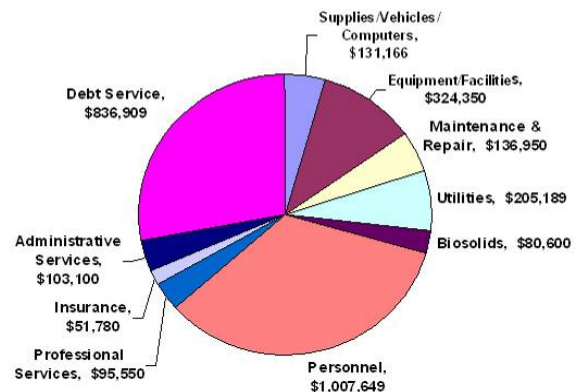


Mr. Denver E. Yingling was recognized by his fellow Board members, associates, and Authority staff with a luncheon in his honor this month where he received an Extended Service Award from the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association for his 40 years of service to the Peters Township Sanitary Authority. The photo shows Denver, on the left, receiving the award from Authority Chairman, G. Robert Jacobs. Denver first began serving as a Board member in 1964, just four years after the creation of the Authority. Denver did not seek reappointment this year due to plans to relocate in the near future to be closer to family members. We wish Denver the best, and thank him for his never-ending dedication to the Authority and its customers.

### AUTHORITY'S 2010 OPERATING BUDGET— \$3.0M

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Operating Revenues: Sewer Charges | \$2,001,000 |
| Min. Charge                       | \$ 875,070  |
| Penalties                         | \$34,000    |
| Miscellaneous                     | \$ 63,625   |

#### Operating Expenses by Category:



### Managing Electrical Power Expense

The Authority's two wastewater treatment plants are located near residential and commercial areas, and in order to prevent odors we use energy intensive treatment processes to treat the wastewater. During 2009 the electrical power expense was \$150,000. The electric utility, Allegheny Power, raised its commercial rates January 1, 2010 by 11%, and beginning January 2011 the power deregulation rate caps will expire. When they do, electrical power cost is expected to increase by 20 to 25%, based on the market prices today. These market prices are trending upwards as the economy recovers, and a 50% increase in electrical power cost in 2011 could be a reality. The following summarizes the Authority's efforts to manage this expense, so that we may continue to provide affordable sewage disposal to our customers:

- In November, 2009 the Authority was awarded a PA Conservation Works grant in the amount of \$137,250 towards installation of energy efficiency improvements at its two treatment plants. These improvements will help reduce the Authority's annual power expense by \$22,000, based on 2010's electrical rates. The PA Conservation Works grant program is funded by Federal Stimulus monies. Our project will include the installation of American made high efficiency motors and drives, and most likely will be installed by Pennsylvania contractors. The project will be bid in this summer.
- The Authority also participates in an Energy Demand Response Program with PJM, Inc., the operator of the electrical power grid for a 14 state wide region. The Authority agreed to reduce its power consumption during the peak electrical demand period during the air conditioning season, and in exchange, PJM pays the Authority for not using power. During 2010, we will earn approximately \$10,000 by participation in this program to help offset our electrical power expense.
- During 2010 the Authority will be shopping for alternate energy suppliers to reduce its power expense further.

### Capital Improvements

**Brush Run WPCP Wet Weather Improvements:** The Authority's Brush Run Water Pollution Control Plant, located on Valley Brook Road just West of Route 19, was expanded in 1995 to provide capacity for continued customer growth in the Brush Run Watershed of Peters Township through 2010. Since 1995 approximately 1,100 customers have been connected to the treatment facility, and it is now serving its intended population. Engineering evaluations of the remaining treatment plant capacity have concluded that the treatment plant has adequate reserve capacity to serve the expected customer growth for an additional seven to ten years without a major expansion, provided facilities are constructed to ensure adequate treatment is provided during severe wet weather events. The facilities required include a third clarifier, and modifications to existing tanks. The estimated total project cost is \$1.5 million. The Authority obtained a \$600,000 H2O grant for this project. The construction is expected to start in late 2010.

## PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE DYE TESTING PROGRAM

In our ongoing efforts to remove infiltration of ground and rainwater from entering into the sanitary sewer system, the Authority is considering expanding our testing at time of sale to include televising the building sewer via Closed Circuit Television (CCTV.)

In this proposal, the current procedures for dye testing will be augmented with an internal inspection of the building sewer that connects your home to the Authority's collector sewer main. The building sewer is the responsibility of the property owner. A small camera will be inserted into and pushed through the entire building sewer. The operator will look for any deficiencies in the pipe such as: broken or cracked pipe, root intrusion, water infiltration or faulty joints. As is current practice, any deficiencies identified will require repair prior to the sale of the property.

It is also proposed to inspect, via CCTV, the building sewers of newly constructed homes when the final building sewer inspection is made. This inspection will document the condition of the building sewer as built and identify any deficiencies inflicted during construction.

## PUBLIC FORUM

Several Public Forums will be held to gather input regarding the proposed changes to the dye testing procedures and fees particularly when selling or constructing a home. An outline will be provided on how these proposed changes will affect you as a seller, buyer, real estate professional, or builder.

When: **April 20, 2010**

Where: **111 Bell Drive**

|                           |         |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Real Estate Professionals | 1:00 pm |
| Builders/Developers       | 3:00 pm |
| Residents/Home Buyers     | 7:00 pm |

*If you are unable to attend, submit comments in writing to Gary Parks at the Authority by May 1, 2010.*



**Deduct Meters** — A deduct meter is a separate meter installed and maintained by the property owner to measure the portion of water that does not, and cannot, enter the sanitary sewer system, such as lawn watering. A deduct meter application package is available on our website or by request. It is the property owners responsibility to keep informed of the rules and regulations governing deduct meters.

### **Associated Fees**

- Estimated Owner Install Cost \$330.00
- PTSA reoccurring fees range from \$12-\$40

### **Property Owner Checklist**

- Confirm the meter and its remote are functioning and both are registering the same when water is used.
- The remote reader is securely attached and is easily accessible; keep shrubs and trees trimmed.
- Selling your home - Call for a Final Reading
- New Owner with Deduct installed - Call to reactivate

### **Why am I Responsible for the Manhole on my Property?**

Manholes are an important part of the sewer system, however, many people see them as unsightly and try to hide them. Many times we find that landscaping has buried the manhole under dirt or mulch. Other times we see wine barrel planters perched on top camouflaging them. All these actions make locating the manhole during an emergency nearly impossible and sometimes dangerous. If a backup does occur in our sewer line and additional time is needed to locate and uncover the manhole, overflowing sewage may be deposited on the streets or backup into your home.

Authority Resolution 98-7-1 identifies that the current homeowner is responsible to correct buried manholes on their property and to provide free and clear access to them.

Please help us by not obstructing manholes.

## BOARD MEMBERS

G. Robert Jacobs, Chairman      James E. Schafer, Vice Chairman      David G. Blazek , Secretary  
Michael A. Silvestri , Treasurer      Terrence G. Byrne , Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

## BOARD MEETINGS

Held at the Lower Level of Administrative Building — 111 Bell Drive  
2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Additional Meeting 4th Tuesday if needed.

PETERS TOWNSHIP SANITARY AUTHORITY

111 Bell Drive

McMurray, PA 15317

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