

**PETERS TOWNSHIP
SANITARY AUTHORITY**

3244 WASHINGTON ROAD
McMURRAY, PA 15317-3153
PHONE: 724-941-6709
FAX: 724-941-2283
Web Site: ptsasonline.org



James J. Miskis, Manager
Mark A. Chucuddy, Asst. Manager
Mildred Paff, Office Manager

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 8, 2005

ROLL CALL:

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Peters Township Sanitary Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by the Chairman. Board members present were G. Robert Jacobs, Denver E. Yingling, George A. Khalouf, and John P. Slagle. Also present were Kevin Hoffman, Engineer, and Dee Ann Amundsen, Financial Controller, KLH Engineers, Inc.; Fred E. Baxter, Jr., Solicitor; James J. Miskis, Manager; Mark A. Chucuddy, Assistant Manager; Patricia Foote, Financial Controller, and Mildred Paff, Admin/Acct Clerk. Absent from this meeting was Board member, Gerald C. Grubesky and Engineer, Terry Soster.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The Minutes of the February 8, 2005 meeting were approved with a few minor changes by a motion made by Denver Yingling, seconded by John Slagle, and carried without a dissenting vote.

VISITORS:

1. Brian & Diane Ritter – 117 Scarborough Lane

Mr. & Mrs. Ritter were present as the Authority is replacing the sanitary sewer line on their property and an easement is needed. Mr. & Mrs. Ritter wanted to know the scope of the work as they are concerned about the access for the equipment needed to do the work. There is a retaining wall located on the existing sewer easement located at the toe of the slope where the line will have to be dug up and repaired. Mr. Hoffman, Engineer, said KLH engineers have been on site as there are five properties involved where the sewer will have to be replaced. Mr. Miskis explained that the engineers have proposed a realignment that would move the line closer to the stream and away from the five homes. In the worse case, the existing sewer is within 21 feet of one of the houses and within 12 feet of their deck. It is further complicated by the sewer being located at the toe of the slope on many of these properties and deep excavation could destabilize support of the buildings. The Ritter property is complicated by a retaining wall that supports part of their rear yard and portions of the house. This wall extends into the existing sewer easement. This easement would be vacated by the Authority when the sewer is relocated. Mr. Miskis said there is another objective the Authority is trying to achieve below the Ritter property that is the sewer was originally below the stream, but due to the erosion of the bed rock, the stream undercuts the sewer line which is now aerial across the stream. Mrs. Ritter is concerned about access for the large equipment as there are large trees which cannot be replaced. She is also concerned that the flow of the creek may be changed and cause flooding in the future.

Mr. Miskis explained that access from Pelipetz Drive is not feasible because of the weight limitation on the bridge and the low underpass. The Township has open space that comes off Warlington Drive that could be considered for use for access but it is quite a distance from these properties. This alternative could be investigated further.

Mr. Jacobs said the Authority is sympathetic to their concerns and have instructed our engineers and manager to find look at every option to find an acceptable solution that is suitable to all parties involved.

2. William & Nancy McCloskey, Lisa Adams, and Susan Brunko

The visitors were present as they own properties along East McMurray Road, near the Bethel Park line, that are presently without public sewers. Ms. Adams, 953 E. McMurray Road, is selling her home and her septic system failed the inspection. Mr. Miskis presented a sketch that showed these unsewered properties in relation to the existing sewer line. There are three options to providing sewers to this property but the least expensive would be to cross an adjoining property whose owner who is not interested or willing to participate in a public sewer system. Mr. Miskis said that Mr. McCloskey owns vacant property and since he is an experienced developer, it would be more cost effective for him to extend the sewer under the Authority's Developer Agreement.

Ms. Brunko said her septic system is functioning fine but she is willing to participate in the sewer project. She questioned if the Authority could force the unwilling neighbor to participate at this time as he would benefit by the extension of the sewer at some point in time. Most importantly is acquiring a right of way across their property. Mr. Miskis said that it is possible to extend the sewer under the Special Purpose Tapping Fee which would require the unwilling neighbor to pay his fair share sometime in the future when he desires sewer service or if the sewer is located within 150 feet of the dwelling, mandatory connection is required. Mr. Miskis pointed out that it appears feasible to extend the sewer in the road right of way. If this is so, condemnation of a right of way probably would not be upheld.

Mr. Jacobs said that the Manager and engineers will look at reasonable solutions to this problem in a cost effective manner. Malfunctioning septic systems are the responsibility of the Township and they will be contacted to test the neighbor's on-lot septic system to determine if it is malfunctioning.

The visitors departed at 8:15 p.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

By a motion made by Denver Yingling, seconded by John Slagle and carried, the Board went into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss the property purchase and limits on the purchase price. The Executive Session adjourned at 8:30 p.m. The Manager and Solicitor were authorized to negotiate the purchase price of the subject property.

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Copy on file

Kevin Hoffman distributed draft document supporting the tap fee calculation to the Manager and Board members. Dee Ann Amundsen was present to give the Board a brief description of the report and the calculations. The Authority's tap fee was updated in 2003 and since then the law has changed. Prior to the change in law, the Authority's tap fee was based on replacement cost and now it is required to be based on historical data. To meet the requirements of the new law, the Engineers calculate the Authority will need to reduce the tap connection fee to \$2,700. The effective date of the new law is June 1, 2005.

Mr. Miskis questioned the per capita used in the calculations. Ms. Amundsen said that, since the Authority serves customers in Upper St. Clair (Area B of the Marella Manor Agreement), the State per capita of 2.48 was used. The Township's per capita is 2.87 according to the 2000 census. Using the

State's per capita results in a reduction of about \$300.00 the Authority can charge for the tap fee. Ms. Foote pointed out that the Authority bulk bills Upper St. Clair and not the individual customers for sewer service.

As the Board members only received this report for review this evening, this item will be on the Agenda for the April meeting.

Kevin Hoffman reported the contractor, Glenn Johnston, Inc. of the Ivy Lane Project has requested to negotiate a resolution of his claims for extras. The engineers will meet with Mr. Miskis and the Solicitor the week of March 21, 2005. After the meeting, the engineer will send a letter to request the contractor to withdraw his claims for extras for rock removal and One-Call issue before the Authority will agree to meet with him to discuss his other claims.

In regard to the Friar Lane Liner Rehabilitation (Contract 2004-03) Denver Yingling moved to approve Change Order No. 2 to Insight Pipe Contracting for a time extension due to weather and additional work and also a reduction in the amount of \$2,700 for lateral reinstatements not required. The motion was seconded by John Slagle and carried without a dissenting vote.

In regard to the Brush Run Flood Emergency Repairs and Stream Bank Stabilization Project, Patricia Foote inquired if Change Order Nos. 1 and 2 from Oakdale Construction could be submitted soon so that the project can be closed out and the cost information forwarded to FEMA for reimbursement. Mr. Hoffman they will pursue this request with the contractor.

George Khalouf moved to approve Payment No. 3 in the amount of \$77,209.66, to Oakdale Construction for the Brush Run Pier Crossing and approved Change Order No. 3, in the amount of \$93,450.00, for emergency work on the exposed Valleybrook Interceptor behind the old mine retention pond which includes stream bank stabilization. The motion, seconded by Denver Yingling, carried without a dissenting vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Copy on file

Mr. Miskis recommended authorizing the engineers to proceed with design drawings for the Crestview Acres Plan sewer replacement. John Slagle moved to authorize KLH Engineers, Inc. to proceed with the design drawings, contract documents, permit applications to replace 3,000 feet of 8-inch VCP sewer in the Crestview Acres Plan for a lump sum cost of \$10,500 and general project services and as-built drawings in the amount of \$3,500. Denver Yingling seconded the motion that carried without a dissenting vote. This will be a 2006 Capital Improvement project.

The property owner of 109 Stratford Drive has requested consideration for a grinder pump. Although the property owner has a backwater valve and has not had a backup since 1990, he had backup during Hurricane Ivan. Mr. Miskis had previously distributed his recommendations regarding grinder pumps at the December, 2004 meeting for the Board's review and reviewed these recommendations for the Board.

Mr. Miskis recommends that something further be done to alleviate the possibilities of backups in the Stratford area. His immediate recommendation is to offer grinder pumps to five or six properties along the run of the sewer at the intersection of Stratford and Oakwood Road. After a lengthy discussion, George Khalouf moved to offer the Stratford property owners, including Mrs. Morrow, grinder pumps with the

stipulation that the grinder pump is the property owner's for ownership and maintenance. Denver Yingling seconded the motion that carried without a dissenting vote.

Denver Yingling moved to approve the sanitary sewer installation in the Evanovich Plan (one lot) for use so that the sewer permit can be issued. The Engineers reported the sewer has passed all required testing. The motion was seconded by John Slagle and carried without a dissenting vote.

The property owner of 838 East McMurray Road has complained that neighboring malfunctioning septic systems drain onto his property. 838 East McMurray Road is tied into the sanitary system and a right of way has been provided across his property to extend the sewer to six adjoining properties. This is an area that the Special Purpose Tap Fee would be feasible. The Board members agreed that providing sewer service to this area should be investigated and the Manager will make preliminary investigations.

Mr. Miskis reported that North Strabane is planning a major sewer extension project and needs a right of way through Peters Lake Park from Peters Township. Peters Township has agreed to granting the right of way conditional upon North Strabane accepting the sewage flows from the Lehner Lake watershed. Peters Township and North Strabane Township are in the process of working out the details of this agreement.

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER'S REPORT: Copy on file

Patricia Foote reported that she and Jordan Tax Service are diligently pursuing collection of delinquent sewer rental accounts. She also reported that the Authority has received the first flood reimbursement from FEMA in the amount of \$103,189.22. The balance is not expected for several more months, as made in installments.

CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE BOARD'S INFORMATION: Copy on file

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW: Month ending February 28, 2005

PAYMENT OF BILLS & REQUISITION:

John Slagle moved to approve payment of Operating Fund checks 12674 through 12755 (voiding checks 15724 & 15732) totaling \$79,319.00; Developer fund expenses of \$27,278.15 and Capital Improvement & Redemption Fund Requisition No. 19-04 listing six vendors totaling \$172,278.15. George Khalouf seconded the motion that carried without a dissenting vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

George Khalouf moved to adjourn the regularly scheduled meeting of the Peters Township Sanitary Authority at 10:36 p.m. The motion was seconded by Denver Yingling and carried without a dissenting vote.

Respectfully submitted

Mildred Paff, Admin/Acct. Clerk

