

**PETERS TOWNSHIP
SANITARY AUTHORITY**

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REGULAR MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 2005

ROLL CALL:

The regular 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, John P. Slagle, Gerald C. Grubesky, Denver E. Yingling and George A. Khalouf. Also present were Terry Soster and Kevin Hoffman, 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.

REVIEW OF MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

John Slagle moved to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2005 meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded by Denver Yingling and carried without a dissenting vote.

VISITORS:

1. Queen of Heaven proposed mausoleum

Representatives of Queen of Heaven present were Joseph V. Huber, Ernest Orsati, and Donald Hultberg. James Miskis, Manager, explained that Queen of Heaven Cemetery is planning an expansion which includes a mausoleum equipped with a bathroom. Management determined that since the property is accessible to the public sewer as evidenced by the fact that the two existing structures on the property are connected to the public sewer via grinder pump systems any future building with plumbing would be required to connect to the sewer regardless of the distance to the public sewer. The property owner appealed management's decision to the Board by letter dated July 29, 2005 and attended the August 9, 2005 meeting. The Board did not take any action on the request at that meeting but requested detailed information from the Solicitor and management in order to take action at the September meeting. Subsequent to that, the property owner requested to be removed from the September agenda so they could look at alternatives to propose. They are here this evening to present their request for a variance.

Joseph V. Huber, Attorney, explained that the Catholic Cemeteries Association is a non-profit organization that operates Queen of Heaven Cemetery which consists of 169 acres. The bathrooms for the proposed mausoleum are for the convenience of visiting families and the sewage usage is estimated at less than 50 gallons per day. They are requesting a variance from the requirement to connect to the sewer to utilize an approved, closed holding tank system which would be pumped on a regular basis. The reasoning for the request is due that the minimum distance to connect would be 1700 feet, connection would impose financial hardship on property owner, plumbed structures would have limited use, and the connection would result in disturbing grave sites and connection to the sewer would require an aerial crossing over an existing stream with flood potential.

The Authority management and solicitor recommended an agreement with the Catholic Cemeteries Association that when there is future development proposed, all buildings would have to be connected to

the sanitary sewer system at that time. The Association objects to this request as unreasonable as they have no idea what the plans are for the future and what problems might arise.

George Khalouf indicated that the Board should not grant a variance and Denver Yingling agreed. Gerald Grubesky indicated that, after reading Huber's proposal, that the Authority could make an exception. Mr. Khalouf wants the agreement to contain a statement that future buildings will tie into the sewer system. Mr. Grubesky said they will have to come to the Authority for a variance at that time.

Donald Hultberg, Phillips & Associates, due to the low usage and the length of the line, he is concerned whether there would be enough velocity to carry away the solids. Also, there will not be continual flow thereafter to help carry the solids.

Denver Yingling moved to deny a variance to the Queen of Heaven Cemetery. The motion, seconded by George Khalouf, was lost by a vote of 2 in favor and 3 opposed.

Fred Baxter asked if there are any conditions the Board wants to attach before approving the variance. Before entering the agreement, Fred Baxter would like a clause that indemnifies the Authority from any and all damages and/or violations that may occur from the building, maintenance, or operation of the proposed facility.

John Slagle thinks that the buildings presently on septic systems should be connected to the public sewer system. Gerald Grubesky said that would be a huge undertaking. Robert Jacobs said the Authority objects to septic systems because they fail and material comes to the surface. They are proposing a closed collection system that has to be pumped routinely so there will be no sewage material in the open.

John Slagle moved to approve the variance to the Queen of Heaven Cemetery with the conditions recommended by the solicitor and management as follows: The variance is granted in consideration of the following combined extenuating circumstances: a.) The "institutional use" of the facilities, b.) the distance to connect to the public sewer would be a minimum of 1700 feet, c.) and the path of gravity connection would include an aerial sewer crossing of a stream with flood potential. d.) In granting the variance, the Authority is not approving the method of on-lot sewage disposal, and the property owner is solely responsible for obtaining any and all approvals necessary from regulatory agencies. Gerald Grubesky seconded the motion to grant the variance. The vote was three members in favor and two against. The motion carried by a 3 to 2 vote.

2. Al & Frances Uhrine – 112 Fireside Drive

Mr. Uhrine wants to install a 10 x 16 shed on cinder block and said he was told by this office that it would not be a problem because we could exchange a few feet of right of way. This was over a year ago. Mr. Uhrine said that the request in the letter he received from the Authority is unreasonable in that it suggests reducing the size of the shed, increase in the easement width and the cost of the engineering and legal fees associated with surveying the easement exchange. Mr. Uhrine wants to know why he is being singled out as most properties on his street encroach on the right of way. James Miskis said he is not familiar with the area but is aware that driveways encroach on the sewer right of way but no other variances were given by the Authority for encroachments. Mark Chucuddy said that the sewer line in this area is 20 feet deep and an 8-inch line and a 25-foot right of way would be required for any repairs.

Fred Baxter, Solicitor, said that Uhrine's proposal was turned down at a previous meeting and management's letter listed ways to assist him in installing the shed and the Authority still have access to

the sanitary sewer. Mr. Uhrine is objecting to the unknown costs for engineering and surveying and legal fees for recording the new right of way.

Mr. Uhrine's alternate proposal is to move the shed closer to the house and only encroach about a foot into the right of way. James Miskis said the Authority should get an additional right of way because of the depth of the line. Mr. Uhrine said he will reduce the size of the shed and the Board will have no concerns and departed the meeting.

3. Fred Kluglein - 131 East Highland Drive

Mr. Kluglein requested to attend this meeting to protest the anticipated increase charge in reading the deduct meter and the payment of the inspection fee. Mr. Kluglein said his meter was inspected by the Authority when it was installed and a remote was installed outside so that the meter could be read at any time. He feels that the \$12.00 read fee is unreasonable and it is unreasonable to examine the meter at additional charge to him and he thinks that the Authority is trying to get rid of the program. He said he did not get a credit on his September bill this year because his meter has not been read.

Patricia Foote explained that the manpower costs and administrative time has increased to compare deduct consumption with actual water consumption. These costs to the Authority are passed on to those customers utilizing the deduct meter program not the whole customer base. The inspection of the deduct meter is to verify that the meter and remote have not been tampered with and that the Authority seal is intact. In some cases, the remote is not working properly and the customer is not getting the credit due him. A letter was sent out to customers with no or little consumption on their deduct meter last year alerting them of their low usage, the Authority's increases in fees, and to check their meter and remote to be sure they are working properly. Some customers asked to be removed from the read list because the increase in fees would not justify the credit for the water on the deduct meter.

Mr. Kluglein wants to know the deduct credit that he should get this year so he can make a decision as to whether he wants to continue using the meter. Patricia Foote said if he calls the office she can tell him what his credit would be if he gets his meter inspected. James Miskis recommended proceeding to the next item on the agenda. Mr. Kluglein departed the meeting.

4. Mrs. Darylne Kerin – 109 Brandywine Drive re: Deduct Meter Credit

Mrs. Kerin was not present. Patricia Foote explained that Mrs. Kerin is the third owner of the home on Brandywine Drive, and in July requested to be removed from the deduct meter read list. At the end of this summer, she realized that she used it and asked to be put back on the read list. She was told that to be placed back on the read list, the Authority would have to inspect her deduct meter and remote. The inspectors found that the seal was broken on the meter so no credit will be issued on the usage on the deduct meter. The meter was resealed and she will be on the program for next year. Mrs. Kerin claimed that the seal was broken by the plumber maintaining the sprinkler system and Patti sent her a letter informing her what her credit would be if the seal had not been broken so she could seek reimbursement from the plumber. The plumber refused responsibility and would not reimburse her loss of credit; therefore, Mrs. Kerin wants her credit from the Authority. Management has denied her request.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: Copy on file

ENGINEER'S REPORT: Copy on file

In regard to the Crossgates Sewer Project, the engineers will calculate a fair restoration amount for the Friem property from the final payment to the contractor. Mr. Baxter said that enough money should be

withheld from the contractor for reasonable restoration work on Friem's property as there is a two-year statute of limitations on the trespass and the contractor was out of the right of way but he has agreed to do the restoration.

Kevin Hoffman gave the Board members an update on the Hidden Brook Project. The contractor did perform the stabilization of the ground under Manholes B & C, first stage grouting the week of October 17th and the second stage of grouting October 25th. The onsite visit noted that MH C had been lifted by the first stage of grouting, which was not the intention, but it moved enough to correct the problem but caused another problem. The influent line to MH C was pushed up and that problem was corrected by excavation and realignment of the pipe back down into place. At MH B, the pipes both in and out were apparently moved by the first stage of grouting and it was inconclusive as to whether the manhole moved or not but the pipes were now properly aligned and it was agreed to reform the manhole invert channel to alleviate a small volume of standing water. It was also requested that MH A invert be reformed as well.

The line from MH 1001 to MH 1002 is a flat line and the developer agreed that it has to be re-laid. An alternate route was suggested that eliminated the need for MH 1001 by installing an alternate line from MH 1014 to MH 1002. Unfortunately, unsuitable soils were encountered and the Authority is requiring deep foundations to be installed for the last 100 feet of the segment as well as MH 1002.

As recommended by management, Gerald Grubesky moved to release \$50,000 of the performance security to McHolme Builders, developer of the Hidden Brook Plan. The motion was seconded by John Slagle and carried without a dissenting vote.

MANAGER'S REPORT: Copy on file

CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE BOARD'S INFORMATION: Copy on file

FINANCIAL CONTROLLER'S REPORT:

Patricia Foote, Financial Controller, informed the Board members that we have had a request for a refund of a tap permit purchased in June, 2005. The tap permit was purchased by the prospective home owner for a fee of \$3,250. The homeowner no longer wants to build on the lot due to a contractual dispute with the builder. The Township's policy is to refund 50 per cent of the building permit fee but in this case, Mr. Silvestri said that the building permit fee was very high and they have not decided as yet whether to refund more than the 50 per cent. The Authority has done transfers of permits in the past and has done full refunds when the request for a refund happened quickly. It was discussed that an expiration date be noted on future tap fee permits to avoid situations such as this and this will be discussed at the next meeting.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT REVIEW: Month ending September 30, 2005 Copy on file

PAYMENT OF BILLS & REQUISITION:

Denver Yingling moved to approve Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$21,575.42 for the Crossgates Trunk Sewer Project to E. T. Sitarik Contracting Inc. John Slagle seconded the motion that carried without a dissenting vote.

John Slagle moved to authorize payment of Operating Fund checks 13303 through 13371 totaling \$67,804.85; Developer Fund expenses of \$7,337.65; and Capital Improvement & Redemption Fund

Requisition No. 26-05 totaling \$92,554.21 deducting the \$22,687.78 payment to Edward T. Sitarik Contracting Inc. The motion was seconded by George Khalouf and carried without a dissenting vote.

Gerald Grubesky moved to approve payment of the amount due the contractor, Edward T. Sitarik Contracting Inc., less the amount that KLH Engineers Inc. calculates as reasonable for restoration of the Friem property. John Slagle seconded the motion that carried without a dissenting vote.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Linda A. Bradburn request for sewer service, 136 Evergreen Drive

Ms. Bradburn is requesting permission to connect to the existing sanitary sewer by grinder pump. Management recommends that the Bradburn property could connect by force main into the manhole and a variance will be granted to the adjoining property owners for future connections as a gravity sewer extension to serve these properties would be cost prohibitive.

Gerald Grubesky moved to grant a variance to connect the home at 136 Evergreen Drive to the sanitary sewer by force main into a manhole. Denver Yingling seconded the motion that carried without a dissenting vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

George Khalouf moved to adjourn the regular meeting of the Peters Township Sanitary Authority at 10:08 p.m. The motion, seconded by Gerald Grubesky, carried without a dissenting vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Mildred Paff, Admin/Acctg Clerk