

MINUTES
LOWER SWATARA TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
NON-LEGISLATIVE MEETING – JULY 12, 2021

The July 12, 2021, Non-Legislative Meeting of the Lower Swatara Township Municipal Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M by Vice Chairman Magaro. Vice Chairman Magaro called for the pledge of allegiance. The record indicated the following in attendance in person or through Zoom:

- Daniel Magaro, Vice Chairman (Zoom)
- Frank Popp (Zoom)
- Scott Spangler, Treasurer
- Elizabeth McBride, Township Manager
- Peter Henninger, Solicitor (Zoom)
- Caleb Krauter, Engineer (Zoom)
- Brian Davis, MS4 Coordinator (Zoom)
- Tracey Bechtel, Recording Secretary

Absent: Richard Wilkinson, Chairman, Chester Hartz, Secretary

Residents and visitors in attendance in person or through Zoom:

- Todd Truntz, Commissioner
- Ron Paul, Commissioner
- Scott Washinger, Public Works Manager

Public comments: None

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of Workshop Meeting June 14, 2021, tabled.

A motion was made by Mr. Popp seconded by Mr. Spangler to approve the Minutes of Legislative Meeting June 28, 2021. The motion was unanimously approved.

Engineer's Report:

Land Development Projects Update

The Pond at Fulling Mill (retirement Community)

ELA Group, Inc. has requested information on required improvements for the land development project to be completed. They are working with a potential land developer to who is looking to buy the property and complete Phase 1 as previously designed.

UPS Northeast Hub

HRG has received and updated Plan for the proposed N. Union Street Pump Station, which is currently under review. Construction of the onsite sanitary utilities, N. Union Street and storm sewer facilities continues.

Woodridge PH II Section 9

The Developer requested release of the letter of credit (LOC) for the sanitary sewer facilities. A recommendation to release the LOC will be provided to the Authority for consideration at the Authority's July 26, 2021 Board meeting.

D&H Proposed Warehouse

Construction of this project is progressing.

Morgan's Run

HRG has received notification that the developer has completed all punchlist items except for the sanitary sewer manhole testing. They were not able to pass the manhole test, the vacuum testing was a requirement for the dedication to the Authority, they stopped testing and are going to do some rehabilitation to the manholes, specifically around the chimneys of the manholes to try to make them airtight. They will then be completing the manhole testing again. Once all items have been completed, we will review the facilities with the Authority staff and provide a recommendation to the Authority.

Mr. Krauter reported that HRG did participate in the inspection with Mr. Washinger and the Contractor that provided the quote for the eleven (11) manholes in the Georgetown area, that were briefly discussed at the last Authority meeting. We did find the information acceptable and the lining appropriate for the manholes, we are waiting on one confirmation from the manhole lining manufacturer that it will resist calcium deposits in the future. We anticipate that being on the Agenda for the July 26th meeting.

Mr. Washinger added that this buildup of calcium has been building up over a long period of time, it didn't just happen overnight. There was a remedy that was talked about trying, but it never happened. Staff did go down and try to chip some of this but, it is so thick that they can't really do much about it. Mr. Krauter added that these eleven (11) manholes were identified as having significant calcium deposits on the inside, and when we opened them up, some have up to 5 to 7 inches of thick calcium deposits, so it is encroaching on the manholes and potentially causing issues in the sanitary sewer as those flakes chip off and go into the sewer.

Commissioner Paul suggested that maybe we need to start inspecting these manholes and being proactive so that these things don't get out of hand like just explained. Mr. Krauter indicated that he believes Staff does have somewhat of a routine schedule for inspecting manholes. Mr. Krauter thought the staff does have a routine schedule to inspect manholes and asked Mr. Washinger if that was correct. Mr. Washinger indicated they do to some extent when they get a chance, but with only two guys and with all the PA One Calls there is not a lot of time to go around and set up a schedule. Mr. Krauter added that HRG can speak with the staff and discuss a plan to regularly inspect the sewer facilities. If there are limitations with staff, HRG can help as requested from the Authority.

Mr. Washinger reported that there is currently a situation that was brought to his attention by a resident down at 555 Constitution Ave where there is a washout underneath close to the sanitary sewer line. There is a hole about 4 to 5 inches wide and it goes at an angle for about 3 feet. He is looking at televising that tomorrow.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Henninger reported that the Authority has received the payoff for the Lien on 1808 and 1810 Oberlin Road.

Solicitor Henninger indicated we are still working on the Easements for Spring Garden and Delmont Ave. Mr. Davis added that he has reached out to property owners regarding these easements, he has not heard back from them yet, but he is still continuing to make contact.

Commissioner Paul inquired if there are any updates on the letters to Sheetz and Cramer's regarding the EDUs. Solicitor Henninger indicated Ms. McBride is working on those. No update to report on currently.

M.A. Manager's Report: Mr. Washinger reported that all the pumps are in at the Green Plains Pump Station they are running properly, running at better run-times than before.

Mr. Washinger indicated that the Pennsylvania Ave./Swatara Dr. area is holding its own as far as any kind of damage after stone was put in there even with all the rain, hopefully that will continue. He did report that there is an issue on Spring Garden across from the Caterer's. He placed a cone next to the metal plate, the recent rain has opened a gaping hole about a foot wide and 4 to 5 feet deep. Staff filled that with stone today, but he left the cone out there, the longer this is delayed he fears the whole area is going to start to collapse in. Solicitor Henninger added that we're get close to this being an emergency repair, especially if we get more ponding rains.

Township Manger's Report: Ms. McBride reported that with the big rain we had in the Township yesterday, residents have been getting swamped and she feels some of this could get corrected with action on the Township's part. The two situations that she is thinking of include Shireman that ran onto people's yards and if this happens only once every 10 years she wouldn't be too concerned, but these heavy rains are happening all the time anymore so we can plan on them pretty much from June through October and I don't think it's fair to some of these homeowners to have to bear the brunt of it. In the case of the one up on Farmhouse Ln, we can probably extend a swale there about 600 feet, which wouldn't be a cheap undertaking, but would be something that we could do and probably will need to do. There is another location adjourns a property that is being developed and that resident is getting swamped too. Ms. McBride added that there are no solutions to bring to the Board tonight, but she just wanted to let the Board know that over the next several months, we may be presenting something to the Board.

Vice Chairman Magaro agreed with Ms. McBride that if we can be more proactive for these kinds of situations it will benefit everyone.

MS4 Report: Mr. Davis updated the Board on the Annual Report and reviewed what has taken place over the last year. Mr. Davis noted that the Township produces an annual report that is submitted to DEP, this takes place at the end of September, and that report will be posted on our website for the Public to view.

Mr. Davis reported on the Shop Gardens Rain Garden. We are continuing to move ahead with rebuilding it and making it more aesthetic, accessible and working properly. Mr. Davis reviewed with the Board on the new

design that they came up with. The idea that we have to fence this off and prevent the public from walking up to it is unfortunate.

Ms. McBride asked if there is preliminary work done prior to creating these rain gardens, like perhaps a perk test. Mr. Davis replied that yes, generally that is something that would take place, it's not ideal to build an infiltration BMP of any kind without knowing what is in the ground. Ms. McBride further inquired that, Mr. Davis said it was not ideal, would he say that is wrong to do that. Mr. Davis responded that it would not be what he would do. Ms. McBride asked if that was done, we might have stumbled across the knowledge that there was clay there that we did not know about. Mr. Davis replied yes to that questioning. Ms. McBride indicated that all this is new to her, so she is trying to gain understanding.

Mr. Davis explained that there are different types of soils, there are sandy, clay, etc., and all these different types basically describe the particle size of the ground, clay soils have very tiny particles, so they pack together very tightly. There is not a lot of void space so when the water sits on top of the soil, there is no where for that water to soak in. Ms. McBride asked if the trained eye could look at something and guess that there might be clay there. Mr. Davis replied that, just by looking at it, no, the best way is to dig pits, although you can do some hand tests, which we do have a soil probe here at the Township, but the one we have you can only go about a foot deep into the soil. Mr. Davis added that the best way to do it is by spending money on a proper perk test.

Mr. Davis noted that at this point, we know that this area we have is clay, and from his perspective there is no real reason to spend money on a perk test. He feels it would make more sense to move ahead and work around this problem we now have.

Mr. Davis explained that the best way to move forward is to build an infiltration bed beneath the rain garden. Infiltration beds are set aside blocks of rock that have guaranteed levels of void space in them. They are basically rock made holding tanks, where water can just sit in there and provide extra storage capacity. Mr. Davis indicated this will not fix the fact that this ground itself is made of clay, but the nice thing about having it there is it provides extra storage capacity for us, and most of the water will then sit underground while it infiltrates, as opposed to sitting on the surface where it's ponding. Ms. McBride asked if this is something brand new, this idea, or is this routine for the people in the know. Mr. Davis responded it is not brand new, it's a concept that has been around for about a decade or so.

Ms. McBride questioned if we have a rain garden somewhere else in the Township and if so, does that one have this same design. Mr. Davis answered that we have a rain garden in Old Reliance and that one does not have this design in either, because it is not overly normal to put an infiltration bed beneath a rain garden, usually they are separate things. Ms. McBride asked how the other rain garden is working and is it doing well. Mr. Davis indicated he thought it was, the soil there is better and the drainage area for that garden is smaller, which allows for less water to get to it normally. Ms. McBride asked if that had a perk test done prior to installing, Mr. Davis indicated he would have to defer to HRG for that answer.

Mr. Kruater mentioned that he did not know that answer either but would check as well. Ms. McBride added that she certainly hopes they did, because with her limited knowledge it seems that would be standard procedure to do a perk test and she's beginning to think that it didn't happen, we had this grant, we did some

matching money, and she is almost embarrassed that we took grant money for this. Mr. Krauter indicated it is standard procedure to do a perk test for an infiltration or rain garden, but not necessary for the new design that Mr. Davis is showing the Board tonight. Ms. McBride asked Mr. Krauter, that if we had done a perk test in the beginning, we would have known to put the style of garden that we are looking at now instead of the one that is currently there. Mr. Krauter agreed that there would have been different technology used if the clay was found in the beginning of the planning stages. Ms. McBride added that would have been good use of the grant money that we got.

Mr. Davis indicated that he does not have a cost estimate for the Board this evening, but he will give the Board a full cost breakdown before the it goes before them for approval.

A motion was made by Mr. Popp seconded by Mr. Spangler to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

ATTEST:

Tracey Bechtel, Recording Secretary