

Minutes of the Spring Garden Township Board of Commissioners Workshop  
5:00 p.m. – February 12, 2025

Persons Present:

Daniel E. Rooney, President Commissioner  
David Detwiler, Vice President Commissioner  
Anne Gray, Commissioner  
Luther C Wike Jr. (Township Manager)

Thomas Gwilt, Commissioner

**I. Commence Workshop**

**A. Presentation – Chris Toms P.E. / CS Davidson**

**1. Oakridge/Edgehill Public Sewer – all information in this section was presented by Chris Toms unless indicated**

- i) A summary of what the presentation is covering and noted that the most recent 537 plan is from the 1970's regarding the area being addressed.
- ii) A map was presented, and he addressed questions from Commissioner Gray and Commissioner Detwiler about the lack of sewer in the area and inability to replace current tanks. He explained that in the area the parcels are too small, too steep, or the wrong soil composition to support the installation of new tanks.
- iii) He shared a breakdown of the options of how sewer connections could be provided for the residents in that area:
  - a) Deep Sewer under the roads would be the most expensive option
  - b) Shallow Sewer in the right-of-way would be moderate expense option
  - c) Grinder pumps would be the least expensive option
- iv) The above options would be in addition to the consideration that the additional flow would need to be transported to PA American Water for treatment. The options for this additional portion of the project would be:
  - a) A new interceptor, which would be the most expensive option
  - b) A pump station would be a moderate expense option
  - c) A smaller pump station would be the least expensive option
- v) The recommendation to the DEP is to allow additional time to study the possibility of and work with York Township to update the 537 plans together and include solutions for capacity for both municipalities. The estimated cost is \$44,000-\$70,000 per residence utilizing a front foot assessment.
- vi) There was additional discussion about approval timeline for the plan to be sent to the DEP – which was clarified to be reviewed leading up to and for approval at the April Business Meeting.
- vii) There was further discussion between Commissioner Gray, Commissioner Detwiler, and Chris Toms regarding the current tapping fees, connection fees, and how existing systems failures are handled and the cost of connection fees versus replacement fees.
- viii) Commissioner Gray inquired about funding options that are currently or would be available to residents in the event of system failure or mandatory connection once the project is completed. Toms stated that there may be some grant funding or assistance programs available for residents, but there are state grants for sewer and water projects that may have possible options for financing portions of the project.

**2. Stormwater Authority – all information in this section was presented by Chris Toms unless indicated**

- i) It was presented that the corrugated metal pipe for stormwater is corroded, causing road failures, and currently the main/only real source of funding for storm sewer is the General Fund. There is approximately 80,000 feet of storm sewer and at a 2 percent replacement

rate it equates to about \$500,000 a year in costs, and that does not factor in that there are additional costs, and the rate of replacement due to failure impacts that number.

- ii) Currently there are private stormwater pipes and private pipes tied into Township stormwater pipes.
- iii) A Stormwater Authority would be responsible for maintaining and repairing the stormwater system and incorporating MS4. Some of the Public Works salary and benefits are currently covering some of this responsibility.
- iv) The steps to create a Stormwater Authority would be as follows: Legal Formation, Inventory of pipes (mostly complete due to MS4), Assessment, Drainage Problems, Total Cost, Goals for yearly replacement levels, and setting a rate to support the budget.
- v) The rate set by the Authority would be paid by the Township parcel owners. There are a few options for setting a rate and it would also depend on whether credits would be issued for rain gardens etc.
- vi) There was clarification that the Stormwater Authority would be a volunteer board.

**B. Other Business - none**

**C. Public Comment - none**

**Conclude Workshop**

**Commissioner Detwiler- Adjourned 5:59pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Luther C Wike Jr.  
Township Secretary

EA