

Lewis Township Supervisors
Regular Monthly Meeting
July 19, 2017

The Lewis Township Regular Monthly Meeting was called to order by Chairman Willard Murray at 7:00 P.M. at the Lewis Township building. Those also present were Supervisors Duane M. Blakeney & Jay Douglas Bomberger, Solicitor Benjamin Landon, Secretary/Treasurer Lucinda R. Bomberger and 16 guests.

A motion was made by Duane M. Blakeney, seconded by Jay Douglas Bomberger and passed to approve meeting minutes from the June 7, 2017 Supervisors Regular Monthly Meeting as written.

A motion was made by Jay Douglas Bomberger, seconded by Willard Murray and passed to approve the June 2017 Financial Reports.

The meeting was temporarily adjourned for a hearing regarding the Lewis Township Act 537 Sewage Facilities Minor Plan Update.

Solicitor Benjamin Landon opened the hearing by submitting the following exhibits:

Exhibit 1: Public Notice of Minor Act 537 Plan Update: Warrior Run School District & Lewis Township Special Study giving notice of the special study and 30 day comment period.

Exhibit 2: Published Notice and Proof of Publication of Exhibit 1

Exhibit 3: Written Comment submitted by Gerald Shaeffer

Exhibit 4: Written Comment submitted by George Albertson

Exhibit 5: Written Comment submitted by Kay Beaver

Exhibit 6: Revised Implementation Schedule

Comments and questions were given from the following residents in attendance:

1. Bill Stein, resident of Schell Road, asked the following questions:

What are the minor adjustments to the plan vs what the plans were a few years ago in relation to, specifically, Schell and Koch Road? Erin Threet, engineer from HRG who prepared the minor update to the Act 537 Plan, answered that the recommended alternative remains unchanged in this update for Schell and Koch Road and is part of the current planning effort due to DEP requesting that the Township revisit and recommit to the originally planned alternative and is a reiteration that it is agreed that the proposed solution is best for providing service to that area. There is an updated cost estimate of the project included in the update as well as the Township updating the implementation schedule submitted as exhibit six.

Mr. Stein lives at 495 Schell Road and his house is situated several hundred feet from the road. Previously he was to be connected. Would he be required to connect to the sewer line with this updated plan? The Solicitor answered that the Township has a Sewer Ordinance that would address connections. Bill asked if he would be able to obtain a copy of the Ordinance and was directed to request a copy from the Township Secretary. Mr. Stein also owns another property which would probably be in the zone to

connect, but is uninhabited and the water shut off. Would this property be required to connect? The Solicitor answered that this situation would also depend on the requirements of the sewer ordinance.

2. Sherry Crawford, resident at 680 Schell Road, stated that she has her on-lot septic system pumped every five years as required by the Township and that everyone keeps them clean. Why do we have to have sewer if we keep our tanks pumped? What is the cost going to be per month for sewer service and how since most of the residents on Schell Road live on a fixed income are we supposed to pay for it? Solicitor Landon answered that if public sewer becomes available and if DEP requires the township to provide sewer to that area, residents must connect. Sherry understood the letter sent to say that the Township would go after grant funding to help alleviate the cost but also wonders why the state doesn't think of those who are laid off or retired. Eric Moore gave a summary as to why DEP is requiring that Schell and Koch Road need to be sewerred and that reason being due to complaints DEP required the Township to do inspection work and failed on-lot systems in that area were identified by the Sewage Enforcement Officer. DEP required that area to be sewerred. The Township did not receive enough funding to implement this area a few years ago. DEP is now requiring the Township to follow through with its plan to sewer Schell and Koch Road. The Township will seek grant funding for the sewer main and for household connections and will start seeking funding as early as Fall/Winter 2017/2018. Sherry also wanted to know once her house is hooked up to the sewer and something happens to it will she be responsible for it? Eric answered typically the homeowner is responsible for anything outside of the roadway right of way or easement to the main line. Sherry asked if the Township knows how much it will cost. Erin Threet talked about the range of sewer rate published in the notice. The high end of \$210 assumes no grant funding available and \$58 assumes 100% grant funding and that amount is based on estimated operations and maintenance costs. Sherry asked if the rate would be based on the how many people are in your household? Erin Threet answered that the intent was a flat fee per EDU. Sherry stated she did not agree with that.
3. Mrs. Leiby asked why other town's rates are based on water usage? Solicitor Landon answered that the township does not provide public water. Sherry and Mrs. Leiby both stated that they have public water provided by Turbotville Borough. Erin Threet stated that the inter-municipal agreement that the Township has with Turbotville Borough discusses EDU's rather than rates based on flow. Schell and Koch road would be treated at the Turbotville Borough Treatment Plant.
4. Sherry further shared her concern about the burden of having to pay a high sewer rate and would likely have to sell her home if the rate ended up being in the \$200 range. Eric Moore reiterated that the township would try its best to obtain grant funding and we all can keep fighting the good fight.
5. Supervisor Murray asked about the maximum affordable rate. Solicitor Landon gave an explanation of how the maximum affordable rate is determined. Currently it is 2% of the average yearly income of the service area and this is determined by a census study done of the area.

6. Martha Weidner, resident of Schell road since 1972 and retired since 1969, asked if she would be responsible for the cost from her house to the road. The answer is yes and there may be grant funding available based on if you fall into the low-to moderate income level. Martha asked if the income of all in the household is counted due to her daughter living with her. Solicitor Landon yes, household income. Martha also asked when the Township anticipates all of this to begin. Eric Moore answered that the Township would begin to seek grant funding in Fall of 2017, design work to begin in Spring 2018 and construction to begin Spring 2019. Costs would incur to the residents in 2019. Martha also wanted to clarify that she heard correctly that she would be responsible for anything that would go wrong between her house and the main line. The answer was yes. Eric Moore touched on grinder pumps that would be used on this system and sometimes there can be issues. Martha wanted to know if she would be responsible for that cost. Eric answered that it would depend how the Township Supervisors would want to handle that and that it would be something decided in the future.
7. Shana Reed stated that her question about the time frame was answered and at this time Eric Moore submitted the revised implementation schedule known as Exhibit Six.
8. Kay Beaver inquired about her son's property which is a Watsontown address. The house sits back a very long line. It was determined that it would not be part of the system because it is not identified on the location map of the area to be sewerred.

The hearing was concluded at 7:33 P.M. and the Supervisors regular meeting was reconvened.

Old Business

A motion was made by Jay Douglas Bomberger, seconded by Duane M. Blakeney and passed to approve a Memorandum of Understanding between the Township and Warrior Run School District as last revised by the township on June 23, 2017 for the purpose of detailing financial considerations associated with finalization and submission of the Act 537 minor plant upgrade as the selected alternative. Willard Murray abstained. (See file for Memorandum of Abstention)

A motion was made by Duane M. Blakeney, seconded by Jay Douglas Bomberger and passed to table the adoption of the Act 537 Minor Plan Update to obtain additional information. Willard Murray abstained. (See file for Memorandum of Abstention)

Township Reports

Supervisors

Supervisors Duane Blakeney and Jay Douglas Bomberger reported on progress made in mowing throughout the township and preparing for the tar and chip project.

Roadmaster

Roadmaster Willard Murray reported on progress made throughout the township in regards to the upcoming tar and chip project, mowing, filling of potholes and cleaning ditches.

Treatment Plant Operator

Eric Moore from West Branch Regional Authority attended the meeting and touched on a few points of the report submitted in regard to a replacement pump needed for the main plant and flows and rainfall information for the month of June. (See file for full report)

A motion was made by Willard Murray, seconded by Duane M. Blakeney and passed to approve a quote submitted by Xylem Water Solutions USA, Inc. for a replacement pump in the amount of \$1,325.50.

Secretary/Treasurer

Secretary/Treasurer Lucinda R. Bomberger reported that an application for grant funds was submitted through the ARLE program to make improvements to Warrior Run Blvd. The application was submitted June 29, 2017. A Multimodal Transportation Fund Grant Application for improvements to Warrior Run Blvd. will also be submitted by July 31, 2017. Representative Culver, Senator Gordner, Phil Dunn and Lynn Ruby from DCED will be coming to the Township in early August for a site visit and to discuss the application. Also noted was the budget review submitted to the Supervisors and the Tax Collection Audit reports for 2015 & 2016.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission will meet again on July 27, 2017 and will continue to discuss recommendations for zoning amendment. It was projected that recommendations may be submitted to the Supervisors in about two months.

Fire Board Representative

Representative Duane Blakeney reported that the Ambulance Fund Drive will begin in August, Ambulance service will begin in Montgomery, PA in the near future and extensive physical training is preparing firefighters for live fires.

New Business

A motion was made by Jay Douglas Bomberger, seconded by Willard Murray to table the approval of the Daniel Martin/ Cameron Hill Lot Consolidation until the August 2, 2017 meeting.

A motion was made by Duane M. Blakeney, seconded by Jay Douglas Bomberger and passed to approve the audit engagement with Herring, Solomon and Roll, P.C. for 2017 Tax Collection Audit services in the amount of \$1,500.00.

A motion was made by Jay Douglas Bomberger, seconded by Duane M. Blakeney and passed to approve payment of bills for the month of July 2017.

Public Comment

- Robert Leiby inquired where the power will come from to run a grinder pump. Eric Moore answered from the homeowner's home, specifically in his experience directly to the electrical box. Decisions about grinder pumps will be determined later by the supervisors.
- Shana Reed was thankful that the stop sign was back in place on Schell Road.
- Kay Beaver inquired about ditches along Schell road that they needed cleaned out and mowing was needed also.
- Supervisor Duane Blakeney mentioned that several signs throughout the Township lately are missing and have subject to vandalism.

A motion was made by Willard Murray, seconded by Duane M. Blakeney and passed to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucinda R. Bomberger
Lewis Township Secretary/Treasurer