

July 10, 2015
Friday, 10:00 a.m.

MINUTES

Chairman John P. Sivick called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Also present were Richard C. Vollmer, Vice Chairman; Robert H. Rohner, Jr., Supervisor and Secretary/Treasurer and Robert F. Bernathy, Esq., Township Solicitor. Jon Tresslar, P.E., Township Solicitor was not present.

Also present were Senator Lisa Baker and Representative Rosemary Brown.

Present from the Lehman Township Water & Sewer Authority (Authority) were Peter Contino, Chairman; Mary Ann Conza, Secretary; Mary Galayda, Member; Kevin Brady, Member; Donald Karpowich, Esq., the authority's solicitor and Mike Gable, P.E., the authority's engineer. June Cestone, Member was not present.

Present from PA DEP (DEP) were Colleen Connolly, Colleen Stutzman and Brian Busher.

Present from PennDot were Bob Kopacz (sp), Ralph Del Rosso, Stacy Lytle and Denise Youorski.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No comments were received.

LEHMAN TOWNSHIP WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY:

Mr. Karpowich stated that the Authority was formed in 2003, and was entrusted with the salt remediation project, as it affected those property owners in Pocono Mountain Lake Estates (PMLE), Section 4. The Authority has worked diligently for the past twelve (12) years.

Other Pennsylvania state agencies have caused problems. PennDot's SR 2001 project's design has a temporary construction road 89' from the Authority's existing supply well, the only well with an adequate yield (30 gpm), and satisfactory testing results. PennDot wanted the Authority to find another piece of property in which to drill a well. There is not the required 100' well head protection.

The Authority has determined that sodium is naturally occurring in this area.

Mr. Karpowich asked what solution does DEP have to offer. Pennsylvania American Water Company attended the last meeting, and had stated that the approximate cost to tie PMLE into their service area in Pine Ridge would be \$3 million. The Company also stated that they have similar issues in Pine Ridge.

Mr. Karpowich stated that he reviewed DEP's records, and there had been no mandate, nor violation notice issued by DEP in this matter.

Mr. Gable stated that he was hired by the Authority eighteen (18) months ago. He was directed to find another water source. A location on a piece of property owned by the township (outside of the plume) was designated and a well drilled. Water tests reflect a high level of dissolved solids.

It is not financially feasible for the township. The township needs the assistance of a state or federal agency.

An area of the township which had been designated as a staging area for the mixing of anti-skid and salt decades ago was purported to have contaminated the ground, and subsequently the ground water. That ground was removed in 1996/1997. Those materials are long gone. So, what is happening now is naturally occurring, because there is no water located there to move contaminants.

There are not enough users to support a public water system.

If DEP will allow the Authority a waiver of the well head protection requirements, then the Authority can move forward. DEP representatives stated that it will not be permitted.

Rep. Brown asked how many property owners are affected in PMLE. She was informed that there are twelve (12), and there are 25 undeveloped lots.

Senator Baker asked if there is interest from Pennsylvania American Water Company. Mr. Karpowich stated that it is not feasible. The cost is high. Senator Baker responded that it has happened in other areas of the commonwealth using state and federal funds. This may become a mandated issue, and is an option on the table.

Mr. Sivick asked PennDot representatives could the aquifer be affected by the construction of SR 2001. Ms. Youorski stated that there will be use of the construction road, and a section of ground will be removed, but they may not have to blast and there was no pyrite in the area.

A DEP representative stated that once the SR 2001 construction project has been completed a new hydro geologic study, as well as a draw down test will have to be done.

Mr. Gable stated that the concern is the well head protection zone. Pennsylvania American Water representatives had stated at the last meeting that they have trouble finding quality water within the boundaries of Pine Ridge. That sodium is a secondary contaminate, and is not regulated by DEP. There are higher levels of total dissolved solids, with the leading contaminate being manganese. For example PMLE, Section 1E's water system has high levels of manganese and iron that must be treated.

Senator Baker asked Ms. Youorski if there is any modification that PennDot can achieve regarding the additional 11' needed for the well head protection, without delaying the project. Ms. Youorski stated that she can take this request back to the office, but the bid opening for this project is scheduled for July 16, 2015.

DEP stated that to be considered for Pennvest funding there must be a completed proposal. Senator Baker stated that this project is elevated by Pennvest standards.

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Mr. Vollmer stated that to recap the discussion, the Authority's supply well needs an additional 11' so as to be in the well head protection area. To request PennDot to change plans to give the additional 11' would more than likely delay the bid opening for this project.

DEP is not issuing a permit for the supply well until the SR 2001 project has been completed, and the well deemed usable.

PMLE and Pine Ridge both have the same water quality issues as the township.

Mr. Gable added that there is no order or directive from DEP regarding this issue. DEP representatives acknowledge same.

DEP representatives stated that the agency has no requirements or jurisdiction for systems with under twenty-five (25) users or fifteen (15) hook-ups, and furthermore there is no order issued by DEP ordering the township to construct a public water system. DEP representatives stated that if the Authority forwards a letter to Brian Yagiello at DEP, the agency will respond. The legislatures and PennDot are to be copied.

ADDENDUM NO. 1 – SR 2001 PROJECT, AND THE BRIDGE NEAR PMLE'S CLUB HOUSE:

Mr. Sivick asked Ms. Youorski if a temporary by-pass road at the bridge site could be installed first. If something happens, thousands of residents will be affected, especially as it relates to emergency service vehicles. The bridge located on Minks Pond Road is down to one (1) lane and has an eight (8) ton weight limit. Ms. Youorski stated that PennDot will discuss. It may affect PennDot's conservation district permit.

Senator Baker stated to Ms. Youorski that an evaluation of the bridge should be done, and let us all know what you find, and what the construction schedule is for this project.

Mr. Sivick recommends that monthly construction meetings be conducted during the project as was done in the last phase.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, meeting adjourned by the motion of Mr. Sivick and second of Mr. Rohner. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert H. Rohner, Jr.
Secretary/Treasurer

