

MINUTES
SEWER ADVISORY BOARD (SAB) MEETING
JANUARY 27, 2022

The regular meeting of the Upper Allen Township Sewer Advisory Board was held on January 27, 2022 in the Upper Allen Township Municipal Building, 100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

MEMBERS

Bob Haines, Chairman
Dave Gabel, Vice Chairman
Mike Gillespie
Daniel Hower (absent)
Karen Overly Smith

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS

Commissioner, Jim Cochran
Commissioner, Jeff Walter
Barry A. Cupp, Sewer Dept. Manager
Kodi Hockenberry, Asst. Sewer Dept. Manager

GHD ENGINEERING SERVICES

Joel Kostelac, P.E.

Chairman Haines called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Roll Call was taken by Sewer Department Secretary, Kathy Ferrari.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER – KAREN OVERLY SMITH

Chairman Haines introduced and welcomed Mrs. Smith to the Board. Mrs. Smith said that she was happy to be a member of this Board and serving the community. She provided the Board with a summary of her background which relates to her service on the Sewer Advisory Board.

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD

Mr. Gabel made a **MOTION** to elect officers of the Upper Allen Township Sewer Advisory Board as follows:

2022 Elected Officers:

- **Chairman:** Daniel Hower
- **Vice Chairman:** Bob Haines
- **Secretary:** Dave Gabel

SECONDED by Mrs. Smith. **ROLL CALL:** carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Chairman Haines called for approval of the minutes of November 18, 2021 meeting. Mr. Gabel made a **MOTION** to approve the minutes of November 18, 2021. **SECONDED** by Mr. Gillespie. **ROLL CALL:** carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

CHAIRMAN'S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors.

OLD BUSINESS

GRANTHAM WWTP SLUDGE DEWATERING SYSTEM
UPGRADE AND OTHER MISCELLANEOUS IMPROVEMENTS

Mr. Cupp provided a summary of the overall project to date for the benefit of our new member. He reported that on Tuesday, January 25th a second meeting was held with Kappe Associates, representatives from BDP of New York, GHD and our staff. The meeting involved a tour of the plant, discussion of the scope of work, layout, and contract responsibilities. Mr. Cupp provided the board with a project spreadsheet pointing out that it is a two-pronged project with the work listed on one side being contract bid work for miscellaneous improvements and non-sludge related, while the other side being all sludge handling related work to be accomplished under COSTARS coordinated through Kappe Associates. In addition to the project worksheet Mr. Cupp put together a slide show addressing the 2022/2023 Grantham Sludge Dewatering and Miscellaneous Improvements Project as follows:

Sludge Dewatering – replace Envirodyne belt filter press with RDP screw press, replace sludge conveyor, control panel, sludge pumps, valves, and piping, and replace polymer feed system.

Miscellaneous Improvements – replace utility water system and piping, replace digester blowers, replace air compressor system, demo/remove lime silo, demo BDP building wall and construct loading platform/enclosure, replace rubber roofing system, upgrade heating and lighting in BFP building, replace digester waste activated sludge valves, install sludge roll off container steel floor plates, miscellaneous paint, and comply with MS4 requirements for plant generator fuel tank enclosure.

Following the presentation Commissioner Cochran asked if we have a project cost estimate. Mr. Cupp responded that would be the next step. Mr. Kostelac said that he believes the cost will be in the two-million-dollar range (plus), noting that the belt press project itself is

probably a million-dollar project. Commissioner Cochran asked given the current economy what are the chances this project will be completed in 2022. Mr. Kostelac said it is a 2022-2023 project. Mr. Cupp explained that there is a large amount of project coordinating/scheduling to be done, DEP permitting and BDP has already told us that their equipment would not be available for about nine months. Mr. Kostelac said that if things are procured through COSTARS and Kappe there will be some money spent in 2022. He said that for COSTARS to do a purchase order for equipment they will require some payment; the bulk of the payment will be due upon delivery which probably will not be until 2023. Commissioner Cochran questioned if they would hold the price for the equipment with only a partial payment? Mr. Kostelac responded “yes” once the purchase order is signed the price should be firm. Discussion ensued regarding work on the building modifications before the new equipment is delivered. Mr. Kostelac stated that the challenge is that you need to keep the belt filter press in service up until the last minute; adding you do not want to be hauling liquid sludge any longer that necessary because of cost. He said they are looking at doing the building modifications based on being able to get the old press out and new press in and timing it with the COSTARS contract work. Mr. Kostelac added that the DEP permit is the only factor driving the belt filter press switchover; meaning that if we were not changing a process element in the plant a DEP permit would not be required. He believes there is a way to narrow the permit approach to just the press so that the design work can get underway for things like lighting, building modifications and architectural work. Mr. Cupp stated that he will continue to keep the Board posted on the project status.

NEW BUSINESS

WITNEY RIDGE LOW PRESSURE SEWER SYSTEM

Mr. Cupp reported that the developer of Witney Ridge is seeking dedication of the streets in Witney Ridge. He said that Sewer Department has two outstanding issues and comments with this request. The first issue is that the sewer lines have never been dedicated to the Township. The other issue is that there is a low-pressure system on Windrush Lane that is off the public street on private property. He said that the original drawings show an easement but do not specify whose easement. He said that while we believe we know where the low-pressure line is located, we never received accurate as-builts from the developer’s contractor. Various discrepancies, deficiencies and problems exist with respect to the low-pressure sewer main, low pressure service lines and shutoff valves along Windrush Lane, outside of the street rights-of-way. In addition, numerous trees, bushes, plantings, and landscaping exists over top and along the full extent of the low-pressure sewer mains. For the reasons stated the Sewer Department does not believe that the low-pressure sewer mains located just outside the Township Street right-of way along Windrush lane, as well as portion of the low-pressure sewer located with Township right-of way extending to their connection to manholes located on Standlake Way and Boxwood Lane, and low-pressure service lines crossing Windrush Lane should be accepted by or dedicated to the Township. Mr. Cupp showed the Board a video taken early this afternoon walking through the development and pointing out where he believes the pressure line is located and view of the current landscaping. Discussion ensued regarding the number of grinder pumps installed, year the

development was built, year sewer system installed, estimated location of low-pressure line and connection points. Mr. Gillespie questioned who is asking that the Sewer Department take over the lines. Mr. Cupp responded the developer. He said that the president (*correction- an executive director*) of the Witney Ridge HOA contacted him and discussed the Township's position regarding acceptance of the sewers and while he did not seem thrilled, he did not indicate that he planned on taking any type of action. Mr. Cupp said that currently we are waiting for the final as-builts drawings which before being finalized require a note be added that states the Township is not responsible for operation/maintenance of the low-pressure system. We are also still waiting on a deed of dedication for the sewers located within the street rights-of-way in Phases 1 and 2 of Witney Ridge PRD. Mr. Cupp said that he spoke with the developer today and he told Mr. Cupp to go ahead and request that his engineer prepare plats and legal descriptions for the Deed of Dedication. Mr. Hockenberry questioned if developer's instructions to proceed with the Deed of Dedication excluded the low-pressure sewer; Mr. Cupp responded yes. Discussion ensued regarding HOA response to low pressure ownership and maintenance, resident current/future maintenance, past problems with the developer such as sidewalk installation and dedication of roads. Chairman Haines asked if there is an obligation on the part of the Township at some point to take over roads and sewer. Commissioner Cochran said not if they do not meet Township requirements. He added that if they meet our specifications, then we cannot arbitrarily turn them down. Commissioner Cochran said his concern is for those properties twenty years from now that have no idea that if the sewer clogs up, they are on the hook for payment for excavation from the HOA and may have to assess homeowners a couple thousand dollars to repair sewers. He said this just does not seem fair. A brief discussion ensued regarding the Township policy and procedure for grinder pumps, proper documentation for acceptance/dedication of sewers. Mr. Hockenberry pointed out that Windrush Lane is the only street in the development that has grinder pumps, the rest of the development is a gravity flow sewer system. Commissioner Cochran asked if it was only the one side of Windrush Lane that is the issue. Mr. Hockenberry said that opens another can of worms for discussion. We generally are responsible for the service line within a dedicated street right-of-way but if the Township's position is not to accept the main line for the low pressure, then Mr. Hockenberry does not believe we are going to accept a portion of every person's service line where it goes across the dedicated Township Street. Commissioner Cochran said this sounds like a question for the Township Solicitor. Mr. Hockenberry asked if the Board thinks that property owners in Witney Ridge would allow the Township to dig up their yards to physically see where the pipes are located. He asked Mr. Cupp if the as-builts exactly match the design drawings. Mr. Cupp responded no. Mr. Kostelac said that it seems to him that the ball is in the developer's court if they want to unload this issue on the Township, they need to bring it up to Township specifications or not, and if the HOA has a problem, it is a legal issue between the developer and the HOA. Discussion ensued regarding any remaining financial security and current Sewer Department policy/procedures, inserting specific notes on plans, digging test pits and future sewer repairs/homeowner responsibilities. Mr. Hockenberry commented that low pressure lines unlike gravity lines cannot be televised, noting that you know there is something wrong with the line when you see sewage coming up from the ground. Mr. Gable suggested contacting the HOA, explaining the current situation, and then as mentioned by Mr. Hockenberry getting them to agree to digging to

locate the line to obtain accurate as-builts. Mr. Gillespie questioned the reliability and quality of the low-pressure system. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Gillespie made a **MOTION** to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Township not accept the low-pressure line as it currently exists along Windrush Lane including the portions in the public street. **SECONDED** by Mr. Gabel. **ROLL CALL:** carried unanimously.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Kostelac reported that this week GHD submitted to the Township a proposal for the renewal of the Grantham WWTP NPDES Permit. He reminded the Board that a few months back Mr. Cupp presented this Board with a brief explanation/summary of the permit. The current permit expires at the end of 2022 and DEP requires that renewals be submitted six months ahead of time before the renewal is due. He stated that it is not an insignificant effort. Discussion ensued. The proposal amount is \$18,000 (time and materials) and will be presented to the Board of Commissioners at the February 16, 2022 meeting. Mr. Kostelac stated that GHD will also be submitting a proposal for the Grantham WWTP Sludge Dewatering System Upgrade and Other Miscellaneous Improvement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Haines adjourned the 7:35 p.m.

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 24, 2022 AT 6:30 P.M.