

NORTH HUNTINGDON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
 REGULAR MEETING, FEBRUARY 10, 2016, 7:00 PM
 YOUGHIOGHENY WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT
 4222 TURNER VALLEY ROAD, NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA 15642

ROLL CALL:

Jeffrey Fisher	- Present	Michael Branthoover, General Manager	- Present
Todd Fry	- Present	Christy J. Raspotnik, Finance Director	- Present
Timothy Hondal	- Absent	Christopher Sanner, System Superintendent	- Present
Joseph Korenic, Jr.	- Present	Michael Henao, Asst. System Superintendent	- Present
William H. Miller	- Present	Daniel J. Hewitt, Solicitor	- Present
		David A. Coldren, KLH Engineers	- Present

The Regular Meeting of the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Joseph Korenic, Jr., Vice Chairman. Michael L. Branthoover called the roll and a quorum was present.

CITIZEN'S INPUT

Patrick & Patricia Greening – 9921 Deerfield Drive

Mr. Greening stated new lines were put in the area. Later there were tests and inspections done and requests were made to break up their driveway and make repairs. They don't know why that needed to be done.

Mrs. Greening said basically when the new lines were put in, there was a gentleman named Tom who was in charge. She asked Tom to let her know if there were any issues so this could be done all at one time. Tom said they would inspect the line and would let her know. Tom said her line was good to go. The two pads on the side had to be broken up. When the first pad was broken up, the second pad was broken also and she was told it would be replaced. Both pads were put in. The driveway has shifted in spots. They thought this was all over this. More tests were done and they were told a main line coming out of the house was good to go. But there's another small line off to the side. Her understanding is there's nothing going into or coming out of her house. What she believed the gentleman said when they inspected it was it was probably ground water going into that. The driveway needed to be broken up again in a different spot and put a cap on it or remove it. They don't understand why they need to break the driveway up again when she asked when it was done to please tell her if there were going to be any issues. It appears to be from, it's not sewerage or anything coming out of the house. That lines all good to go.

Mr. Greening said if it was anything bad like a sewer line they wouldn't be here and would've had it taken care of.

Attorney Hewitt stated from the states perspective and from the Authority's perspective, that ground water is worse than if it were sewage going in there. Ground water is not supposed to be put in the system because it causes a surcharge. The fact you have an area that is potentially allowing ground water or drainage somewhere either from the ground or from anywhere into the sewage system is called inflow and infiltration. It's a big no-no from the DEP.

Mr. Greening asked how you keep the rain and snow out of the sewage system.

Attorney Hewitt replied this isn't a storm sewage system. There are two different types of systems. There is storm drainage and there is sewage drainage. Our system is not a dual or combined system. All that is allowed to go into the sanitary sewer system is sanitary sewage, not storm drainage or ground water.

Mr. Greening said that leads him to another question. They've been there 30 years and bought the house when it was seven years old. They have done nothing since they've been there so it was there from the original construction. It would have been inspected and approved by you.

Attorney Hewitt replied we probably did not inspect it 30 years ago. These inspections are only done when there's a project like this or if the house is going to be sold, refinanced or new construction and in that case bells and whistles would be going off. The fact that you owned it that long has held this off fallow and we've not a view on it. We can't say it is causing a problem. We can say the nature of what exists is a violation of law.

Mr. Greening said that's kind of like our point also. For 30 years it's not causing a problem.

Attorney Hewitt said we don't know.

Mr. Greening said we don't know, exactly. But they have to break up more of their concrete driveway which already looks like a checkerboard from the previous work. They cooperated with anybody and everybody including the testing, which they didn't know why they were allowing us to come and test otherwise, same thing, we wouldn't even know about this and neither would they. But now here they are, same thing.

Attorney Hewitt said he certainly represents a lot of homeowners throughout the county too, when they come into his office and say they are trying to sell their house and they just got this report and oh my god what do I do. This is going to have to be dealt with. Nobody owns their house forever. Sooner or later whether it's you or your kids have to handle this problem.

Mr. Greening said there once again along those same lines, we have no intensions of moving or selling our house as a matter of fact, if our house goes any place, it's going to go to one of our kids, so we're talking another 30 years from now.

Attorney Hewitt said the transfer would trigger an inspection.

Mr. Sanner stated he spoke with Mr. Greening on the phone and scheduled for us to come back out and do the inspection. This is part of our rehab process. We go in and do the main line work like you've seen. Then once the contractor's 18-month maintenance bond ends we come back in and televise all the homes and any defects that are found such as this connection that is there has to be repaired within one year. The connection that's there, because it is not hooked to anything else in the house, it's not toilet water that comes out of it, no bathtub, no sink water or anything like that. We were able to video it and it is a perforated pipe. It has the potential to let clear water into there. I understand you've owned this home now for 30 years. DEP and the Authority have had to change their standards over the years. DEP now regulates us that we are not allowed to let rain water into a sanitary or sewage system. Because this has the potential to let rain water or any kind of ground water into the system, we're required to eliminate these things. That's why we are requiring to do this repair that is needed.

Mr. Greening understands we are under the DEP by their standards and regulations and they can change tomorrow and they can be different from 10 years ago. He's been around a little while. But the same thing applies, we are going to incur all this cost and all this damage to our property. Our property is well maintained. With all this coming in and interfering, if nothing else our driveway looks like a checkerboard because of all the hoops you have to jump through for DEP standards, we are being the people that have to come up with the money and evidently it's done to our property. Something about that doesn't fit right. I have big time problems and issues with that. If it was sewerage, I understand that, we wouldn't be here and it wouldn't been done and taken care of because we've always tried to do and maintain. We agreed to the inspections and what not and we didn't even know why we're agreeing to them. You guys said we want to come do an inspection and we said sure come on go right ahead. You can even go further not that even matters for anything. We've never contacted you guys or anybody else for anything. We pay our bills and pay them on time and take care of everything we have to take care of as property owners our entire life. Now we have to be confronted with this, whether it's you guys or DEP or anybody else. We don't think that's right.

Mr. Branthoover said we've been doing this very same thing to our own lines. We came into your neighborhood, we replaced all of our bad and illegal connections and anything that was broken. In turn, now that the maintenance bond for the contractor that came in and did the main line as now expired he's not responsible for anything anymore. So now we're coming back in to test everyone's homes. That inspection port was put in front of your property it's done for every new sewer line and that's to help for two reasons: to clean the line if something is damaged or blocked and it's also for us to gain access to inspect to see if there's anything wrong with your line and our line for that matter. Part of us getting the infiltration out, we have to test the homes.

We came in and dye tested the toilets and sinks and checked the downspouts. Unfortunately there is a wye that goes into a perforated pipe which looks like some type of a French drain pipe and you can actually see there is 2b stone that blocks that pipe. When we did this it was dry, probably wasn't raining or hadn't rained a lot because of the cold temperatures. But on a wet day that could be flowing crazy with water and that in turn does overwhelm our system. If you see on your bill the capital improvements surcharge that's on there, that goes toward replacing sewer lines in your neighborhood. That goes to maintaining our infrastructure, to maintaining our facilities and taking care of that. Unfortunately, we are asking the same of you now. I know you have a concrete driveway and the unfortunate part is your entire line runs under your driveway and we know that and we do understand that, but it still needs to be addressed. I would like to show you the video. (The video was played.)

Mr. Sanner explained that is the other camera they had to use where you see the orange and silver where it's at is in the trap that is outside your house right outside the garage door. They were televising from the inspection tee down at the end of the property closest to the road. They were pushing from that point up to the home. That connection is after the trap and it is a connection that has areas where clear water, rain water, anything like that could get up into those holes in the pipe.

Attorney Hewitt asked what they had to do to be in compliance.

Mr. Sanner said it needs to be capped off.

Mr. Branthoover said they were discussing this earlier. He doesn't know but there may be some type of trenchless technology where somebody can run a camera up there and plug that wye but that may introduce water into the home so they may want to have that done properly and he doesn't even know if that technology exists. There is technology where we can go into a line that's bad through two manholes and go through and pull a sock through it and pump water in and it cures to put a new pipe in place. He doesn't know if that's something they can do in this instance or not.

Mr. Coldren said he thinks they would be able to grout that but that's the easy part. It's what do you do with the ground water after that.

Attorney Hewitt said assuming it's going in. There's no direct flow into it that we have seen.

Mr. Coldren said that's true it could be sealed off and maybe there wouldn't be any problems. That ended when that went up the right hand side.

Mr. Sanner said it only goes a couple feet then it looks like there's another 45 or 90 degree fitting to the right and then that's where it's full of stone and we're not able to push any further. That trap is a foot or so outside the front door. That's only back there 6, 8 or 10 inches and then there's another fitting there so it's probably some type of foundation drain that's right along the front of the home.

Mr. Coldren asked if they know if they have another foundation drain that might daylight out closer to the road.

Mr. Greening said he didn't understand the question.

Attorney Hewitt said an external French drain or a yard drain.

Mr. Greening said if we did it was there before they bought the home. We never did anything like that. We would consider something like was just suggested.

Mr. Korenic said they have to be careful because it could cause a water backup into your house.

Mr. Branthoover agreed and said they would have to get a reputable contractor to do it.

Mr. Greening said that would be between him and the contractor. He wouldn't hold us because we suggested it.

Mr. Coldren said one thought would be to seal off that foundation drain connection and running the French drains out to the road.

Attorney Hewitt said they are not even sure they are French drains.

Mr. Branthoover asked if it was possible to be accessed from the garage.

Mr. Sanner said it's possible.

Attorney Hewitt said for us to be able to report compliance to the DEP, that area can't be connected to the sanitary sewer lateral, whether it's filled in or cut and capped. We don't care but the DEP says we can't allow the potential for storm water.

Mr. Greening said the option Mike said they would consider and that would resolve the problem.

Mr. Branthoover said for all intents and purposes what you need to do is get rid of the illegal connection that is the violation. However you can accomplish it that's what needs to be done.

Mr. Greening said up to this point that's why we appealed it because they are being told they have to break up their concrete and pay for the expense of it.

Attorney Hewitt said we've been sitting here spit balling it too. We're trying to come up with something. We don't even know if the technology exists. We've seen other instances of similar type things but I don't know if they can go and put a balloon cap or that or fill it in.

Mr. Greening said he already has somebody in mind they are very reputable and they've used them before and were happy with them. He would certainly look into that and explore that.

Attorney Hewitt said we're not telling you how to do it we're just saying the end result.

Mr. Greening said now, but up to this point they were under the impression we had to break up the driveway.

Attorney Hewitt said if he has a contractor that wants to talk to Chris and discuss how this can go.

Mr. Greening asked what if they don't have this done by the deadline in March.

Attorney Hewitt said historically when people work with us we work with them. We need to have something concrete if you're able to get a contractor lined up.

Mr. Greening said he would be more than happy to notify us. He would let us know what the contractor could do and ask if it would work.

Mr. Branthoover said we're alright with that.

Attorney Hewitt said we don't like enforcement action because it's just time and money for everybody. We want to see you put the money into the ground and fix the problems not worry about having to go to hearings. We need to hear what your contractor is able to do and when are they able to do it.

Mr. Greening said they would do that.

Attorney Hewitt said he would recommend to the Board since it will be next month's meeting before their one year deadline is up, if they are willing to come in with something from a contractor action can be deferred until next month. Then if they need more time it can be given to them next month. We don't want to throw an arbitrary deadline on them.

Mr. Greening asked what if they can't find someone.

Attorney Hewitt said we'd be back here next month at square one again.

Mr. Sanner asked if they received a contractor's list.

Mrs. Greening said no.

Mr. Sanner said he would get them one before they leave. We have a list of contractors we know are familiar with our rules and regulations. We also check them yearly with the Better Business Bureau to make sure they are registered.

Mr. Greening said the first one he thought of was ABC who put in French drains inside the house and they did a really good job.

Mr. Sanner said he's not familiar with them, they haven't scheduled any inspections and they are not on the list.

Attorney Hewitt said we'll deal with anyone.

Mr. Greening said he'll take the list because they might say no they can't help us.

Mr. Sanner said it's always good to get three prices.

Mr. Coldren asked if they know where their inside French drains flow.

Mr. Greening said they go to a sump pump.

Mr. Branthoover said they can have their contractor contact Mr. Sanner. He'll make a note to extend their deadline at least until the next meeting. He thanked them for coming.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Coldren requested authorization to advertise for construction bids for Penn's Woods Phase 3 sewer project.

Motion: Fisher Motion to authorize to advertise for Penn's Woods Phase 3.
Second: Fry

Motion Carried 4 – 0 – 0

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Hewitt stated the only items he had were matters of pending litigation and we discussed them in Executive Session.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Motion: Miller Motion to approve the minutes of the Work Session on
Second: Fisher January 13, 2016.

Motion Carried 3 – 0 – 1 (Fry abstained)

Motion: Korenic Motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on
Second: Miller January 13, 2016.

Motion Carried 3 – 0 – 1 (Fry abstained)

Motion: Fry Motion to approve the minutes of the Penn's Woods
Second: Phase 3 Special Work Session on February 3, 2016.

Table until next meeting.

Motion: Miller Motion to approve payment of the bills:
Second: Fisher

Capital Reserve Requisition #181 --	\$ 28,104.28
Operating --	\$857,000.90
Payroll --	\$112,891.42

Motion Carried 4 – 0 – 0

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Branthoover requested approval of the Electronic Device Use Policy. This is the policy that was reviewed last month however now it encompasses all electronic equipment including cell phones. It will be given to all employees and signed by all employees.

Attorney Hewitt recommended the folks sitting around the table have to sign as well.

Motion: Fry
Second: Fisher

Motion to authorize posting the position of lab tech.

Motion Carried 4 – 0 – 0

ANNOUNCEMENTS

An executive session was held prior to the Regular Meeting for the purpose of discussing legal and personnel matters.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Miller
Second: Fisher

Motion to adjourn.

Motion Carried 4 – 0 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.



William H. Miller, Secretary