



# TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

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## Township of Spring Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes – March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The regularly scheduled public meeting of the Township of Spring Infrastructure Committee was called to order by Chairperson Ehrlich at 8:32 a.m. on Tuesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in the Public Meeting Room of the Township of Spring Administration Building, located at 2850 Windmill Road, Spring Township, Berks County, Pennsylvania. The following members were present: Sarah Ehrlich, Bob Myer, Paul Darrah, and Leroy Schannauer. Mike Kocher attended via teleconference. Also in attendance were Mary Rossi, Jen Bensinger, Jim Moll, Dan Becker, Esquire; Matthew Boggs-Entech Engineering; Chuck Frantz & Scott Sweigart of C2C Design; Jeanne Johnston-Cumru Township Manager, Bob McNichols-Cumru Township Public Works Director, and Patricia Wylozik Pfeiffer; Esquire.

**Re-Organization** – Ms. Ehrlich recommended keeping everything the same for 2023. *Motion to keep Ms. Ehrlich as Chairperson and Mr. Schannauer as Vice-Chairperson was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Darrah. Upon roll call, all members voted affirmatively.*  
**MOTION CARRIED**

### **Approval of Minutes**

*Motion to approve the minutes of the September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022, meeting was made by Mr. Darrah, seconded by Mr. Schannauer. Upon roll call, Mr. Kocher abstained. All committee members present voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1*

**Amendment to the Agenda** – None

**Open to the Floor** – None

### **Sewer**

#### **Old Lancaster Pike Proposed Sewer Line**

Chuck Frantz of C2C Design presented the proposed project on behalf of Mr. Schannauer to extend a section of approximately 1,400 linear feet of low-pressure force main on Old Lancaster Pike. It would be a new sewer section extending from an existing sanitary sewer line located on Old Lancaster Pike, between Gouglersville Road and Deer Creek Road, with the potential to serve approximately 25-26 lots. The line that it would tie into is an existing Cumru Township line, and based on feedback from officials in Cumru Township, there appear to be no capacity issues. The line would ultimately be proposed for dedication to Spring Township to take over the operation and maintenance. Mr. Frantz confirmed that sixteen (16) are currently developed, and four (4) lots have been created but are unoccupied. Additionally, there is potential for six (6) additional lots that may be created through a subdivision in the future, with the vast majority located in Spring Township.

**Sewer** *(Continued)*

Old Lancaster Pike Proposed Sewer Line *(Continued)*

The sewer that comes to the manhole at the border of the Brecknock and Spring Township line is from Cumru. There is an extension that serves two (2) homes, one (1) located in Brecknock Township and one (1) in Spring Township. Ms. Johnston confirmed that Cumru Township does not have an agreement with Brecknock Township. Mr. Frantz established for Mr. Moll that the entire line proposed in Spring Township would connect to that manhole with a low-pressure system that grinder pumps would pressurize in each connection. Mr. Frantz stated a low-pressure system is proposed due to the topography and slopes in that area. The Committee reviewed maps and data for the proposed location. Mr. Frantz explained that each home connected would have an individual pump on the property to pump their sewer to the line. The line's functionality relies on each house as a collective system regarding what it will take to move the sewer through the low-pressure force main.

Mr. Schannauer confirmed that this system is less expensive, and the proposed homes to connect do not have public sewer or water. The proposed project only takes care of the existing issues on homes on Lancaster Pike, not for surrounding areas to connect to, which are larger and have room for on-lot systems. The Committee discussed that there is a requirement to have anyone who is within 150 ft of the sewer line be required to connect with the Township. Mr. Schannauer confirmed that existing on-lot systems that connect to the Township would be required to be removed as per Township Ordinance. Mr. Schannauer confirmed that he would turn the main over to the Township, but all of the laterals in the low-pressure system would be privately owned and maintained.

Mr. Becker explained the different parts of tapping fees per the Municipal Authority Act. Mr. Moll reviewed the area, including the Township and Cumru Township agreement. Ms. Johnston said that Cumru Township would like an amendment to the existing agreement.

Ms. Johnson stated that the developer would be responsible for the amendment to the ACT 37 for the planning module. Ms. Johnson said it is vital to forward any data that the Township would like Cumru Township to look at, including this project, as they are currently reviewing their ACT 37 Plan., and hope to submit it to the DEP sometime next year. Ms. Johnston said the treatment and transportation costs would need to be understood and how the changes will be reflected administratively in the Chapter 94 Report. Ms. Johnson confirmed that Cumru Township does not have its own Sewer Plant; 98% flows to the city of Reading, and the other 2 % flows to JMA.

Mr. Becker discussed possible future connections and agreed with Mr. Myer, who mentioned that it was discussed previously to connect the whole southern part of the Township. Mr. Becker reviewed the areas that the staff met about and discussed. After review, they determined that there is no easy solution to connect the sewer due to contours and elevations that will make it very difficult to flow into a more extensive system.

Mr. McNichols said that a municipality is not permitted to take groundwater from the Chesapeake watershed and pump it into the Delaware watershed. There was a discussion on the watershed issue, and the Committee determined that this will need to be reviewed.

## **Sewer** (Continued)

### **Old Lancaster Pike Proposed Sewer Line** (Continued)

Ms. Johnson stated that Cumru Township would only accept a low-pressure main if instructed by their Commissioners due to issues they have had in the past, discussing some of the scenarios and that they prefer gravity systems. Mr. Myer suggested that the Township looks into gravity systems as well. Mr. Schannauer stated the low-pressure system is less costly and that any issues associated come down to design and maintenance.

Mr. Moll suggested that Matt Boggs of Entech Engineering review the proposal. Mr. Myer said he would like assurance that the proposed system will function well and look at the Chesapeake and Delaware watersheds issue. Ms. Ehrlich mentioned that she was interested in feedback from Mr. Boggs and Mr. Darrah.

### **Entech Engineering Report**

Mr. Boggs gave a brief update:

- 1) Sewer Planning-Working with Mr. Moll and developers, obtaining signatures to get processed to the DEP.
- 2) St. Luke's Medical Office Building Project- The proposed project will require a complete planning module since their flow will go to the City of Reading, which is under a moratorium.
- 3) Day Care at 3 Meridian & the Legacy at Papermill is delayed due to waiting for feedback from the City of Reading. Mr. Boggs stated that he has been trying to meet with Reading officials for at least six (6) months. Sewer flows are approved for both projects, but the Township needs the City of Reading to sign off.
- 4) Construction-Entech has been working on the laterals at the Outback Steakhouse at Broadcasting Square, looking at moving the sewer away from the proposed construction.
- 5) Wyomissing Interceptor- Entech has submitted the permits for the Wyomissing Interceptor, and they are closing in on the final design for the project. This project is contingent upon hearing back if the Township will be awarded the grant submitted in May 2022. Mr. Boggs reported initially that the grant was to be awarded in November 2022, was pushed to the January 2023 meeting, and is scheduled for the March 2023 meeting. Mr. Boggs confirmed the grant only covers construction-related costs.
- 6) Reading Avenue Sanitary Sewer Replacement-Mr. Boggs reported the design was complete but realized that different grants were available. There were two (2) grant programs, the H2O Grant on projects over \$500,000.00 and a PA Small Flows Grant on projects less than \$500,000.00. Mr. Boggs said the grant above \$500,000.00 includes a 15% match, so it was decided to submit several sewer sections that need to be dug and replaced, an additional six (6) others in addition to Reading Avenue. The grant should be awarded in the summer of this year.

### **Public Works Director/WWTP Superintendent**

- 1) Sludge Press Replacement Project-Mr. Darrah said that a grant was submitted for a new press. The press was rebuilt in 2016 and needed to be replaced.

**Public Works Director/WWTP Superintendent** (Continued)

- 2) Sewer Plant-The Final Clarifier #3 project is finished, and the clarifier is operational.
- 3) Staff is tree trimming in the southern end of the Township

**Streets & Stormwater**

- 1) Crack Sealing- Mr. Darrah said that the Township is doing a lot more work in-house, which will help the Township through the bid process to obtain more maintenance and paving. Mr. Darrah confirmed that the street maintenance bids are out and expects the streets bid to be out next week. Mr. Myer asked Mr. Darrah to send a list of the streets that will be done to the Committee.

Mr. Myer asked when patch repair on the streets would begin.

Mr. Darrah stated that a lot is going on in the Township, including work occurring from Fast Bridge and UGI, and in the last three (3) weeks, the Township had seven (7) water main breaks. The Committee discussed issues in the Township and surrounding municipalities with Fast Bridge. Mr. Darrah stated that the problems with Fast Bridge consume approximately 50% of his current job, if not more. Due to all the issues, one full-time Public Works employee is dedicated to Fast Bridge. Mr. Becker and Mr. Darrah explained the road cut permit process and problems with Fast Bridge, with Mr. Darrah stating that the Township had 125 road cuts to date this year.

Mr. Darrah said that UGI has approximately 400 remedial tee jobs to complete between now and next year. By 2027 or 2028, UGI has to move or install a meter on every home that does not have their meter located in the front of their house and, per regulations, replace the lateral into their house, which will affect all of the Township roads. PA American Water Company is replacing the water main and laterals on Cleveland Avenue, from Dwight Street all the way through until West Wyomissing Blvd, and they will need to repave the streets.

Mr. Myer asked if the Township is expected to receive any infrastructure grant monies. Mr. Boggs said that grants have yet to be announced and explained the issues with the backlog in awarding grants.

**Old Business**- No Report

**New Business**- No Report

**Announcements** - The next meeting is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at 8:30 a.m.

**Adjournment** – *Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Darrah, seconded by Mr. Schannauer. There being no further business to discuss, Chairperson Ehrlich adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary L Rossi  
Township Secretary