



TOWNSHIP OF SPRING

BERKS COUNTY, PA
2850 WINDMILL ROAD
SINKING SPRING, PA 19608
Tel. (610) 678-5393
Fax. (610) 678-4571
www.springtwpberks.org

Township of Spring Infrastructure Committee Meeting Minutes – April 18, 2023

The regularly scheduled public meeting of the Township of Spring Infrastructure Committee was called to order by Chairperson Ehrlich at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 18, 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 committee 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 & Chris Hannum-Entech Engineering; and Chuck Frantz & Scott Sweigart of C2C Design.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023, meeting was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Schannauer. Upon roll call, All Committee members voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

Amendment to the Agenda – Screw Press

Motion to amend the agenda to include a discussion and review of the Entech Engineering Work Order for the screw press design, permitting, and bidding was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Schannauer. Upon roll call, All Committee members voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

Sewer

Old Lancaster Pike Sewer Extension

Mr. Boggs reviewed the Southern Tier Sanitary Sewer Alternative Analysis;(amendment to the 2019 report). The revision focused on the southeastern portion (area in red), which borders SR. 222 to the west and Deer Creek Road to the south. The report includes data showing possible connections south of the site. The report's primary purpose is to look at the different sewer options, one being the gravity sewer, which is the Township standard. The other option is a low-pressure sewer which consists of individual grinder pumps and a force main that leaves the house and connects to a bigger force main within the right of way. Low-pressure systems can be considered on a case-by-case basis. This report recommends a low-pressure sewer system for the proposed Old Lancaster Pike Sewer Extension Project due to existing topography. Mr. Boggs explained that the proposed sewer runs approximately 1,400 ft from that municipal boundary but does not catch the last few homes in the area as you are heading southwest. Entech recommends extending it a couple of hundred feet beyond the plan proposal and that the Township revise its rules and regulations pertaining to low pressure systems to ensure adequate pumps, tanks, valves, and piping are utilized. The last time revisions were made was in 2006.

Sewer (Continued)

Old Lancaster Pike Sewer Extension (Continued)

Mr. Moll explained that the revision Mr. Boggs is alluding to is called the Township's specifications for construction, noting that two chapters primarily cover this subject, the low pressure systems and the grinder pumps.

Motion to recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize Entech Engineering to move forward with reviewing the design for the Old Lancaster Pike Low-Pressure Sewer System to be prepared by C2C Design Group, utilizing the revised specifications approved by Entech Engineering that incorporate current design standards and modern technology for such low-pressure sewer systems was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Darrah. Upon roll call, Mr. Schannauer abstained, all Committee members voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED 4-0-1

Motion to recommend amending the specifications for a low-pressure sewer system in the Township was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Darrah. Upon roll call, All Committee members voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

Mr. Boggs said that some of the items the design engineer will need to consider and work with the Township on are the Intermunicipal Agreement with Cumru Township, sanitary sewer planning, and a technical review by the Township of Spring's engineer and Cumru Township's engineer regarding the process of tying into the manhole. Mr. Boggs noted in the report that there is not a significant amount of water being pulled from the Susquehanna River Basin (SRB), Cumru's sanitary discharges to the Delaware River Basin (DRB), where the City of Reading's treatment plant is located, and Mr. Boggs said that this issue would need to be resolved before construction.

Motion to recommend an amendment to the Cumru Township Intermunicipal Agreement for the Old Lancaster Pike Sewer Extension Project to the extent an amendment is required; was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Darrah. Upon roll call, All Committee members voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Moll confirmed for Mr. Myer that the applicant is paying for the project's costs, and the applicant will dedicate the line to the Township. Mr. Moll said that one of the benefits for the Township is that the Township will not have to spend any money on the construction. The project benefits the applicant because it provides sewage capacity to the existing homes in the project area as well as possible additional connections in the future.

Mr. Becker said tapping fees need to be discussed, noting that the developer can recover costs for ten (10) years. With tapping fees, there is a treatment component and a transmission component. The transmission portion will include Cumru and Spring Township, and the treatment piece will include Reading.

Entech Engineering Report

Mr. Boggs gave a brief update on additional Entech items.

- 1) Wyomissing Interceptor- Entech is addressing comments from the DEP and the Conservation District, and permits are expected to be back in about a month. Mr. Boggs said he and Mr. Darrah met with Wyomissing Borough and their engineer, confirming construction easements with the different entities.

Entech Engineering Report (Continued)

1) Wyomissing Interceptor (Continued)

Mr. Boggs said that he anticipates being able to put the project out to bid in about a month. The Township received the LSA grant in March. Mr. Boggs said there is a County grant for this project, for \$750,000.00; however, it was to be awarded by December 1st, but because the project could not go out to bid while waiting on the LSA Grant, Entech filed an extension on behalf of the Township for that grant for an additional six (6) months.

2) Reading Avenue Sewer Placement-This project includes areas other than Reading Avenue. We are waiting on the H20 Grant; Mr. Boggs said that the earliest the Township can expect the grant is July.

3) Outback Steakhouse- Mr. Boggs said he and Mr. Darrah identified a manhole that must be updated.

4) Plans were processed for sewer connections for St. Luke's and the Day Care center at 3 Meridian Boulevard.

Screw Press

Mr. Hannum presented the Entech Engineering Work Order for the screw press design and permitting, replacing the belt filter press (BFP) that is at end-of-life. Mr. Darrah said that the press was installed in 1987. Over the last several months, sewer plant staff has tested several technologies, including a BFP and a screw press. Based on those findings, the screw press was selected based on the following:

- The screw press achieved competitive sludge dewatering characteristics compared to the BFP.
- The screw press was measurably less expensive to purchase and install, about \$500,000.00 cheaper.
- The screw press required less wash and utility water.
- The screw press readily fits in the existing dewatering building.
- The replacement BFP would only easily fit into the existing building with significant structural and architectural modifications.

Mr. Hannum explained the screw press process to Mr. Myer, noting that the objective is to get as much water from the sludge as possible back into the plant to be treated so that the Township is only hauling off solids. Mr. Darrah said the BFP was refurbished in 2016 for about \$270,000.00. Mr. Hannum confirmed for Mr. Schannauer that the updated automation will be included in the final design.

Motion to recommend approval to Entech Engineering for the work order for the design, permitting, and bidding process for the screw press was made by Mr. Myer, seconded by Mr. Schannauer. Upon roll call vote, All Committee members voted affirmatively. MOTION CARRIED

Public Works Director/WWTP Superintendent

Sewer- The staff has been doing a lot of televising and flushing. Mr. Darrah said that the Township more or less lost a full-time sewer plant employee due to the conditions out on the road with ongoing projects by Fast Bridge Fiber, Comcast, UGI, and PA American Water Company. The employee dedicates his eight (8) hr. shift to all those projects, including PA One calls, documenting everything, including taking pictures. The Township was up to almost 400 PA One Calls at the end of March. Mr. Darrah said a typical year at the Township would have 500-600 for the entire year; this year is hectic.

Streets & Stormwater

Mr. Darrah said that the staff had televised all the roads and checked for bad pipes underneath for everything getting paved this year. PA American Water Company is scheduled to do a large project from Dwight Street to West Wyomissing Boulevard, along Cleveland Avenue; they are replacing the main water line and all laterals to homes. Mr. Darrah noted that the Township would have a new road in these areas when PA American Water Company finishes its projects.

Mr. Darrah said he and Mr. Becker have just about finished a metering manhole agreement for Lower Heidelberg Township. Another project they have been working on is an agreement to turn over the Reserve at Grings Mill Pump Station to the developer under the Township's conditions.

Mr. Myer questioned why they wanted the pump station back. Mr. Becker said that the Township has never taken the dedication of the pump station; it has always been theirs. In the beginning, Mr. Darrah explained that it was easier for the Township to run it. Mr. Becker noted that if someone does not care for the pump station properly, it will cause problems downstream. Mr. Becker explained some of the concerns, and Mr. Darrah noted that the Township is currently paid to maintain the pump station.

Goose Lane Yard Waste Site Update- The site has been closed for approximately a month and a half. The site is up to grade, and conduits will be dug in tomorrow. The fence may be installed next week, and stone and paving in the next three (3) to four (4) weeks.

Road Maintenance- The maintenance part of the road work is scheduled to go on the streets today. The Township is currently tentatively scheduled for the end of June for that to be completed. The main roadwork is again delayed by PennDOT, just as last year. Mr. Darrah said he hopes road work can go out to bid in the next few weeks. Mr. Becker explained what was happening and stated that the Township needs to act now if there is a similar issue. Mr. Darrah said due to these issues, he separated the maintenance work from the liquid fuels paving work so the maintenance work would immediately be done on PennDOT's approval. Mr. Myer complimented Paul on the good work.

Mr. Myer asked about fixing potholes in the Township, specifically Synder Road to Woodside Avenue. Mr. Darrah said that staff is looking at the location as the road appears to be sinking up by Snyder around Wellington Boulevard, and there were three (3) water main breaks at Bressler Drive. Mr. Myer said that there are a lot of potholes in the Township.

Streets & Stormwater (Continued)

Road Maintenance (Continued)

Mr. Darrah noted that staff is getting ready to look at some of those areas, as the Township staff will be doing a lot of the repair work this year, including fixing potholes and paving. Regarding holes from utility cuts, Mr. Darrah mentioned that UGI just added three (3) new homes up near the top of Grandview Boulevard, and there was a water main break above Wellington Boulevard going towards Grandview Boulevard. Ms. Bensinger is assisting with a master sheet with pictures to integrate everything. Mr. Myer asked how long he and other residents would have to drive over the potholes, especially at the top. Mr. Darrah said that UGI did the utility cuts at the top and that CMS just started paving last week. Mr. Darrah said staff would look into it, noting that Fast Bridge Fiber dug 76 holes in Township streets since November.

Old Business- No Report

New Business- No Report

Announcements - The next meeting is scheduled for May 2nd, 2023.

Adjournment – *With no further business to discuss, Chairperson Ehrlich adjourned the meeting at 9:25 a.m.*

Respectfully submitted,



Mary L Rossi
Township Secretary