

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
August 7, 2019**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Jake Meyer at 6:07 pm; David Younker, Vice Chairman of the Bethel Township Municipal Authority convened the meeting at 6:07 pm, p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the meeting were Board of Supervisors members Jake Meyer, Mike Graby and Lee Groff. Municipal Authority members present were David Younker, John High, Kevin Stupp (by phone), and Robert Lingle. Also, in attendance were Solicitors Stephen Price (Twp) Christopher Hartman (MA), Engineers Jim McCarthy (MA), Jeffry Steckbeck (Twp), Erin Kreitzer MA Business Manager and Township Secretary Treasurer, Jayne Seifrit.

Dave Younker stated he is looking for a motion to limit comments to five minutes to start. Bob Lingle made a motion to limit comments to five minutes each, seconded by John High. Authority members agreed. Motion carried.

Discussion

Act 537 Old Route 22

Jim McCarthy gave an overview of how the sewer line came about. Briefly, a developer approached the BTMA about connecting to the Bethel Sewer Plant line. The developer did several years ago, then asked the BTMA about taking dedication of the line. BTMA now owns the line from 270 Midway to where it connects to an existing line at Legion Dr. along Old Route 22. There was a narrative done that could allow 74 connections along the line. The BTMA has an agreement with the developer for reimbursement of some cost for construction of the line. At this time several commercial properties are or desire to connect to the Old Route 22 line. Mike Graby stated he is in favor of warehouses connecting but not forcing residential properties to connect unless they have a proven failing system or they desire to connect. Kevin Stupp commented BTMA is in a better financial position at this time then they were several years ago. Jake Meyer stated \$14,000.00 is a lot of money for a resident to have to pay when they have a system that is in working order. Lee Groff does not want to create hardships and at this time is not in favor of revising the Act 537 to include Old Route 22. It was stated planning modules will be required for connecting to the Old Route 22 line. It was stated in the future DEP could look at number of connections to the line and require all properties along line be included in the official Act 537.

Act 537 Frystown Extension 2009

Jim McCarthy gave an overview of the events leading to the sewer lines creation. There was commercial development proposed for the properties at the Frystown I-78 interchange, they wanted public sewer. A developer paid for the Act 537 revision of 2009 to the Frystown Sewer Plan. A different developer came and had the line constructed with the idea the line would be dedicated to the BTMA. It was stated the documents that were submitted to DEP for the Act 537 revision are planning documents. They are not documents mandating how the line is to be installed. When the construction plans were created it was submitted back to DEP. DEP then approved for permits. The line is now being offered to BTMA for dedication at the next meeting following this one, with an agreement for

reimbursement to developer for constructing line. It took time due to issues with properties not being restored to original condition. The issues were thought to be finally resolved. David Peters stated he has an issue with being told limit of time to speak, he believes it is a violation of the Sunshine Act. David Peters understood from DEP if there is a line then all need to hook up. It is not fair for the Camp Swatara Road residents if the Old Route 22 residents are not required to connect. Stephen Price stated you are comparing two different scenarios. However, Stephen Price stated the connection ordinance can be amended to say what the Board of Supervisors wish. David Peters stated he would be in favor of amendments relieving mandatory connection and only if issues. John Brown reiterated items he has been saying for the last two years; basically, the line was not constructed as shown on the 2009 revision to the Frystown Act 537 and issues with why not gravity flow etc. He is saying he feels they should not be forced to connect if they have a working system and an area for a back up system. Henry Martin stated he was told the grinder pumps that were talked about are the cheap ones. He was told the ones that cost twice as much are the quality that should be used as the ones priced out are junk.

It was asked if there are any more comments. Chris Hartman stated before the BTMA at their next meeting they would be considering approving the documents for dedication of the line and reimbursement. Also, the BTMA would be authorizing the connection letters going out. The Board of Supervisors would like to look into possibly amending the connection ordinance. Lee Groff made a motion to have a 90 day moratorium on sending the connection letters out to properties along Camp Swatara Rd, seconded by Mike Graby. All BOS members agreed. Motion carried.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Lee Groff, seconded by Mike Graby to adjourn the BOS portion of the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm. The BTMA took a brief break before reconvening their meeting for regular business.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Township Secretary