

PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
PERRY COUNTY
102 Municipal Building Road
Duncannon, PA 17020

April 20, 2016

Sunshine Hill Water System Public Informational Meeting

Authority members present:

Henry Holman, III, Chairman Auxt
Jim Kocher, Vice-Chairman
Elmer Knaub, Secretary

Authority staff present:

Susan Long, Recording Secretary

Visitors present:

See attached list.

Chairman Holman opened the meeting by presenting a history of how the Authority planned to upgrade the water system. He mentioned that the Authority had been in discussion with the developer of the nearby proposed "Stone Mill Estates" to supply water to the development. Discussion reached the point where an agreement was reached to build a storage tank and water treatment on that property. Water from Sunshine Hill would be piped over to the development for treatment, then distributed back to Sunshine Hill. The developer dropped the plan when the economy got bad, but recently informed the Township that 27 homes are expected to be built by 2017. A meeting that was then set up to meet with representatives of the developer was cancelled by the developer.

Chairman Holman then explained how the Authority had applied for, and obtained, a grant from the County Commissioners in the amount of \$140,000.00 to install a fire hydrant on Butchershop Road and replace some of the water infrastructure. SEDA-COG then got involved and felt they could get the Authority additional grant money. Added into this mix was Pfautz Apartments. The apartment complex needed to correct the arsenic problem in its water and the owners approached the Authority about buying water from the Authority. An engineering design was completed, and another \$750,000.00 in grant money was awarded to the Authority. This would have allowed the Authority to build a 150,000-gallon water storage tank, a water treatment facilities building and several fire hydrants.

Unfortunately, the owners of the apartment made a business decision to not purchase water from the Authority. One of the conditions when receiving grant money is that a municipality must meet low-income requirements. Without the apartment complex, the Authority did not meet the income requirement, and all the grant funds were pulled.

Elmer reported that he and Jim met with SEDA-COG representatives Bill Seigle and Dan Greene on April 8th. While Sunshine Hill residents do not meet the income requirement for grant funds, Duncannon Borough residents do. Duncannon Borough has received \$900,000.00 in state grants. SEDA-COG has suggested that the Authority work with the Borough and that there might be more funds available for the Authority. Both municipalities are amenable to work together. There has been a meeting set up on May 9th at 6:30 p.m. for Borough, Authority and SEDA-COG representatives. The Authority has a valuable asset in its water supply with a well that is capable of delivering 100 gpm. The Borough needs an additional water source, so it is hopeful that an agreement beneficial to both sides can be worked out.

Elmer explained that the Authority does not have the money to build a standpipe or treatment facility on its own. When questioned what would happen if no grant money is received, the customers were told that the Authority would most likely turn the water company over to a private company.

The following questions and comments were made at the end of the presentation.

- Is the Authority allowed to shut off the water of delinquent customers? Jim responded that 3 of the 4 delinquent water customers had filed for bankruptcy. The collection procedure used for delinquent customers was explained, from the time the account is \$180.00 delinquent to the point that the Authority enters the property into the Sheriff's docket for sale.
- What is SEDA-COG? A consortium that represents 11 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania and controls all grant money for the area.
- One customer was surprised that such a small customer base had received such a large amount of money.
- Does the Authority have plans if one of underground storage tanks becomes unusable? Chairman Holman explained that the Authority has discussed plans to construct above-ground tanks with a storage building to keep them from freezing. But even something that seems so simple can cost \$70,000.00.
- It was questioned that, if things went well with the Borough and SEDA-COG, what would the timeline be? Chairman Holman responded that the Authority has just started discussions with the Borough and SEDA-COG, and estimated it would take 2-3 years to construct a storage tank and water treatment facilities building, using the engineering design in place.
- If conditions do not improve, can we drill a well? Elmer answered that there is a recent Township Ordinance prohibiting wells and noted that if customers dig wells, those that don't would have to shoulder all the expense, thus increasing their rates.
- Are there plans to flush the current underground tanks? The customers were informed that the present 1,500-gallon tanks are too fragile.
- There were several comments about the manganese/iron in the water clogging the water meters or requiring frequent changes of water purification system filters. Chairman Holman discussed water line flushing procedures and told the customers that the Authority would increase its flushing schedule. Customers were reminded about the automatic notification system used to inform them about line flushing, boil water advisories, and emergency situations. He urged them to sign up for the notifications if they were not receiving them.

Chairman Holman informed the customers that Ed Chism and Sam Auxt had retired from their respective positions of Plant Operator and Field Representative. He asked the customers for their patience while the new employees become familiar with the water system. He thanked them for attending the meeting and told them that they would be kept informed of new developments. He asked them to report any problems with over-chlorination of the water and asked them to contact the Authority with any other concerns they might have.

The meeting ended at 7:37 p.m.

Susan E. Long

Recording Secretary