

Septage Management Program/Rockview: Mr. Moyer noted that he was contacted by Pam Winter, the Township’s SMP administrator, to request that the Township consider retaining Mr. Herr as a consultant to assist her in completing the SMP inspections on the Rockview properties since there is so many systems and he has familiarity with them. Mr. Moyer moved authorize Mr. Herr to assist Ms. Winter with the Rockview inspections. Mr. Lingle seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Lingle – yes

Mr. Moyer – yes

Mr. Wise – absent

William Mahoney: Mr. Mahoney noted that he lives as 1221 Valley View Road. He asked the Board who in the Township has the responsibility to enforce code violations in the township. He noted that he has spoken with Mr. Lesniak and that he indicated that he only deals with Zoning and Building Codes. Mr. Mahoney noted that he has had issues with his neighbor for the last 19 years and wants something done about it. He noted that there is garbage in the yard, an old toilet and junked lawn mowers he pushed up in woods, he dumps food waste in the back that is attracting rats, he has installed an electric fence on the property line and now he can no longer mow on the other side of his trees. He also noted that there are several dilapidated buildings on this property. Mr. Mahoney provided the Board with a copy of the Township’s ordinance dealing with junk and rubbish collecting on properties and wants to know who is going to enforce it because he wants it enforced. Mr. Lingle noted that he didn’t realize that the Township didn’t really have anyone to enforce these types of Ordinances. The Board noted that they would look into Mr. Mahoney’s complaints and get back in touch with him.

537 Special Study: Mr. Moyer asked if anyone present had any new information that they wanted to share before the resolution is considered.

Christine Line, Attorney representing Gene Stocker, noted that she feels that the plan and answers to letters that they have received from Gwin, Dobson, and Foreman on their questions have some misrepresented statements. Ms. Line noted that she hasn’t received any response to her letters as of yet from the Township Supervisors. She noted that she has received correspondence from GDF and asked if this response was made on behalf of the Township Supervisors as the letters mention “we” and she wasn’t sure who “we” encompassed. The Board noted that Gwin, Dobson & Foreman are acting as the Township’s agent. Ms. Line noted that she feels that she is due a response from the Township Supervisors themselves. An example given on this is the lot sizes of properties in the potential sewer service area. She indicated that they find that no new information has been acquired. The same information has been used with different results being achieved. She indicated that there is lack of evidence that septic systems are malfunctioning as has been stated, and that if systems are malfunctioning as GDF states, why wasn’t the Township’s Sewage Enforcement Officer notified. Ms. Line noted that there hasn’t been any water samples taken to see if there is nitrites or phosphorous contamination present. Noting that, again, coming to a conclusion without documented support. Ms. Line noted that this proposed sewerline extension contradicts with the land use that is described for the Forest Conservation District. It was noted that the two commercial properties can, in fact, be served with public sewer by UAJA instead of SBWJA. Ms. Line noted that if the Board takes a vote on this Special 537 Study today that it will be a decision made by relying on faulty information.

Pat Ward, Uni-Tec., Engineer representing Gene Stocker; Mr. Ward noted that he would like to make a few points:

1. The 2003 Act 537 Plan noted that this area should be made part of a Septic Management Plan, which it was and has proven to be effective. He noted that there are not enough issues in this area to warrant public sewer to be installed.

2. More alternatives should have been looked at in the study. Mr. Ward noted that this Special Study hasn't looked at enough other alternatives.
3. UAJA VS SBWJA. Mr. Ward noted that it appears that this study doesn't represent a true interest to sewer Walnut Grove just the parcels along Shiloh Road. Mr. Ward noted that sewerage along Shiloh Road can already be accomplished by UAJA, that these two parcels are split between Benner Township and College Township and that the Centre Region has already expanded their growth boundary to include these parcels to be able to be served by UAJA. Mr. Ward noted sewer service by UAJA to these properties is the sensible solution. He continued that there appears to be a battle of egos and that that should be taken out of the equation.

Warren Miller, Executive Director SBWJA: Mr. Miller noted that there are only two properties, Rogers and Clair that have been included in the 537 Plan for UAJA. Sewer service to any other properties in Benner Township would not be possible including the Shuey farm and other properties included in this Special Study.

Rod Beard, Benner Township Solicitor, noted that the decision on this Act 537 Special Study is done by the Supervisors. The study was prepared by GDF and SBWJA, but the ultimate decision is made by the Benner Township Board of Supervisors.

Christine Line: Again, asked that the Benner Township Board of Supervisors respond to the two letters that she wrote to them.

Rich Davis: Mr. Davis noted that he lives in Walnut Grove and agrees with the statements made by Ms. Line and Mr. Ward.

Steve Johnson: Mr. Johnson noted that he lives in Walnut Grove and agrees with the statements made by Ms. Line and Mr. Ward.

John Middlesworth: Mr. Middlesworth noted that he lives in Walnut Grove and agrees with the statements made by Ms. Line and Mr. Ward.

Dave Kline: Mr. Kline noted that he doesn't want nor does he need public sewer.

John McCabe: Mr. McCabe noted that he has concerns with why the township hasn't responded to the letters and why code enforcement wasn't notified when a malfunctioning system was found.

Dave Hersh: Mr. Hersh questioned why other options weren't looked at. Noted that he doesn't have his current septic system paid off yet.

Gene Stocker: Mr. Stocker noted that the financial future for many is very vague right now. Noted that there are widowers who won't be able to afford this. Noted that the two commercial lots can get public sewer for development now utilizing UAJA.

Randy Tice: Mr. Tice noted that he could take or leave the public sewer. He noted that he is concerned about water quality and would like to see public water extended at the same time as the sewer. He expressed concerns with the spraying of fungicides, pesticides, round up and liquid animal waste in close proximity to the Walnut Grove development.

Terry Cable: Mr. Cable noted that he was disappointed that the postcard said that the meeting was going to be limited to 25 people and that the meeting should have been postponed and located at a different location so that everyone affected could have attended. He noted further that he also agrees with the opinions of those representing Mr. Stocker.

Dave Kline: Mr. Kline noted that he pays a lot of money in taxes and is disappointed in the Board. He further noted that he doesn't need to spend another \$30,000 for sewer when it isn't needed. Mr. Randy Moyer asked Mr. Kline or anyone present if they knew what Benner Township's millage rate was or when the last time that the Township increased its tax rate? No one in attendance responded.

Chris Kondash: Ms. Kondash noted that she also agrees with Gene Stocker's consultants that this whole proposed project doesn't make any sense when systems are working fine.

Pat Ward: Mr. Ward noted that he feels that the Board should reconsider and only sewer the Shiloh lots that can be served by UAJA.

John Middlesworth: Mr. Middlesworth noted that when he had maintenance done to his system, by Shawley that Mr. Shawley indicated that the systems are working fine that this entire thing is political and not needed.

Warren Miller: Mr. Miller noted that this area with the exception of a few properties were included in the 2003 Act 537 Plan. Because these few properties were missed is why DEP requested that a Special Study be conducted. Mr. Miller noted that the entire drainage basin area is considered when a study is being conducted.

Pat Ward: Mr. Ward again stated that he believes that there are other alternatives and that they should have been looked at.

Terry Cable: Mr. Cable noted that Mr. Wise had previously mentioned that the UAJA alternative was politically impossible and questioned what this meant. Mr. Warren Miller noted that UAJA would not permit SBWJA as a bulk customer. Mr. Cable continued that he feels that an independent firm not representing either Authority should have completed the study.

Pat Ward: Mr. Ward noted that he feels that the Supervisors should table making a decision on this plan until such a time as other alternatives are looked into.

Randy Tice: Mr. Tice asked if there was any way the lines could be installed that would avoid some of his large trees. Mr. Warren Miller noted that it can be looked at when the plan gets to the design phase.

Wade Hahn: Mr. Hahn noted that he lives at 493 Rock Road and questioned how the line would get to him. Mr. Warren Miller noted that he can come out and meet with Mr. Hahn on site to discuss.

Christine Line: Ms. Line questioned if GDF or SBWJA went door to door to speak with the residents of Walnut Grove. Mr. Warren Miller indicated that several residents were spoken to.

Terry Cable: Mr. Cable noted that no one spoke with him. He questioned what cost estimates were given to the potential Shiloh Road developers that they feel that the better alternative is to go the SBWJA route.

Randy Tice: Mr. Tice questioned if there is any financial assistance available to those who may need it. Mr. Warren Miller noted that PennVest offers a 20 year 1% loan. He noted that there are also USDA loans to those that qualify.

Dave Hersh: Mr. Hersh noted that he needs more information as this is the first that he has really heard about this project. The Board noted that discussion has taken place regarding sewerage in this area ever since I-99 went through. This project has been mentioned in several newsletters and other correspondence.

Lee Copper: Mr. Copper noted that he would like to go on record that he feels that public sewer in Walnut Gove is unnecessary.

Gene Stocker: Mr. Stocker noted that he feels that the Supervisors are more concerned with what nutrient credits would cost a commercial developer than what the existing residents want or think. Mr. Stocker noted that the lots are large enough in Walnut Grove that residents can fix or replace their on lot systems without having to connect to public sewer.

Mr. Moyer asked if there was anything anyone else wanted to say. With no indications of anyone wanting to speak . . . Mr. Moyer moved to adopt Resolution 2020-3 adopting the Act 537 Special Study. Mr. Lingle seconded the motion.

Vote: Mr. Lingle – yes

Mr. Moyer – yes

Mr. Wise – absent

CORRESPONDENCE

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence:

1. SBWJA Minutes of April 27, 2020, May 11, 2020
2. Centre County Planning Commission Correspondence
 - a. Review and Comment letter Re: Preliminary Plan for Logan Greene
3. Letter from SBWJA RE: new development infrastructure
4. Bellefonte EMS Quarterly Report
5. Benner Township Water Authority Minutes of February 18, 2020
 - a. Key Points Report

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned, the time being 8:35 p.m.

Sharon Royer, Secretary