

**Minutes
Joint Meeting
North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority
North Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors
June 8, 2017**

An advertised special joint meeting of the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority and the North Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday June 8, 2017 at 5:30 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building, 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon, PA with the following people present:

Municipal Authority:

Gary Heisey	Chairperson
Dawn Hawkins	Vice Chairperson
Brian Hartman	Secretary
Rodney Lilley	Assistant Secretary
Tod Dissinger	Treasurer
Lori Books	Administrative Assistant
Frederick S. Wolf	Henry and Beaver, LLP
Scott Rights	Steckbeck Engineering
Cheri Grumbine	Township Manager
Amy Leonard, Esq.	Henry and Beaver, LLP

Board of Supervisors:

Edward A. Brensinger	Vice Chairman
A. Bruce Sattazahn	Treasurer
Cheri F. Grumbine	Township Manager
Solicitor Frederick S. Wolf	Henry and Beaver LLP

Absent: Richard E. Miller

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. and the pledge to the flag was recited. Chair Heisey acknowledged Valerie Kaiser who attended the meeting.

Stormwater Responsibility

Valerie Kaiser, resident of 105 E. Brookfield Drive, attended the meeting. Her concern was about the stormwater basin and pipe located on her property. It needs repairs which will be very costly and she feels as though the township should cover the expenses. Gary asked about the MS-4 and if there were any updates or additions to it. Cheri informed the group the township has joined a consortium with several other local municipalities in Lebanon County which includes over a million-dollar cost to the township just to address the sedimentation issues with public facilities. The million dollars is only for the township to meet the requirements of the Chesapeake Bay pollutant reduction requirements as part of the MS-4 permit. It is not meant for privately owned storm water facilities. Ed clarified the basin Valerie is referring to collects water within the span of about 40 houses while the actual basin and pipe is on about 5 lots.

The discharge pipe is what lies between Valerie's lot and her neighbor's lot. She claims she was never informed the maintenance of the pipes would be her responsibility and that her neighbors did not know that as well. Scott explained when the developer prepares the plans, he includes notes stating the homeowners are responsible for the maintenance of the stormwater facilities located on their lot. He also stated the township does not play a role in it. Valerie explained the water running through these pipes that is ruining them isn't even hers, it comes from other public water.

Brian agreed the homeowners were blindsided with these agreements when buying the land. Tod asked if we know how many storm water basins or swales are located within the township. Ed said there are a lot and the newer ones being built have plastic pipes which won't rust as quickly as the older ones. The newer designs include plants and vegetation which help to draw in more moisture. Unfortunately, the trees and other plants produce leaves which will fall in and around the basin which will then create more sediment. He mentioned Derry Township has created stormwater fees. He believes they decided to take responsibility for all stormwater facilities within their township including Hershey and the medical center. Derry Township determined what their tax/fee would be to cover the MS-4 as well as what may be needed for the maintenance of all pipes. Everything was incorporated together. If our residents wish to have the township take responsibility for all privately owned stormwater facilities then they can expect the fee to almost double. Ed explained the township does carry a lot of responsibility on the roads and the pipes along the streets. Scott went on to discuss the budget that was prepared which includes the million-dollars needed for the pollutant reduction plan, the cost to implement and maintain MS-4 program, and costs to make improvements to existing facilities the township already owns. Derry Township simply included private properties as well and tallied up the total costs. Valerie mentioned she knows a resident of Derry Township who received a discount on her stormwater tax. Ed explained that some residents may qualify and receive a credit if they reduce their stormwater runoff. Heading back into the discussion of the basin and swales, Brian told everyone his home and the others nearby each have their own smaller version of the swale and maybe something so huge shouldn't have been signed off on. It was noted that at the time of this development, that was the customary practice. Amy brought up the fact that the deed most likely outlines and reflects the subdivision plan and its notes. All the responsibilities associated with this lot should have been relayed to her at settlement. The township has no control over that. Scott then took the time to clarify the issue at hand has nothing to do with the mandates. Valerie expressed her concern for when they decide to sell their house. She said they will be upfront with the new buyers about the responsibility that comes along with this property and how that will decrease its value. Valerie's biggest issue is that all of the financial responsibility is falling on her shoulders when the water is coming from the streets and about 40 other homes. Her request is for the township to consider, as they move forward, to help support the private owned facilities as well. Tod pointed out that if they bring in a new tax/fee there will be many residents coming in to complain because they will be paying for something that they don't have. The Kaisers have not received a letter demanding they fix the pipe or any enforcement for that matter but simply fear the damage will be worse if they wait. The biggest factor is that this pipe is located on private property where the township does not have jurisdiction and cannot just demand that every homeowner start to pay for one person's financial burden.

Chairperson Heisey turned the meeting over to Solicitor Wolf.

Sewer Relining

Solicitor Wolf started off by mentioning the sewer lines and whether they should be relined soon or wait until they fail or reline some of them but not all of them. These lines were videotaped about 10 years ago and at that time seemed to be in decent shape so they were moved to the bottom of the “to do” list. Back when the township sewer and the authority sewer systems were combined into one system to unify the rates many residents were quite upset that their sewer quarterly rates were increasing. At that time, the township sewer customers were promised that all the remaining clay pipes would be relined. We had a previous contract with Abel Recon and the prices were very favorable. Sol. Wolf asked, now that we have our own video equipment, should we video these lines again before deciding to have them relined? Scott informed the Board the original contract with Abel allowed them to increase the unit price each year. The past few years have been about 2.8% total. The numbers have been re-evaluated and Scott was informed that the cost of the 8-inch pipe would be close to the original quote but an increase in prevailing wage rates over the years made it difficult. The 15” and 18” pipes wouldn’t work either due to the flows needing bypassed and other associated costs. Another option would be to use a company on the COSTARS listing.

Since extending the contract is off the table, Abel is providing a proposal to complete the work through the COSTARS program and Scott emailed the quote provided by them to the Board earlier today. In the system, we have 625 feet of 15-inch pipe and 586 feet of 18-inch pipe. Due to the large volume of flow that runs through those pipes, a bypass would be needed while the job is being completed and that is why the prices could not remain the same from the original contract with Abel. In an attempt to bring the price down, Scott suggested we check with the township crew to see if they would be able to help with the bypassing of the flows. If we go with just relining the 8-inch pipe, Abel will do it for \$16,562.00 more than if we did it under the contract. If we have Abel do the entire project (all the pipes including the 8-inch, 15-inch and 18-inch), it would cost \$399,100.00. The task would then be taken care of all at once. Ed said there was a possibility the work would need to be done during low flow times, for example: overnight. Some pipes across 422 did seem to have some breaks in it and that was 12 years ago. Ed expressed his concern, first and foremost, the big line should get done because of the role it plays in the whole township. Relining these pipes right away would be preventative maintenance. There are sections which cannot be easily done due to the small manholes that need to be used to reach the pipes. These are all the clay lines remaining in the township. Gary suggested we get the input of Tommy C. and Tom K. because they were the ones who saw the condition of the pipes when they were videotaped years ago. Scott and Ed clarified these pipes would not be more than 50 years old and stated clay pipes do deteriorate quicker than others. No motion was needed at this point; the Board will get the opinions of Tom and Tommy before making a decision.

Purchase of the Computer and Software for the New Video Equipment

Ed brought to the Board’s attention the camera is not currently in our possession. We did receive it; however, it didn’t work properly so it was sent back and we are waiting for the camera to return. Ed saved some money on the trailer and camera by opting out of purchasing the joystick because they felt it was unnecessary. The software the township currently has only allows us to look at the pipes; we cannot record anything. A computer and new software is needed for the actual recording. The only way to gather evidence is by being able to record the flows. It was discussed to purchase the computer and software with the same split as was used to purchase the video equipment. The Authority would pay for sixty percent and the Township would pay for forty percent.

With nothing more to discuss, the joint meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Molly Finley
Recording Secretary