

EBENSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
and
EBENSBURG BOROUGH COUNCIL

The joint meeting of the Ebensburg Municipal Authority and Ebensburg Borough Council was called to order on Monday, May 9, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ebensburg Municipal Building, 300 West High Street, Ebensburg, PA by Council President Doug Tusing.

Present: President Doug Tusing
 Vice-President Susan Barber
 Councilor John Cobaugh
 Councilor Cecilia Houser
 Councilor Dave Kuhar
 Jerry McMullen, Chairman
 Eric Rummel, Secretary/Treasurer

Others: Dan Penatzer, Borough Manager
 Jeff Evans, Public Works Director
 Bernie Kozlovac, Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager
 Blair Pawlowski, Borough Solicitor
 Theresa Homady, Authority Solicitor
 Tim Cooper, Authority Engineer
 Todd Banks, Stiffler-McGraw
 Danea Koss, Community Development Director

Absent: Councilor Joe Miller
 Councilor Theresa Jacoby
 Colman Anna, Vice-Chairman
 Member Glenn Raymond

Public: 4

1. Purpose

Mr. Penatzer stated that the reasons for the joint meeting was to discuss the upcoming multi-million dollar sewage collection system project required to eliminate the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO). Both Boards need to be involved early as the Borough will be asked to guarantee the project debt, and the project will adversely affect a significant portion of the borough.

2. Public Comments: None

3. Project Review

Mr. Penatzer reviewed the reasons that the project was being mandated, with the eventual goal of CSO elimination. The results of previously completed studies were reviewed. Design has begun, with the hope that the project can be permitted by spring and a spring funding application can be filed with PENNVEST. The deadline of September 2017 will not be met, and an extension will be sought.

4. Scope of Project

Mr. Cooper reviewed the flow monitoring that was completed, and the scope of the planned project.

5. Customer Testing

Mr. Penatzer explained options relative to the limit of testing of private laterals. While testing underslab would assure a tight system, it was consensus that testing to the exterior of the foundation would be adequate, and the high cost of underslab excavation was not warranted. Customers would be required to expose the exterior foundation wall to ensure no illegal connection such as footer drains, downspouts, etc.

6. Policies

Mr. Penatzer reviewed a series of policy matters that will need to be decided by one or both Boards at some point.

- A. Customer Facilities – A cleanout and a viewport will be required for all buildings in the project area. If flow is detected in the lateral after testing, then additional measures, including underslab if necessary, will be required of that building. It was consensus to recommend but not require traps or backflow preventers.
- B. Connection Stubs – Staff recommended that the project include connection stubs to the property line or right-of-way line. Councilors suggested that the Authority consider installing the entire lateral for customers.
- C. Testing – It was consensus that contractors and plumbers would conduct the pressure testing, to be monitored by borough staff.
- D. The preliminary plan is for the project contractor to connect customers as the new connection stubs are installed, and to have customers conduct their own tests later. It was consensus to allow a 6-month period to complete those tests and make any necessary repairs.
- E. Future Illegal Connections – Mr. Penatzer urged the Authority to take a firm stand on future illegal connections.
- F. Full Width Paving – Staff recommended that Council adopt an Ordinance requiring full-width (lane) paving so that the cost of paving would be reimbursable by PENNVEST. Wording will include provisions to waive the requirement as necessary.
- G. Pre-Sale Testing – Mr. Penatzer presented a draft of Ordinance #629 which would repeal the earlier Ordinance requiring dye testing and now require air pressure testing. The Ordinance also addresses connections to the system and pressure testing in non-project areas of the system. The Township will be asked to adopt the same Ordinance.
- H. Non-Project Areas – Customers in other areas of the system will be required to test and replace as necessary the private laterals, and install cleanouts and viewports. Staff suggested staggering those areas over several years to allow for the limited number of contractors. In non-project areas, tested laterals will be required to the property line or right-of-way line.
- I. Compliance Certificates – It was consensus that compliance certificates should be effective for 3 to 5 years.
- J. Rules & Regulations – Mr. Penatzer distributed a draft of proposed amendments to the Rules & Regulations.
- K. Rights-of-Way – Many customer laterals cross neighboring yards, even going under buildings. The design will attempt to extend connection stubs to those buildings.

- L. Maintain Existing System – It was consensus that the existing wastewater system should be retained to the extent possible, and utilized for stormwater. The system condition is so poor, and construction will make things worse, that it is unlikely that much can be saved. It is critical that building drains within the downtown be extended to the existing stormwater system.
- M. Viewport Casings – It was consensus that viewport casings, rather than plastic, should be used throughout the new project area.
- N. A concern was discussed about several buildings where the sewage main now runs under the building, and sewage is simply dropped into the line. A new lateral will be necessary, and a means of extending a connection stub will be included in design.
- O. Grease Traps – Grease traps will be required prior to reconnection of any commercial kitchen.
- P. Earlier Tests – Previous certifications for dye testing will no longer be valid. For earlier pressure tests that were witnessed, a new certificate will be issued with that previous test date.
- Q. Basement Flooding – Mr. Penatzer warned that removing stormwater from the wastewater system will naturally result in more stormwater on properties. Basement flooding will increase. He emphasized that just because a property has flooding that had none before, will not mean that the project is responsible for the flooding, or that the Authority should be responsible for mitigating the flooding. It will occur.

7. **Public Information**

Mr. Penatzer reviewed an informational flier that will be mailed to all customers. It will announce a series of three public meetings.

8. **Other Projects**

Mr. Evans reviewed photographs of projects currently underway in the county, illustrating the impact on streets and properties, and many of the types of problems encountered.

9. **Press Conference:** None

10. **Residents' Comments:**

1. Mr. Andy Shoff of West Highland Avenue asked if there had been any thought of extending the septic line further out West Highland Avenue.

2. Mr. Dave Risaliti of East Highland Avenue asked for a cost estimate for an average customer.

11. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, Mr. Tusing adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

Minutes recorded by:

Daniel Penatzer
Borough Manager