

**WEST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WORKSHOP MEETING
SEPTEMBER 7, 2021**

Township Supervisors:

Mr. Shaun Walsh, Chair
Ms. Ashley Gagné, Vice-Chair
Mr. John Hellmann, Member
Mr. Hugh J. Purnell, Member

Township Officials:

Mr. Casey LaLonde, Township Manager
Mr. Rick Craig, Township Engineer
Mr. Dave Woodward, Director of Public Works

West Goshen Sewer Authority:

Mr. Ted Murphy, Chair
Ms. Tinamarie Smith, Vice-Chair
Mr. Walt Wills, Treasurer
Mr. Corey Salmon, HRG, Authority Engineer

The Board of Supervisors Joint Workshop Meeting of West Goshen Township and the West Goshen Sewer Authority was called to order by Chair Shaun Walsh, at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

This meeting was advertised in The Daily Local News on August 3, 2021.

This meeting agenda was posted on the West Goshen Township website and at the Township Building on Friday, September 3, 2021.

Mr. Walsh opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr. Walsh announced that the meeting may be audio or video recorded by a 3rd party.

West Goshen Sewer Authority Capital Improvements Plan

Mr. Walsh thanked the West Goshen Sewer Authority for joining the Board of Supervisors for tonight's meeting. Mr. Walsh stated he serves two roles, one as a member of the Board of Supervisors and he serves on the West Goshen Sewer Authority.

Mr. Walsh opened the discussion with an overview of the past six years of capital improvement projects and the look ahead for the next ten years for the West Goshen Sewer Authority, the wastewater treatment plant and wastewater collection system.

Mr. Corey Salmon with Herbert, Rowland and Grubic, the Authority's Engineer, was on hand as well.

Mr. Walsh turned the meeting over to Mr. LaLonde and Mr. Woodward, who provided a forty-one page slideshow presentation.

The presentation provided an overview of how a wastewater system functions from the home to the wastewater plant and how, over time, capital expenditures are required to keep the system functioning correctly and within the parameters of Pennsylvania and federal clean water regulations.

The presentation provided an overview of the capital improvements program that began in 2015, through the bond issuance in 2017 and to the on-going projects currently under construction at the wastewater plant. The wastewater collection system was also examined, showing how over time, the collection system can get into disrepair, leading to inflow and infiltration of stormwater into the sanitary sewer system. Lining, replacement and patching of the sanitary sewer system is critical to stopping stormwater from entering the system and being treated at the wastewater plant.

The presentation also provided an overview of current and future upgrades to the Authority's ten (10) wastewater pump stations that are located throughout the Township. Significant improvements such as backup generators and improved pump systems have been implemented over the past four years with more improvements to come over the next ten years.

The presentation provided a look at the future ten-year (10) capital improvements plan that includes additional collection system work and upgrades to other existing pump stations.

The presentation may be found on the Township's website at www.westgoshen.org. A recording of this joint meeting may be found on the Township's YouTube.

Mr. Murphy continued the discussion and presented an overview of the Authority's finances, including a discussion of historic sewer use rates and a forward look at increasing the quarterly sewer use charges to pay for continued maintenance, operation and capital expenses. Mr. Murphy provided a comparison of quarterly residential sewer rates with other wastewater system operations. He stated that West Goshen's rates, even after a rate increase, would remain some of the lowest rates in the area for sanitary sewer service. The current Authority proposal is to raise sewer use rates by \$15 per quarter, effective for the 1st quarter of 2022.

Mr. Walsh opened up the floor for questions from the Board of Supervisors and Authority members.

Mr. Walsh provided a rationale for increasing the quarterly sewer use rates by stating the sanitary sewer system needs continual maintenance and improvements just like a private home.

Mr. Murphy stated that the Sewer Authority has monthly public meetings on the 1st Wednesday of each month and the public is always invited to attend.

Ms. Gagné thanked everyone for the presentation. She asked if the budget projections include the additional residents from new subdivisions like The Woodlands. Mr. Wills and Mr. Walsh responded, yes.

Mr. Walsh stated that this is a more "pay as you go" approach.

Ms. Smith stated that the sanitary sewer system was neglected for about sixty years.

Mr. Walsh stated that capital planning is critical to maintaining a fully operational sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Tom Owen asked about the consulting engineer selection process. Mr. Murphy stated that the vetting process occurred about five years ago and HRG was selected due to the knowledge and experience and has provided very good service over that time.

Ms. Margie Swart asked for clarification on the PA Department of Environmental Protection requirement for mandatory sanitary sewer connections. The response was that any home within 150' of a sewer main must connect. She asked about commercial rates. Mr. Walsh responded that commercial sewer rates would be increased along with residential rates. She suggested that rates be based on small homes versus large homes. Mr. Walsh responded that fixed costs are huge for the sanitary sewer system and some costs are proportional. He stated that rates are cost effective, but that is a question for the Authority as to whether to charge properties for individual usage.

Ms. Swart had questions regarding the billing for Chester County Hospital. Mr. LaLonde stated that previously, the hospital was charged based on numbers of patients, but the hospital is now charged using Aqua, PA's reported water usage.

Mr. Phil Baglio suggested the Township investigate a product named Chitosan to use as a flocculant to reduce sediment and other impurities in the wastewater. Mr. Baglio stated he would forward information on the product to Mr. LaLonde.

Township Stormwater Projects Design Proposals

Mr. LaLonde introduced three proposals from Township Consulting Engineer, Carroll Engineering, to provide design work for three proposed stormwater projects. Mr. Craig introduced and detailed each project.

Bolmar Street Culvert Project

Mr. Craig stated that the existing culvert is an old steel shell and is in very poor condition and is hydraulically inadequate. He stated that a pre-cast concrete box would be used as a replacement. The Carroll Engineering design proposal is \$40,000 with a project cost estimate around \$500,000.

Glen Avenue Pipe Project

Mr. Woodward stated that there is a sinkhole due to damage to the pipe. He stated this could be considered the next phase of the just completed Raven's Lane stormwater project, due to this project's proximity to Raven's Lane. He stated the bottom of the existing pipe is gone due to corrosion and that pipe lining is not an option for this project. The design proposal is \$27,600 with a project cost estimate around \$400,000.

Legion Drive Pipe Project

This project is similar to Knollwood Drive culvert stormwater project completed in 2020, in that Legion Drive has only one entrance and a significant storm could wipe out the Legion Drive culvert and access would be restricted if the culvert fails. This project is a candidate for pipe lining, similar to the Knollwood Drive project. The design cost is \$22,400 with a cost estimate between \$300,000 and \$350,000.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Hellmann made a motion approve the three proposals from Carroll Engineering, seconded by Mr. Purnell.

Ms. Margie Swart asked why Herbert, Rowland and Grubic was not asked to design these stormwater projects. Mr. Craig responded that these are infrastructure projects and Carroll Engineering has the capability to design the projects.

The motion to approve the three design proposals passed 4-0.

Sunset Hollow Stormwater Project Bid Approval

Mr. LaLonde stated that the Township bid the Sunset Hollow stormwater project and received bids on September 2, 2021. Carroll Engineering is recommending the bid be approved by the Board of Supervisors and awarded to the low bidder, Road-Con, Inc., in the amount of \$165,300.

Mr. Purnell made a motion to award the bid to Road-Con, Inc., in the amount of \$165,300, seconded by Ms. Gagné.

Mr. Hellmann asked for the original project cost estimate. Mr. Craig and Mr. Woodward responded that the original design was for a concrete box culvert, so the project estimate was higher at \$360,000.

Ms. Margie Swart had questions about the nearby Grubbs Mill Road box culvert project and if the project is in the FEMA floodplain.

The motion to approve the Road-Con, Inc., bid for \$165,300 was approved unanimously.

Bidder	Bid Amount
Road-Con, Inc.	\$165,300
Ron Smith, Inc.	\$172,000
Eastern Highway Specialists, Inc.	257,950
DiRocco Bros., Inc.	\$282,750
MOR Construction Services, Inc.	\$305,374
Wexcon, Inc.	\$333,595
Stephens Excavating, LLC	\$368,046

Pine Valley Circle Stormwater Project Bid Approval

Mr. LaLonde provided a project overview for the Pine Valley Circle and Amelia Drive Stormwater Project. He stated that Pine Valley Circle portion of the project included replacement of five-foot (5') diameter corrugated metal pipe that has failed and has collapsed in areas. The project includes reconstruction of the stormwater basin at the Pine Valley circle cul-de-sac and lining of the corrugated metal pipe located on Amelia Drive.

The overall project cost was higher than the cost estimate budgeted in 2020 due to fluctuations in personnel and materials costs.

Mr. Purnell made a motion to award the bid to A.J. Jurich in the amount of \$772,750, seconded by Mr. Hellmann.

Ms. Margie Swart asked why the basin tree removal was much higher for this bidder than the other bidders at \$60,000. Mr. Craig responded that the overall bid was almost \$200,000 lower than the next bidder, so the focus should be on the overall bid.

Mr. Walsh asked if the Township would receive any MS4 stormwater permit credit for this project. Mr. Craig responded, possibly.

Mr. Hellmann asked about the Pine Valley Circle residents' driveways. Mr. LaLonde stated that as part of the project bid was to repave all driveways affected by the construction.

The motion to approve the A.J. Jurich bid for \$772,750 was approved unanimously.

Bills to be Paid

Mr. Purnell, made a motion to approve the Bills to be Paid, seconded by Ms. Gagné.

Mr. Walsh asked about the various reimbursements for background checks. Mr. LaLonde responded that those are reimbursements to Township summer camp counselors for their required FBI background checks.

The Board unanimously approved the Bills to be Paid.

Public Comment

Mr. Phil Baglio asked about the 511 Cork Circle handicapped spot. Mr. Walsh responded that the issue had been tabled indefinitely.

Ms. Margie Swart requested that the Board of Supervisors make a request to Aqua, PA, to charge the same rates for private fire hydrants as the public hydrants the Township pays for. Ms. Swart quoted a portion of language from the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission regulations on fire hydrants. Mr. Walsh responded that this issue has been addressed and that private fire hydrants are not covered by the Township.

Ms. Swart had comments regarding Board of Supervisors meeting minutes from 2017. Mr. Walsh addressed her comments and stated the matter is closed.

Ms. Swart stated that when she arrived at the Township building on the afternoon of Friday, September 3, 2021 Mr. LaLonde was the only employee in the building. Ms. Swart asked if the Board was aware that Mr. LaLonde dismissed the employees early for the Labor Day Holiday. Mr. LaLonde responded that the Township has been dismissing staff early for holidays for forty years.

On a motion by Mr. Purnell, seconded by Ms. Gagné, the meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Casey LaLonde
Township Secretary