

BOROUGH OF LEMOYNE

"The little town that has it all!"

Sewer Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on April 17, 2014

1. Call to Order

A meeting of the Sewer Committee of the Lemoyne Borough Council was held on Thursday April 17, 2014 at the Lemoyne Borough Office, 510 Herman Avenue Lemoyne, PA. Chairman Dennis McGee called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

2. Roll Call

Present at roll call was Committee Member Stacy Gromlich. Also present were Council member Sue Yenchko, and LMA member Dr. John Judson. Staff members present were Robert Ihlein and Jack O'Neill.

3. Public Comments

Ms. Gromlich relayed that the Lemoyne Business Association (LBA) remains concerned regarding the impact of the new sewer rates on commercial accounts. LBA feels that the rates are unfair to commercial customers. She suggested possibly forming an ad hoc committee or focus group to review possible alternatives. Mr. Will Hesse of Walton Street advised the Committee that he would be willing to serve on such a committee and offered one alternative to consider is a commercial rate structure based on the characteristics of the waste as well as the volume. Ms. Gromlich stated she would create a focus group invite commercial customers who use a lot of water.

4. Review of Minutes from the Last Meeting

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes of the March 2014 meeting and approved same following a correction to text in item 4.

5. Unfinished Business

A. – Sewer Fund Budget and Financial Administration

1. **Review of Sewer Fund Revenues/Expenditures** – Mr. Ihlein presented the monthly reports, noting that revenues and expenditures appear to be on target with the projections at this time.

2. **Delinquent Account Collections** – Mr. Ihlein presented the A/R Past Due Report which he has revised to include graphical depiction of the account activities. He noted that there is about \$88,000 outstanding from "old" accounts, with the remainder post the PA American billing period, and that the bottom line total includes fees charged to the delinquent customers.

3. **Verbal Report on Billing Process and Payment Processing** – Mr. Ihlein reported that the process is working very well with Diversified and that most problems continue to be associated with data from PA American Water Co.

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4. **Department Personnel** – Mr. Ihlein reported that the response has been less than overwhelming for the position of Assistant Sewer Department Supervisor, but three possible candidates will be interviewed within the next month.

B. – Sewage Facilities

1. **Verbal Report of Collection System and Pump Station Operations** - Mr. O'Neill advised the Committee that the Herman Avenue project is on hold until the conflict with the UGI gas main is resolved. He reported that a meeting will be held with PennDOT, UGI and LMA, including their contactor, PACT construction to review the actual field conditions and recognize the need to relocate the gas main for safety.

Treatment Plant Upgrade– Mr. O'Neill provided an update on the treatment plant upgrade construction progress. He reported that the primary clarifier has been taken off –line and the work on the West Gallery is proceeding.

6. New Business

The Committee discussed the practice of water shutoff as a tool to control delinquencies. Ms. Yenchko reported that in her experience, delinquent customers who get shutoff notices usually remit the outstanding balance within a day or two of shutoff and is highly effective when other methods fail. Mr. Ihlein noted that there is an agreement required with PA American to implement the policy and he will revisit it to review the terms.

Mr. Ihlein contacted Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA) and was advised that there are municipalities that allow a deduction for commercial customers who utilize water that does not get discharged into the sewer system, although the vast majority does not. The Committee agreed that the impact on revenue would need to be analyzed before deciding if the practice would be feasible.

Mr. Ihlein reported that he obtained an estimate in connection with the possible replacement of all laterals in the Herman Avenue project area. The cost is approximately \$6,000 per lateral, which would total over a million dollars for all of them. He will explore the possibility of PennDOT and PACT Construction to allow the paving restoration to be delayed until the lateral replacement is completed.

7. Announcements

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15 at 6:00 PM.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business Mr. McGee adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John P. O'Neill, Sewer Department Supervisor