

**HONEYBROOK TOWNSHIP - BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016**

1. PADEP Requirements to Update An Act 537 Plan

Mr. Fred Ebert from Ebert Engineering, Inc. (EE, Inc.) provided an overview of the Act 537. He explained there are two reasons the Act 537 Plan Update is being required by PADEP:

- a. Previous 537 Plan was an interim and did not address an alternative for the Township to pursue and execute. Furthermore the comprehensive plan was updated since the 2010 Act 537 Plan and the zoning is being updated currently.*
- b. PADEP is requiring the Sewer Authority to upgrade the WWTP in order to comply with their existing permit during the winter months and meet the ammonia discharge limits for the plant.*

2. Summary of Changes From Existing Act 537 Plan

- Removal of Cupola Overlay
- Reduction In Overall Projected Sewage Flows
- Removal Of Service Areas Outside The Township Boundaries

Mr. Ebert explained the zoning and comprehensive plan changes from the 2010 Act 537 Plan that affected the 537 Plan. The Cupola Overlay was removed which led to an overall reduction in flows from this change. The 2010 Plan identified the WWTP needed to be upgraded to handle 1 million gpd capacity from the existing 600,000 gpd rated capacity. EE, Inc. evaluated the current planning documents, discussions with the Board of Supervisors and it was recommend that the overall plant capacity should be increased to 700,000 gpd to handle future potential flows generated by the Township and Borough.

3. Summary of Changes to Service Area

- Removal of West Nantmeal Township's Light Industrial District (Located Outside The Township Boundaries)
- Removal of Chester County Solid Waste Authority from Public Sewer Service Area
- Addition of Areas Adjacent To The Suplee Sewer District
- Addition of Morgantown Road/ Shoreline Drive

Mr. Ebert discussed in detail the areas on the previous 537 Plan that would be removed due to being located outside of the Township boundaries, the lack of any intermunicipal agreements at the current time, as well as concerns with not being able to control the zoning within these areas that could directly affect the plant capacity. There will be capacity reserved for the future needs area around the current Suplee Sewer District but connections were not recommended to be required at this time.

4. Summary of Projected Flows For Each Service Area

- Suplee Service Area (New)
- Suplee Service Area (Existing)
- West Service Area
- Cupola Service Area
- Morgantown Road/ Shoreline Drive

Mr. Ebert discussed how the majority of the public sewer service areas have not been changed since the 2010 Act 537 Plan. There were two areas identified as potential need, the Suplee Sewer area and the Morgantown Road/ Shoreline Drive area. The Board of Supervisors agreed that capacity in the plant should be accounted for the two areas of need, however connection would not be provided at this time.

Mr. Ebert elaborated on the methods that were utilized in evaluating the development potential feasibility within each public sewer service area. By evaluating each potential developable parcel within the public sewer service area, it allowed for a more realistic potential projected flow within each service area. This was then utilized with the existing flows the WWTP received over the past five years and it was determined the treatment plant would need to be upgraded to meet a 700,000 gpd capacity to service Honey Brook Township and the Borough potential future needs.

A representative from Borough council raised a question regarding Waynebrook and how this development has been built out. The flow projections will be revised by EE, Inc. on the flow projection calculations.

Gary McEwen, an audience attendee and member of the Township Planning Commission, discussed how the zoning ordinance is currently being updated and the working 537 Plan does not account for the Curren Property within the Borough limits and the number of projected edus for the Frame property is too low. Mr. Reinert explained that the zoning ordinance update has not been approved and the 537 plan will be based on the approved comprehensive plan and the current zoning. The 537 Plan will need to determine projected flows based on current zoning designation and not what they potentially could be in the future. Should the zoning change significantly in a particular area, then it could be address through a Special Study or Sewage Facilities Planning Module plan.

5. Options to Expand the WWTP - Evaluated by Authority Engineer

- Retrofit of Lagoon Options
- New Mechanical WWTP Option

Mr. Ed Spayd from HRG representing the Sewer Authority, explained the possible options to retro fit the lagoon WWTP to meet PADEP requirements and be in compliance during winter months. Five retrofit options were evaluated to determine which method would be most feasible with the current system.

Mr. Spayd also discussed the possible option of a new mechanical WWTP which would also meet PADEP requirements and be in compliance with the discharge criteria for ammonia. Four mechanical treatment plants were evaluated to determine which one would best service the Township and Borough's needs.

6. Pros/ Cons of Each WWTP Alternative

Mr. Spayd explained the pros and cons for each system type. For the lagoon, Mr. Spayd listed the following pros:

- a. Capital Costs would be lower than a mechanical plant*
- b. The lagoon system is currently there and operating*
- c. Can increase capacity by operating 7 day/week instead of the 5 days/week it is currently being operated at.*
- d. Can handle peak flows during wet weather through storage in the lagoons.*

The cons for the lagoon retrofit:

- a. The authority is currently received violations during the winter months*
- b. Can the retrofit meet future regulatory requirements*

Pros for the mechanical treatment plant:

- a. Will more easily meet future regulatory requirements*
- b. Treatment process has a process guarantee*
- c. Smaller foot print*

Cons for the mechanical treatment plant:

- a. Needs to operate 7 days/week*
- b. The Sewer Authority would need to employ an extra employee.*
- c. Increase in electric costs*
- d. Significant increase in sludge removal costs*

7. Summary of Costs of Each Option

Mr. Spayd provided the Board and the audience with charts outlining the costs of the retrofit option for the lagoon and costs for the mechanical treatment plant. The approximate cost for the retrofit option of the lagoon is ~ \$6,000,000 and for the mechanical plant it is roughly \$13,000,000.

8. Authority Recommendations

The Authority's attorney indicated that the Authority will need two board meetings to provide a recommendation. The recommendation will be provided in October.

The recommendation will include the technology proposed to be used on the plant, financial costs, flows and implementation schedule of the phasing approach of the plant upgrade.

9. Timeline for Direction from Township/ Borough

Once the Sewer Authority makes their recommendation in October, the Board of Supervisors will review all the information and either agree with the Authority's recommendation or select another option.

The Authority Board members asked the Honey Brook Township Board of Supervisors if they had an initial preference on the type of upgrade. The Honey Brook Township Supervisions indicated that retrofitting the existing lagoons to meet all known regulatory requirements was their preference given the significant difference in costs.

10. Next Steps

Once the Board approves the Authority's recommendation for the plant, EE, Inc. will pull financial costs and tapping fees together for the Board to review.

Minutes prepared by Ebert Engineering Inc.