

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
APRIL 13, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson David Moyer called the special meeting of the Washington Township Board of Supervisors to order at 6:00 p.m., at the Washington Township Municipal Building. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members were present: Supervisors, David Moyer, Thomas Powanda, James Roma, Sewer Engineer, Tom Unger, Sewer Engineer, Greg Unger (via Zoom), Solicitor, Joan London (via Zoom), Township Manager, Richard Sichler, Township Secretary, Susan Brown and six (6) members of the public in attendance.

Absent: None

**TAPING OF MEETING**

The meeting was recorded as an aid in the preparation of the minutes. It was noted no one was taping the meeting this evening other than the Township Secretary.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**

**Developer proposal to amend Waste Water Treatment Plant capacity:** Present were Eric Williams, Lee Williams, their Attorney Gregg Adelman (via Zoom) and Consulting Engineer, Fred Ebert (via Zoom). Mr. Adelman explained a meeting was held last week with township staff and professionals to discuss possible solutions to the Waste Water Treatment Plant capacity issues. A potential solution offered is to do some analysis and establish a maximum hydraulic capacity value to the Waste Water Treatment Plants Part II Permit (WQM) Permit. The hope is by establishing the maximum hydraulic capacity limitation on the permit it will free up additional capacity as an interim step prior to the township moving forward with upgrading or rerating the plant.

Mr. Ebert stated the issue is with the way the WWTP was originally permitted. It only included an annual average permit capacity but did not include the hydraulic design capacity which is normally approximately 1.5 times the annual average rate. DEP now includes a hydraulic rating which is used for the Chapter 94 Report determination of both the hydraulic and organic load to the WWTP. Mr. Ebert stated the Water Quality Permit would need to be amended to include a hydraulic design capacity for the WWTP. This is a capacity the WWTP could meet every month without causing any operational issues. The WWTP manufacturer would run the process calculations and come back with process calculations that would identify what the hydraulic design capacity of the treatment plant is based on the actual loading to the plant. That information would then be submitted to PADEP and after review and approval, would then amend the WQM Permit to include hydraulic design capacity which would then be used by the township as part of the Chapter 94 determination of available capacity. The annual average capacity

is 250,000, the current annual average flows are 213,600 which means the available capacity today is 36,400 if you are only looking at your annual average flows. There are 38 edu's committed which is approximately 10,070 gallons which means once the permit is amended there would be 26,330 gallons, that would make available 99 edu's. Spring Valley would purchase 52 edu's and there would be 47 edu's available for purchase before the township would have to rerate or go through a treatment plant expansion. Mr. Ebert stated the timeline would be a month to analyze the existing loading and get the manufacturer to provide process calculations and probably two months for PADEP to review and modify the permit application.

Greg Unger from Systems Design Engineering stated what Mr. Ebert has described in theory is correct however Mr. Unger has had contact with South Central PADEP regarding the hydraulic rating and they have pointed out that there is already a hydraulic rating on the plant of .25 however we can still try to amend the permit. PADEP did inform Mr. Unger the township will not be allowed to change or increase the discharge to the stream even if the WWTP is expanded. Mr. Unger is proposing Systems Design Engineering take the lead on this if the Board wishes to proceed.

Resident Shannon Delp asked if the change to the hydraulic rating would allow more than one connection per year? Tom Unger explained there is a Corrective Action Plan dealing with the Weinstein Pump Station. The CAP only allows for one sewer connection per year in the Weinstein collection area which is an additional restriction which has to do with the I/I problem in that area.

Chairman Moyer asked if the township proceeds with the hydraulic rerating would it effect PADEP's cooperation or willingness to expand the Plant in the future. Mr. Unger stated no it would not.

Supervisor Roma asked if the rerate of the hydraulic load affect the output to the stream. Mr. Ebert stated it does not, it only affects the way SDE prepares the Chapter 94 Report and determines whether or not there is hydraulic and organic capacity. It only affects the designation of when a plant goes into hydraulic overload. Eric Williams stated Mr. Ebert is very qualified to do the work and it would be Spring Valley's preference to have Mr. Ebert do the calculation and will pay SDE to do a review of his calculations.

Mr. Ebert explained you submit to the WWTP manufacturer the last years organic loadings and they run the process calculations in about one week and come back with what the maximum hydraulic loading. Then provide the information to PADEP so they have time to review.

Greg Unger cautioned that the data is limited due to the fact that the permit only requires testing twice per month. Mr. Unger feels it would be prudent to get additional data points through the week to make sure sampling is not being done on low days. Mr. Backenstose asked if money has been paid for edu's those developers will get edu's first? Mr. Sichler said he is currently working with SDE on a Connection Management Plan. Mr. Backenstose asked again if the money has already been paid and the house is ready to go

wouldn't they get preference over someone just coming in and Chairman Moyer stated yes, absolutely. Eric Williams also said if he and John pay for all the studies and someone else uses the capacity he feels they should be reimbursed, by a recapture agreement on the connections they created. Ms. London said if the township agrees, we certainly could have some type of agreement.

A motion was made by Thomas Powanda and seconded by James Roma authorizing SDE as the lead engineer and work with Fred Ebert to start the process for the hydraulic rerating of the WWTP. **No comments received.**

**All ayes**

Chairman Moyer explained to resident Shannon Delp that she is located in the Weinstein Pump Station area. A neighbor has a septic malfunction and needs to connect to the sewer system and has been given approval because of the failed system however the resident does not want to own the sewer line. At some point the township would take dedication of the line and when that happens everyone within 150' would be required to connect. Currently PADEP will only allow one connection per year in the Weinstein Pump Station area unless there is a failed system.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by James Roma and seconded by Thomas Powanda to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:51 p.m. **No public comment received.**

**All ayes**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan J. Brown  
Township Secretary