

WRIGHTSTOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION: AUGUST 24, 2009

The Wrightstown Township Board of Supervisors Work Session was called to order at 5:00 P. M. by Chair Chester S. Pogonowski at the Wrightstown Township Municipal Building, 2203 Second Street Pike, Wrightstown, Pa. In attendance were Vice Chair Jane Magne, Member/Treasurer Robert S. Lloyd; Township Solicitor Terry Clemons, Esq., and Administrative Clerk Ethel K. Hibbs.

Chairman Pogonowski noted to the public that this meeting of the Board of Supervisors would be re-played via cable television beginning on Thursday, August 27th.

BUSINESS:

Department of Environmental Protection Sewage Planning Supervisor, Beth Mahoney was present to present details in the request by DEP to update Act 537 in Wrightstown Township. Ms. Mahoney addressed the Board, referring to recent correspondence between DEP, Wrightstown Township Solicitor Terry W. Clemons and Donald H. Meadows, Environmental Protection Specialist II of the Bucks County Department of Health regarding failing septic systems within certain areas of Wrightstown Township.

In reply to a question by Chair Pogonowski, Ms. Mahoney stated that a recent application to the BCHD and DEP for a septic system installation triggered the inquiry and suggestion by DEP to request consideration of up-grading the present Act 537 Plan. She stated that previously failed systems had installed holding tanks as remedial action, which are unsatisfactory to DEP.

Attorney Clemons noted a list of identified properties within the Township who had installed Best Technical Guidance systems in previous years.

Chair Pogonowski shared that growth within the Township was virtually non-existent and a population decrease between the 2000 census and present population totals reflected this statistic.

Ms. Magne noted that many persons with fixed incomes own property in the Township and would be unable to support financial costs of revision to present systems.

Ms. Mahoney suggested the Township might consider more frequent service to systems which are served by holding tanks since DEP does not accept holding tanks as a permanent solution to failed systems.

She stated that DEP has a plan in place which would financially assist the Township in up-dating the Act 537 Plan, should such revisions be approved by DEP. She encouraged the Township to be creative in its considerations and/or develop a financial program internally.

Chair Pogonowski commented regarding the matter in which Northampton Township and DEP addressed failing systems there, with adverse publicity between residents and the municipality. Member Lloyd supported this grave concern and a hope that this would not be duplicated in Wrightstown Township.

Member Lloyd asked if DEP would accept an amendment to Act 537 covering certain areas of the Township to which Ms. Mahoney replied affirmatively but it must also include the Best Management Plan for the balance of the Township as well.

Ms. Mahoney suggested the Board inquire of the BCHD regarding over-flow systems and remedial actions. She applauded the Township in its management program, requiring service on a 3-year basis. She stated that Tinicum Township is presently reviewing their Act 537 Plan; Haycock, Solebury and Nockamixon Townships are reviewing &/or up-dating their Plans and Upper Makefield Township recently revised its Plan in cooperation with a developer.

Ms. Mahoney stated the next step for the Township would be to write a “plan of scope” and forward same to DEP which would begin the funding support by DEP, if acceptable. Member Lloyd reiterated his desire to review problem areas and attempt to fix them rather than develop a new plan entirely.

Chair Pogonowski noted very little changes have taken place within the Township and developers have installed sewer systems within their particular sites in partnership with DEP to avoid damage to the Township.

Chair Pogonowski thanked Ms. Mahoney for her dialogue with Members regarding this important matter.

SOLICITOR’S COMMENTS: None at this time.

SUPERVISOR COMMENTS: Agenda of 9/21/2009: To be reviewed by the Board at next Work Session.

Chair Pogonowski stated the Draft Comprehensive Plan is advertised for adoption and an errata will be distributed by JZC Solicitor Eberle.

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK COMMENTS: Residents' inquiries regarding the project of reconstruction of Brownsburg Road have been relayed to Engineer Canales for information and/or detour plans.

ADJOURNMENT: *On motion of Mr. Lloyd, seconded by Ms. Magne, to adjourn the meeting at 6:17 P. M. All voted in favor.*

Respectfully submitted:

Date approved: September 21, 2009

Ethel K. Hibbs
Administrative Clerk