

The joint workshop of the Monroe Township Municipal Authority and Monroe Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Miller.

ATTENDANCE

Kevin Miller, Chairman
Sue Sunday, Vice Chairperson
William Beck, Treasurer
Ronald Eckerd, Secretary

A.W. Castle, III, Chairman
Phil Kehoe, Vice Chairman
Carl Kuhl, Supervisor
Michael Pykosh, Solicitor
Greg Rogalski, Engineer
Bill Rudy, Engineer
Karen Lowery, Recording Secretary

5-10 YEAR PLAN

Mr. Miller thanked the Board of Supervisors for joining the Authority again for a joint workshop. He would like to discuss a 5-10 year plan mainly focusing on the Southern District because of the I&I issues.

Mr. Rogalski and Mr. Rudy prepared a memo and map that was provided to everyone. The main focus has been on the Sandy pump station area and the map shows the areas that have already been televised and then the area that still needs to be done. There are also some areas that is newer, so we know it is in good shape. Mr. Miller added that the pumps at the Sandy pump station were recently upgraded, so the focus on this area is to protect the investment made in the pumps. Mr. Rogalski added that there are 5 pump station areas to look at and the goal is to continue with the Sandy basin and finish the televising of these lines by the end of 2019. At that time we would have televised 2/3 of the White Rock area. We have been working to coordinate the sewer efforts with the road work, as we are doing with the Blossom Terrace project this year.

Mr. Miller would like to expedite televising the Sandy basin. Mr. Rogalski said the televising is based on the DPW's availability and feels the larger goal should be to have it done by the end of 2019. The DPW is now busy with road work items, but may have some availability later in the season. Mr. Kehoe added that the DPW availability is based on other work and funds. He added that with outsourcing the lawn mowing has freed up time for the sewer work.

Mr. Rogalski stated that another project area has been identified through the woods on Laurel Drive. As more televising is completed the priorities may shift base on what is found. They would be able to prepare the project information for the Laurel project whether the funds can be allocated or not, that way is would be shovel ready and able to apply for any available grants.

Mr. Miller mentioned the high ground water levels may be impacting the system, but sump pumps could also be an issue. Mr. Rogalski said that a small sump pump from Lowes could pump 1.5 million gallons in a month. Mr. Kehoe agreed that sump pumps could be a contributor, but broken pipes could also be a source of I&I. All of the possible I&I sources need to be discussed. And when I&I is found in a lateral we have the opportunity to help educate the homeowners. Mr. Rogalski agreed that education could help open people's eyes because what they think is something small thing can be a large contributor to I&I issues.

Mr. Rogalski feels that 5 million could easily be spent doing yearly projects costing \$250,000 - \$300,000. We need to spend wisely and get in front of projects to get the most bang for the money. Identifying operational liabilities will put us in a better position to fix problems. He added that we will likely still be working in the Sandy basin for the next 5 years unless more money is allocated. Mr. Miller added that ways to augment money to help reduce the I&I need to be looked at. The sump pump regulation could help with that goal. Mr. Kehoe said that proactive monitoring of the system help keep us aware of what might be coming. Mr. Rogalski felt that after the Sandy basin televising has been completed it would reasonable to start televising some of the newer areas. Mr. Miller said more support from the staff's work schedules would be needed. Mr. Kuhl likes the approach to stay ahead of the issues, but wasn't sure how much time the DPW would have available with their other responsibilities. Mr. Kehoe felt they should have time to squeeze in sewer work.

Ms. Sunday agreed with focusing on Sandy for 2019 and would like to broaden the focus for 2020 and the coming years looking for potential problems.

Mr. Miller suggesting taking advantage of state programs or grants as a possible funding source. A few years ago we obtained an H2O grant to help fund a project. In February our flows for White Rock were 10 million gallons. He said he has served on the Board for 10 years and this is the first time he's seen flows that high. He feels we may have a bigger problem.

Mr. Kuhl stated that at the PSATS Conference he learned of a low interest loan for homeowners for fix laterals through Penn Vest.

Mr. Eckerd suggested looking at a broad based tax for infrastructure. Mr. Kehoe thought this was researched a few years ago and that there were some limitations on where funding could be obtained from for paying debt or capital projects. Mr. Pykosh mentioned the Sewer Authorities Act and that funds for certain items can only come from the users, but he would look into this to verify.

Mr. Castle asked if the Authority was actively looking for grants. Ms. Sunday said that they don't have the expertise to do that. Mr. Rogalski said that grants are well publicized and they are always watching what is available. He added that having a plan in place and a project laid out would help when applying for grants, but some eligibility is based on the median income of the area. Mr. Miller said that we have a problem with the system and doesn't feel that median income should be a factor.

Mr. Kehoe said that 8 million dollars has been mentioned and if we could set aside \$250,000 per year for a project it would take 32 years to complete the repairs. We need to entertain the larger subject of a possibly looking for a company to buy the system since we are pipes and pumps without a treatment plant, such as SMTMA, Aqua PA or Suez. We don't want to lose control and would have to be very well protected, but this is an option that could be discussed beyond grants and reasonable management. Mr. Miller agreed that this could explored. He added that this is a township issue and needs to be addressed as a full township to make improvements. He also suggested making the township one district. Mr. Beck stated that we may be able to fund 2 years of projects, but we don't have enough income to sustain continual annual projects. The debt uses 60% of the revenues.

Mr. Miller mentioned that it could be time to renegotiate our contract with SMTMA to get flows and at the same time maybe change on the plant operation by possibly having a joint authority.

Ms. Sunday asked if there has been interaction with our representatives regarding the mandated regulations without funding. Mr. Kuhl and Mr. Kehoe said there have been many conversations about this topic.

Mr. Miller said that we need to focus on areas that may need sewer or a new development, but he suggested leaving Act 537 as is and just doing amendments if needed. The on-lot program needs to be monitored to make sure we have good data. He added that he spoke with the SEO who explained that homeowners are pumping, but sometimes there are issues getting the reports from the pumping company. Mr. Miller feels it is a failed process and we need to have responsible haulers that will complete the proper reports. He suggested contracting one pumping company to service the entire township like we do for trash. The Boards discussed talking with the SEO and improving the on-lot program.

Mr. Kehoe suggested that each Board get organized with some of the items that were discussed at their regular meeting and then follow up with a joint meeting in July. The Boards agreed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Rick Line, Criswell Drive, said the townships came together for the Allenberry Development sewer issue, so he suggested that SMTMA look at the southern district. Mr. Kehoe said that there is a new Board and said that its in Monroe's ballpark to contact SMTMA to start the sewer system evaluated.

Mr. Beck asked if SMTMA supplied a report since they were to evaluate the system back in September. Mr. Kehoe thought SMTMA was open to discuss this with Monroe, but didn't think an evaluation was just to take place. Mr. Beck will send the info he has to Mr. Kehoe.

ADJOURN

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the Boards, it was duly RESOVLED to adjourn the joint workshop at 9:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Lowery
Recording Secretary