

**WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP SEWER CUSTOMER BENEFIT FUND COMMITTEE**  
**APRIL 22, 2021 AT 7:00 PM via Zoom**

Committee members Supervisor Barbara Handelin, Molly Perrin, Norman MacQueen, Martin Kenney, Brian Evarts, and Gerry Bucaccio were present. Township Manager Sally Slook, Finance Director Martin McKenzie, Township Solicitor Bill Christman, and Scott Shearer with Public Financial Management were also present.

**Announcements** – Supervisor Handelin announced the meeting is being recorded and available to view on the township website. There were 45 attendees currently on the webinar. She also asked citizens to limit their comments to 5 minutes or less.

**Minutes** - Mr. Kenney moved to approve the minutes of April 8, 2021. Ms. Perrin seconded the motion. There were no comments from the Board or the public, and the motion carried unanimously.

**Committee Member Comments** – Supervisor Handelin acknowledged the Township could have done a better job engaging residents from the beginning of the sewer sale exploration process. She also added there are two proposals the Committee is considering, one from the Township and one from the citizen advocacy group.

Mr. Evarts commented water and sewer are vital services, and as Chester County and Willistown continue to grow, proper management of these services is essential. He recommends looking at the formula again to address the rate uncertainties and perhaps setting up a second fund as a contingency. If the fund is not needed after two rate increase cycles, it can be absorbed into the General Fund. Mr. Evarts also encouraged Aqua to look into technology allowing residents to be charged accurately for water use. He commented he waters his lawn during the summer, and while the water does not go into the sewer system, he is charged for it. Finally, he encouraged the Township to review the service level agreements such as response times in emergencies and negotiate if needed to alleviate some residents' uncertainty.

Ms. Slook commented the Township did send out a mailer to every sewer customer last fall as the Supervisors were getting ready to publicly discuss the results of the sewer evaluation done by PFM. The Township also posted on the website, social media, and the Township bulletin boards regarding the possible upcoming sale.

Mr. MacQueen commented on the near-term repair cost estimates Ms. Slook forwarded to the Committee before the meeting. It is estimated the system needs over \$5 million of improvements, regardless of who owns the system. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Handelin added the \$5 million of improvements need to be done in the next five years. Ms. Slook also commented the system is at least 50 years old, and emergency repairs will be costly for the Township. The 2019 sewer collapse at Long Lane cost almost \$1 million. Aqua can make repairs because of its size and scope and proactively make capital improvements to avoid system failures like Long Lane. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Kenney asked for the rationale for splitting the proceeds 75% to the Township and 25% to the residents. Discussion ensued. Supervisor Handelin suggested running different scenarios with different assumptions. Mr. MacQueen proposed a return of capital with a one-time payment to sewer owners. Ten years down the road, when the assumptions are clear, the Township can then decide what to do with the remainder of the money. Discussion ensued.

***Citizens' Comments***

Henry Yordan, 152 Grubb Road  
Kathy Schmidt, 2804 Sage Wood Drive  
Jerry Childers, 8 Colonial Way  
Jim Moyer, 38 Wistar Road

Deb LaFountain, 1506 Weatherstone Drive  
William Gordon, 42 Meadowview Lane  
Joseph Havrilla, 570 Sugartown Road  
Marshall Salyers, 2 Stoneybrook Lane  
Bill Lordan, 112 Spruce Lane  
Barbara and Lewis Pettinos, 6 Applewood Road  
Denise Muchnick, 29 Chetwynd Road  
Christian Spuckti, 6 Stoneybrook Lane  
Julie Frissora, 34 Chetwynd Road  
Patricia Bilson, 127 Gable Road  
Mindy Clearfield, 5 Andrews Road

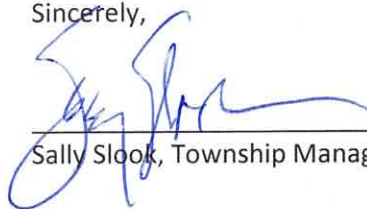
**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Willistown Township Sewer Customer Benefit Fund Committee will be on Wednesday, May 5, 2021, at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

**Adjournment**

Seeing no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Sincerely,



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Sally Slook, Township Manager