

**Union Township Board of Supervisors  
Sewage Workshop  
October 4, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.**

The Union Township Budget Workshop was called to order by Supervisor Heather Daerr at 5:00 p.m.

**The Pledge of Allegiance**

**Proof of Publication - Confirmed**

Board Members in attendance were Chairperson Heather Daerr, Supervisor Charles Trax, Supervisor Richard Lawson, and Supervisor David A. Esken, Supervisor Hal Breinig.

Also, in attendance were: Roberta Singer, Secretary/Ass't Treasurer; Karen Brown, Administration; Sweat Law Offices, Sarah Scott, Sean O'Dell, Engineer – Harshman CE Group, LLC & Sarah Boyce- Harshman CE Group, LLC.

Absent: Terri Gladus – Township Administrator

**Public Comments:** None

**Discussion Items:**

Discussion regarding Finleyville-Elrama Sewage Project:

Sarah Boyce Harshman CE Group introduced herself and advised residents that she is going to act as an additional engineer on this project.

Ms. Boyce provided background on Peters Creek Sanitary Authority's Act 537 plan and the Township's approval of the act. She went on to explain that during the preparation of the Act 537 plan, several failing and/or damaged systems along Finleyville-Elrama Road were identified and action had to take place.

She also explained that the Township had two options, a gravity flow system and a low-pressure system and continued to explain the difference between those two systems and provided clarification that they are going with the grinder pump system.

It was also stated that they would like resident feedback on choosing to bypass the old septic systems that residents have in place or leaving the system in place and connecting back to the gravity system.

She noted that there are currently 19 approved properties along Finleyville-Elrama Road that are to be connected in except for one home that was added later.

Ms. Boyce informed the public that there will be an individual grinder pump on each property, and it will exist into an existing manhole that flows to a PCSA system.

She offered color and black and white copies of the proposed plan to the residents and went on to explain that the Township has proposed a three-layer ownership system where the property owner owns the sewer line from the grinder pump to the house and that the electrical will be part of the electrical service. The Township will own and operate the grinder pump and the pipe that connects from the pump to the main. PCSA will own the mainline. It was noted that usually the homeowner owns the grinder pump, but the Township wanted to take the responsibility and cost off of the residents.

Ms. Sarah Scott reviewed the status of the project in regard to permits, storm drains, pipes, poles, etc. PCSA's guidelines and agreements are to be finalized. Ms. Scott stated she needs additional information and easement paperwork from residents. She went over monies to be finalized for the project and asked if any residents had questions. Ms. Scott then stated that she did not want people on their properties without the resident's knowledge.

#### **Public Comments:**

Dave Singer – 3998 Finleyville-Elrama – asked if storm and sanitary issues will be fixed across from his home. Ms. Boyce provided information from her Power Point presentation. Ms. Boyce noted that she wants this project to get going sooner than later.

Ed Burnworth -- 4035 Finleyville-Elrama – Inquired about the engineer's experience with the grinder pumps. Ms. Boyce explained how the pump works.

Tammie Lippert – 4014 Finleyville-Elrama – Inquired about the estimated electric cost of operating the grinder pump. Ms. Boyce responded that E1 told her it is comparable to a refrigerator, so it is to be about \$2.00 per month. Ms. Lippert thanked them for the work they are doing in finally getting this project done and asked about how much the tap in fees and rates will be.

Ms. Boyce said the tap in fees are going to be from the Township and the fees are not yet set but on previous developments the amount was \$2,500.00 and it will depend on PCSA's fee ultimately. She noted that there is financial help available for those who need it.

Mr. Sean O'Dell added there will be additional costs besides the tap in fees including the plumber costs to connect to the grinder pump. He recommended residents get paperwork from the Township office on financial assistance programs if they need of financial assistance information.

Mr. Burnworth – Inquired about the \$900.00 he had to send to South Strabane Sewer Authority that he was told he would get back.

Mr. O'Dell- Commented that that was separate from this issue but he can provide a number to call to Mr. Burnworth.

Ms. Boyce said she will inquire with the sewage council as to what that fee was for and explained how the sewage council works.

Chairperson Daerr asked the how long they have been asking for this sewer system.

Residents answered that it has been about 30 years.

Ms. Boyce stated that the goal is to have this started in the spring.

Chairperson Daerr asked the residents to see Sean O'Dell after the meeting to give him your phone numbers and get his number to help with looking into possibly getting a refund from the sewage council.

Mike Beres – 3994 Finleyville-Elrama – asked if each house will have their own grinder pump and was updated since he missed the beginning of the meeting. He asked if there was a plan for power outages and Ms. Boyce addressed his question. Mr. Beres asked what is required of the old septic systems and if there will be cost with that. Ms. Boyce said she will have a better answer once they decide the approach they are choosing.

Residents asked what will happen when the grinder pump gets full and Ms. Boyce explained the inner workings and that the residents can hire any plumber they would like to do the work.

Ms. Boyce advised all the residents this will increase property values and improve the health benefits of the community. She stated that although it is a financial burden up front, but it will benefit the home, health, and neighbors in the long run.

Robert Nebel -- 26 Robb Lane – Wanted to know if there is anything he can do to be included in this place since he is currently not, or what he can do to make it easier to tap in after the fact. Mr. O'Dell said that with the Act 537 planning only 19 lots are allowed so he would have to be added later. He encouraged Mr. Nebel to reach out so they could have a conversation about this matter.

Chairperson Daerr asked if any more questions or comments and stated the engineers will be here after the workshop if residents have any questions for them directly.

Motion to Adjourn @ 6:52 p.m.

Motion: Daerr

Second: Breinig

Roll Call: Daerr – yes Trax – yes Lawson – yes Breinig – yes Esken - yes

Motion Carried



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ROBERTA J. SINGER, Secretary