

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP  
AUTHORITY MEETING**

Minutes of Township Authority Meeting held July 1, 2014

A special meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Authority was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by Chairman William C. Seeds, Sr., on the above date in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Authority members present in addition to Mr. Seeds were: William B. Hawk, William L. Hornung, Gary A. Crissman, Robin Lindsey, and Justin Eby. Also in attendance were George Wolfe, Township Manager; Steve Stine, Authority Solicitor; William Weaver, Authority Director, and Watson Fisher, SWAN.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Seeds suspended the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag as it was recited during the Board of Supervisors meeting by Mr. Crissman.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the June 3, 2014 Authority meeting minutes. Mrs. Lindsey seconded the motion. Mr. Seeds called for a voice vote and a unanimous vote followed.

**Public Comment**

No public comment was presented.

**Board Members' Comment**

Mr. Hawk wanted to take the opportunity to introduce the Lower Paxton Township Authority's newest member Justin Eby. Mr. Eby thanked the Board of Supervisors for choosing him to serve on this Board. He noted that he looks forward to serving his term and bringing his knowledge to the Authority. Mr. Seeds thanked Mr. Eby for joining the Board.

## **New Business**

Resolution 14-07-01 through 14-07-21 authorizing the condemnation for temporary construction easements for building sewer replacements in BC-3B  
and  
Resolution 14-08-01 through 13-08-06 authorizing the condemnation of Permanent and temporary easements for mainline sewer replacements in BC-3B

Mr. Weaver explained that Resolution 14-07-01 through 14-07-21 were prepared by solicitor Steve Stine to begin the condemnation process for building sewer replacements for temporary construction easements for properties in BC-3B. He explained that staff conducted a public meeting a few weeks ago and he is getting good results in the return of the private sewer replacement agreements; however, the Authority is on a strict time schedule and in order to allow Mr. Stine the 90 days needed for the condemnation process the resolutions must be approved at this time. He explained that he expects to get more than half back from the residents prior to filing the condemnations.

Mrs. Lindsey questioned what the condemnation process is. Mr. Weaver answered that staff provides a 30-day letter and a 30-day certified letter. He noted, after the 60-day time period is completed, and the signed agreement has not been returned, Mr. Stine prepares the condemnation documents noting that it takes 90 days for the temporary easement to be condemned. He noted that the property owner will not receive any compensation as the private sewer value is more than the condemnation of the property that the Authority will temporarily access to construct the sewer replacement. He noted after the sewer work is completed, the temporary easement is automatically extinguished.

Mr. Weaver noted that the actual project will be bid in August with bid awarded by the Board in late September and construction starting between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Mrs. Lindsey questioned why the people will not sign the easements. Mr. Weaver noted that he generally gets 90% of the easements back but most of the time people forget about it or others don't understand the process thinking that their sewer lines are fine and do not need any work. He noted that they do not understand that it is a mandatory program due to the consent order issued from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection DEP, and in the letters that staff sends to the residents that is stated in bold type.

Mr. Hornung noted that the success rate is due to the excellent quality that Mr. Weaver's staff provides to the community in communicating the needs and advantages of the program. He

noted to get that percentage of compliance is incredible. He noted when people come to him to complain, he explains that issues with dirt and reseeding are nothing compared to the expense they saved in having their sewer line replaced. He noted that the Township did it at its cost and it could be as much as a \$5,000 savings to the resident. He noted that he tells the residents that there has to be some effort on their part as it is their responsibility to maintain their sewer line and not the Townships. He explained he tells the people if they have to buy a couple pounds of seed or fill in some dirt, they got a bargain. He noted that many people come to understand that and that they have to water the seed to get the grass to grow.

Mr. Weaver suggested that the public meetings help as he gets good feedback from the public. He noted that during the recent meeting it was suggested that staff should show a video to explain how the sewer works during a storm and to bring samples of pipe to the meeting so people will see what it looks like. He noted that seeding is a big issue and the fact that it is summer; many people are anxiously waiting for their yards to be seeded. He noted that they must water the seed for the grass to grow. Mr. Hornung noted that there has to be effort on the part of the residents to help out.

Mrs. Lindsey questioned if many of the residents attend the meetings. Mr. Weaver answered that he gets about 60% in attendance. He noted that they want to understand how the sewer works during a storm.

Mr. Crissman noted since Mr. Weaver provided a good background for the resolution, he questioned if he would be duplicating the same thing for Resolution 14-08-01 other than to add permanent as well as temporary easements. Mr. Weaver answered that was correct and in the past the Board has opted to adopt the two resolutions together.

Mr. Crissman questioned Mr. Seeds if there would be any objections if he chose to do that. Mr. Seeds answered that he had none.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve Resolutions 14-07-01 through 14-07-21 which authorizes the temporary construction easements and Resolutions 14-08-01 through 14-08-06 for permanent and temporary construction easements for BC-3B. Mr. Eby seconded the motion.

Mr. Seeds noted that when his sewer was completed a couple of years ago he had to add some ground and reseed the lawn noting that it would have cost him a lot more if he would have had to pay for the sewer replacement. He noted that people have to understand that they are getting a real bargain for having to buy a little bit of seed or topsoil.

Mr. Seeds called for a voice vote and a unanimous vote followed.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Crissman made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Heberle  
Recording Secretary

Approved by,

William L. Hornung  
Authority Secretary