

**DOVER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
May 23, 2016**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisor's Work Session for Monday, May 23, 2016, was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Matthew Menges in the Meeting Room of the Dover Township Municipal Building. Supervisors present were Matthew Menges, Charles Richards, Stephen Stefanowicz and Robert Stone. Stephen Parthree was absent with prior notice. Other Township Representatives in attendance were Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager; Charles Rausch, Township Solicitor; Terry Myers, Township Engineer; Cory McCoy, C.S. Davidson; Michael Fleming, Township Public Works Director and Tiffany Strine, Recording Secretary. There were two citizens present. This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minutes only.

**The purpose of this work session was to review and discuss the Township On Lot Septic Ordinance.**

**TOWNSHIP ON-LOT SEPTIC ORDINANCE DISCUSSION**

Manager Oswalt previously provided a brief overview of the current Dover Township On-Lot Septic ordinance during a Board of Supervisors Work Session Meeting on April 11, 2016. An ordinance was adopted in 2005 for the On-Lot Septic program. During the April 11, 2016, meeting; information was provided on the Dover Township On-Lot Septic ordinance, an excerpt from the Pennsylvania Code pertaining to the ordinance, information from the Department of Environmental Protection; herein referred to as D.E.P., pertaining to understanding septic systems, establishing the legal structure, treatment tank pumping and excerpts from the Dover Township 537 Plan.

The Board discussed various strategies in which they may revise and update the current Township On Lot Septic ordinance; if necessary, to better suit the varying needs of the residents. Chair Menges expressed Board conjecture on the ordinance clarifying that the Board will only implement the best practice available while instilling the utmost respect to upholding the legitimate governmental purpose.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**DONALD HARLACHER – 6440 DAVIDSBURG ROAD**

Donald Harlacher voiced personal concerns with the Township On Lot Septic Ordinance. Mr. Harlacher stated that on-lot septic systems should be maintained solely by the property owner and that the Township not mandate maintenance of resident's on-lot septic systems. Mr. Harlacher read aloud various components of a document he himself had brought to this meeting referencing constitutional rights.

Chair Menges clarified that the Township will retain balance and priority of complying with regulations while maintaining necessary means of proper order and function of Township on-lot

septic systems for the betterment of all residents and the resident's properties. Chair Menges affirmed that the current ordinance will be reviewed with the utmost exerted due diligence.

Some areas being examined with regards to the Township's current On-Lot Septic ordinance include some of the following: Examining and recessing proper time frames in which on lot septic systems must be examined and pumped, while being mindful to any pertinent exemptions necessary to applicable residents. Creating and implementing furthering educational resources for Township residents. These educational resources will encompass various information of on lot septic systems, proper maintenance of the systems and the importance of the entire process.

R. Stone inquired as to what amount of time would constitute a reasonable amount of time for which pumping or necessary extension of pumping of on-lot septic systems should occur. R. Stone stated that he would like to seek the knowledge of the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer who is more experienced and skilled in this area for further learnedness.

Additionally, consideration was made to consider self-reporting for residents with on lot septic systems. A self-reporting form; to offer varying extension options, could be created and be included within the notification process that is originally distributed and delegates when designated pumping is due. This may aide residents by instilling more power to the residents and making the residents more aware of the options available for extension if applicable.

Township personnel are currently creating public educational resources by the use of the Township's website and newsletter articles.

**Board consensus was reached and it was decided that the Board would like to hold an additional work session and request the presence of the Township Sewage Enforcement Officer to further discuss the Township's on lot septic ordinance.**

The work session was adjourned at 6:55PM.

Respectfully submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Tiffany Strine, Recording Secretary