

**DOVER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Work Session Minutes
May 10, 2010**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisors held a work session on Monday, May 10, 2010, which began at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room of the Dover Township Municipal Building. Dover Township Supervisors present were Chairman Curtis Kann, Madelyn Shermeyer, Michael Husson, Duane Hull, and Monica Love. Laurel Wilson, Township Manager; Charles Farley, Public Works Director; and Dawn Slegel, Recording Secretary were also present. There was 1 citizen present.

Manager Wilson introduced Jamie Rubb, who is the Vice President of Sales for Benchmark Energy Solutions, Inc.

Mr. Rubb provided the Board with a brief history of the company starting from its beginning ten years ago by an investment banker William Welch, now President, to Benchmark in its present state of nine staff members in Pittsburgh and three regional offices located throughout Pennsylvania. The co-op presently consists of 92 municipalities. They are currently purchasing electric in bulk from PPL and come January 1 from Met-Ed and Adams Electric. They also purchase gas in bulk from UGI and Columbia Gas. Benchmark handles the responsibility of reading the tariffs which the energy companies release quarterly. Releases are to be signed by the Township for natural gas and electric in order for Benchmark to review the municipality's history from Met-Ed and Columbia Gas. They will audit the utility bills back one and a half years. If errors are found, they will be able to collect refunds for the municipality. All of the electric and gas bills will be sent to Benchmark where they will be audited, compiled, and forwarded in one bill for electric and a separate bill for gas to the municipality for payment. Benchmark representatives will observe any spikes in electric and inquire to the municipality on the cause. They will continue to check the rate classes and verify any sales tax wrongly charged. Benchmark will basically be a watchdog of the utility accounts. They will act as a representative in support with the municipality at meetings held for any reason with any of the utility companies. When they met with PP&L on the deregulation, the electric company predicted an increase of 28 to 35%. The unknown fact was that they raised unmetered electric 75% which included street lights and traffic signals. The invoices are expedited from the municipality through M & T Bank for payment to Benchmark which in turn pay the utility companies. He reviewed their process for obtaining a savings for municipalities. In York County, the following municipalities have already signed on with Benchmark: Springettsbury, Hanover, Penn, York City, and Littlestown. Whatever Benchmark saves the municipality, the municipality will receive 70% and Benchmark will get the remaining 30%. That 70/30 percentage also applies to any refund collected for any past billing errors detected.

Chair Kann questioned any additional billing charges to the Township by Benchmark.

Mr. Rubb replied that there is a customer charge per the management agreement for a bill \$250 or less of \$2.20 per month; \$250 to \$550, it's \$4.40; and \$550 and over, it's \$6.60. There are no upfront fees. He noted that after deregulation of electric, Met-Ed will not allow a refund on back invoices.

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Manager Wilson inquired whether Benchmark has a component in the program that would allow the wastewater treatment plant to go to a brown-out situation through a generator.

Mr. Rubb responded Enroc has that program covered and they are good at what they do as an energy management company.

Manager Wilson reported that Dover Township did have an energy audit performed on the municipal building. The Administration Building received an 84% which was very good and constitutes an energy star rating. On the other hand, the garage received a 31% which requires extensive and costly renovations and may not be worth fixing. She did not have the opportunity to thoroughly read the report which she received today.

Mr. Rubb stated that he would have Benchmark review a month's worth of electric bills so the Township can see the configuration of the program.

Township Manager Donald Keener from Newberry Township was present to listen to the Benchmark presentation.

Supervisor Love asked if the Township wanted to have an audit performed by Benchmark to see if a refund was owed to them, what the deadline would be for signing on.

Mr. Rubb suggested that the latest timeframe for the reverse audit would be September or sooner.

Board Consensus was to have Benchmark Energy Solutions, Inc. review one month of electric bills.

Chair Kann closed the work session at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

 Dawn D. Slegel, Secretary