

**DOVER TOWNSHIP  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
WORK SESSION MINUTES  
JUNE 13, 2016**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisor's Work Session for Monday, June 13, 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 Stephen Parthree. Robert Stone was absent with prior notice. Other Township Representatives in attendance were Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager; Bradley Hengst, Township Sewage Enforcement Officer; Brian Widmayer, Township Deputy Fire Chief; Charles Rausch, Township Solicitor; Michael Fleming, Township Public Works Director and Tiffany Strine, Recording Township 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**

The Board reviewed and discussed various strategies and options 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.

The extension granting process was discussed. It was suggested to revise and simplify the current Township on-lot septic pumping extension form. Mr. Hengst provided the Board with a draft of a Request for Septic Tank Pumping Interval Extension form. Mr. Hengst stated that he has created a simplified and thorough form to provide to residents.

The current Dover Township Sewage Management Program Ordinance requires every property; with a septic tank, within the Township to be pumped, inspected and reported as necessary to the Township every four (4) years. The new document would be provided to residents to better inform the resident of the extension availability the Township is able to allow if the resident meets the necessary requirements.

Mr. Hengst stated that there is a clear and present need to retain an On-Lot Septic ordinance within the Township to maintain healthy and fully functioning systems.

Chair Menges stated that the Township should retain a system of measure for the required time lengths of pumping to be done to on-lot septic systems, but feels as though it is unclear to residents as to what their options are for an extension and that the Township should consider exploring ways of making the process easier to understand.

S. Parthree proposed the idea of amending the On-Lot Septic ordinance to be implemented and enacted as a voluntary option to residents. S. Parthree suggested providing the proper information to residents via the necessary charts suggesting the recommended pumping schedule.

S. Parthree suggested the mailing of a notice to residents recommending that the necessary time for pumping their on-lot septic system is approaching. S. Parthree added that if the resident does not maintain their system as needed and their system malfunctions within the scope of penalty, the applicable fine would then be applied that is required by the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Hengst stated that he feels as though an On-Lot Septic ordinance; that requires regular pumping, should remain within the Township to prevent various problems and fines. Mr. Hengst stated that with a required pumping and inspection schedule on a specific time length prescribed basis, this will prevent most issues. Mr. Hengst added that circumstances change on a daily basis, things such as household resident count, wear on the septic system components over time and so forth. Due to these factor, Mr. Hengst feels that it is imperative for residents to be proactive and the Township to retain the necessary recommended enforcement of an On-Lot Septic ordinance with a specified pumping schedule.

The Department of Environmental Protection currently prefers an On-Lot Septic tank to be pumped every three years. While this time frame is not required specifically, this time frame is recommended. The Township has adopted their On-Lot Septic ordinance to be pumped every four years unless otherwise determined. Final determination of the specified time length for pumping lies with the Township, per Mr. Hengst.

S. Stefanowicz stated that he had recently visited Monarch Products Company in York, Pennsylvania. Monarch Products Company is a manufacturer of precast concrete products and has been manufacturing sanitary and storm sewer products for some time. S. Stefanowicz inquired on the various components and recommendations regarding their septic system products to further educate himself on the subject. S. Stefanowicz stated that at this time, he is still undecided of his stance on retaining the current On-Lot Septic ordinance or proposing the implementation of a voluntary On-Lot Septic system option with the strong identification of a fine to the property owner if the system is not maintained.

Some areas currently being examined with regards to the Township's current On-Lot Septic ordinance include some of the following: Examining and reassessing 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 a simple Township form to provide to residents regarding requests for septic tank pumping interval extensions. Additionally, consideration was made to consider implementing a voluntary On-Lot Septic ordinance for residents.

**Board consensus was to have the Township Solicitor make amendments to the proposed form for further discussion.**

The work session was adjourned at 6:55PM.

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

Tiffany Strine, Recording Secretary