

DOVER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
Work Session Minutes
November 26, 2012

The Dover Township Board of Supervisors held a work session on Monday, November 26, 2012, which began at 6:00 PM in the Meeting Room of the Dover Township Municipal Building. Dover Township Supervisors present were Chairperson Madelyn Shermeyer, Monica Love, Michael Husson, Charles Richards, and Matthew Menges. Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager; Terry Myers, Township Engineer; Charles Farley, Public Works Director; and Dawn Slegel, Recording Secretary were also present. Nathan Walker and Brian Merritt of AMEC were in attendance to make a presentation. A news reporter was present in the audience.

The purpose of the work session was to review funding options for the requirements of the Stormwater Management Program.

Mr. Farley introduced Nathan Walker, the Water Resources Planner, and Brian Merritt, the Water Resources Engineer for AMEC.

Mr. Walker gave a slide show presentation to the Board on the services of AMEC which is located at 502 West Germantown Pike, Suite 850, Plymouth Meeting, PA, 19462 and has provided services in Maryland and Virginia that are further along with the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Program. He related the evolution of stormwater management over the past one hundred years from getting it off the residential properties as quickly as possible and into the streets evolving into stormwater pipes and storm sewers, later minimizing the flow through detention ponds and on to onsite control with green infrastructure, and finally directing the concentration of engineering solutions on programming and planning of a stormwater management program. There are two methods of water quality concepts to keep the clean water clean and clean the dirty water before it enters the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The future of stormwater management will most likely consist of increasing stormwater regulations, maintenance, and capital improvements, etc. for local government. The management of stormwater has been designated as a municipal responsibility by DEP and the EPA. The municipalities have to deal with these stormwater issues from their general fund budget. The Stormwater Ordinance adopted in 2004 has placed the responsibility in Dover Township's authority of dealing with stormwater management. In order to cover the stormwater issues in Dover Township whether it's streambank erosion, uncontrolled stormwater discharges, defunct homeowners' associations, flooding, etc., the Township has to develop a fair and balanced financial obligation to fix the problems.

It was noted that the Township has residents attending their Board of Supervisors Meeting on a regular basis to report their stormwater problems and seeking support from the Township to fix their problems. There are so many of these problems that the Township has to prioritize them according to the amount of residents affected. Some residents have been told to contact Gary Peacock of the York County Conservation District or Jake Romig, the York County Circuit Rider, in an attempt to partner together and obtain grants, etc. to resolve stormwater issues within their neighborhood without the Township's involvement.

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Mr. Walker stated that there should be a determining line when the stormwater issue between neighbors becomes a public issue. Modeling helps to pinpoint the cause of where the stormwater problem is coming from. The PA Department of Environmental Protection and the Federal Emergency Protection Agency are controlling the overall process and how they interact with each other is unclear at this point. Some of the other states like New Jersey, West Virginia, Virginia, Maryland, and Massachusetts have taken the lead ahead of Pennsylvania so that it is apparent where the EPA is heading. If the EPA states that the discharges have to be reduced, Dover Township will know what their current discharges are. Mr. Merritt was present to assist with the financial end of establishing stormwater management fees to cover the Township's overall costs.

Public education is being promoted in Dover Township who has partnered with West Manchester Township to conduct training relating to stormwater management for their communities. More upcoming classes will be scheduled for the Spring and Fall and will be published later in their Township newsletters, on their web sites, and in the local newspapers. The Board felt that public education plays a very important part in the understanding of the stormwater management process.

It was presented to the Board that sewer users pay for the use of their sewer and water users pay for the use of their water. The concept was suggested that stormwater and rain water should be treated that same way as a user fee. This fee would address existing impervious areas and stormwater problems, and/or facilities.

Pennsylvania does not currently allow for Stormwater Authorities or Stormwater Districts. Changes must first occur at the State level to be able to assess fees for areas within drainage basins. Right now, the local government is limited in applying fee assessments.

The level of compliance and service within the community for stormwater management must be taken into consideration in the Township's budget. The long term needs for stormwater must be evaluated. The Township's existing facilities conditions must be checked and a plan must be developed regarding replacement over time whether it be 5 or 10 years, etc. Prioritization for repairing the problem stormwater areas must also be factored into this plan.

The work session was concluded at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Dawn D. Slegel, Secretary