

**DOVER TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
WORK SESSION MINUTES
AUGUST 22, 2016**

The Dover Township Board of Supervisors' Work Session for Monday, August 22, 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, Robert Stone and Stephen Parthree. Other Township Representatives in attendance were Laurel Oswalt, Township Manager; Michael Fleming, Township Public Works Director; Sophie Simon, Waste Water Treatment Plant Superintendent; Charles Rausch, Township Solicitor and Tiffany Strine, Recording Township Secretary. Diane Oleson, M.S., from the PennState Extension Office was present. There were no members of the public present. This meeting is being recorded for the purpose of minutes only.

This work session is being held for the purpose of holding an informational presentation from Diane Oleson, M.S., from the York County PennState Extension Office regarding water and septic systems.

Ms. Oleson presented an educational overview on water and septic systems, providing fact based information and educational insight from research.

Ms. Oleson provided a brief overview of groundwater supplies and private water wells and springs. There are over one million homes and farms in the state of Pennsylvania. In the year 2000, York County was recorded to have fifty-three thousand, one hundred and fourteen (53,114) homes served by private water systems.

Ms. Oleson explained the process in which wells and springs utilize groundwater aquifers and how a well works. The importance of establishing and designating a water supply protection area was emphasized. The important factors included locating an area at least 100 feet from a septic tank or drain field, away from runoff, roads, neighbors' wells and property lines and up gradient from sources of contamination. Land use greatly impacts groundwater in various ways such as the following: Household created bacteria, nitrates and sediment and yard chemicals; road maintenance runoff such as chloride and sodium; landfills, agriculture and various industry pollutants.

Ms. Oleson spoke on the topic of safe water and water testing. Many pollutants have no obvious symptoms and many water supplies have never been properly tested. Ms. Oleson highlighted the strong need to use state accredited laboratories, to test annually for bacteria and every three years for pollutants associated with activities within sight. All test results should be compared to drinking water standards.

Ms. Oleson provided a brief overview of on-lot septic systems, how they work and essential maintenance of on-lot septic systems, wastewater basics and treatment goals. Making use of natural treatment from bacteria, soil and sand are some of the best naturally occurring mechanisms. Keeping pathogens away from surface and groundwater including drinking water

wells is a must. Septic system parts, components and mechanisms were reviewed. The more modern septic tank is now composed of two compartments. The newer state of the art septic tank collects wastewater, separates solid sludge, floating scum and effluent water. Inside septic tanks some bacterial decomposition occurs; the remainder of the sludge and scum must be pumped to avoid potential ground water contamination. A regulatory malfunction or discharge of untreated effluent material to the surface can result in contamination of groundwater or surface waters.

Ms. Oleson accentuated that proper homeowner maintenance is vital in protecting everyone. Ms. Oleson added that homeowners should protect their drain field and homeowners should pump their septic tanks to remove sludge and scum per location regulations. Ms. Oleson personally feels that these regulations are great and essential to preventing any water and septic issues or problems. In Ms. Oleson's opinion; septic tank maintenance such as inspections and pumping, act as inexpensive insurance for a residential property. This is a matter of protecting water sources and public health.

The Board thanked Ms. Oleson for her time and knowledge on these matters.

The work session was adjourned at 7:00PM.

Respectfully submitted by: _____

Tiffany Strine, Recording Secretary