

APPROVED FEB. 24, 2022



THORNBURY TOWNSHIP
DELAWARE COUNTY
Sewer Advisory Committee
6 Township Drive
Cheyney, PA 19319-1020
www.thornbury.org

Ted Jacquet, Chairman
Scott Raimondo, Vice-Chairman

George Morley
Jack Howley
Jim O'Brien

MINUTES
Thornbury Township Sewer Advisory Committee Meeting
Thursday, January 28, 2021

The Thornbury Township Sewer Advisory Committee held a public meeting on Thursday, January 28, 2021, remotely via Zoom, due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. Chairman Jacquet called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT: Ted Jacquet, Chairman
Scott Raimondo, Vice-Chairman
George Morley
Charles Faulkner, P.E., Sewer Engineer
Jeff Seagraves, Township Manager

ABSENT: Jack Howley and Jim O'Brien

MEMBERS OF PUBLIC: 0

Chairman Jacquet reviewed the Agenda as follows:

AGENDA

1. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG**
2. **REORGANIZATION**
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
4. **APPROVAL OF JAN. 23, 2020 MINUTES**
5. **OLD BUSINESS**
 - a. Brinton Lake Colony
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. High Sewer Flow Rates
 - b. Township Manager's Report
 - c. Spring Newsletter Article
7. **NEXT MEETING – Thurs., Feb. 25, 2021 (optional)**
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

1. **SALUTE TO THE FLAG:** Mr. Jacquet led the salute to the flag.

2. **REORGANIZATION:**

On a motion by Mr. Morley and seconded by Mr. Raimondo, all members present voted to re-appoint Mr. Jacquet as Chairman of the Sewer Committee for 2021. Mr. Jacquet abstained.

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On a motion by Mr. Morley and seconded by Mr. Jacquet, all members present voted to re-appoint Mr. Raimondo as Vice-Chairman of the Sewer Committee for 2021. Mr. Raimondo abstained.

3. **PUBLIC COMMENT:** There were no comments from the public.
4. **APPROVAL OF JAN. 23, 2020 MINUTES:** On a motion by Mr. Jacquet and seconded by Mr. Morley, all members present voted to approve the Jan. 23, 2020 minutes.
5. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Brinton Lake Colony (BLC):**
6. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **High Sewer Flow Rates:**

Mr. Jacquet noted 2 possible reasons for high sewer flow rates: leak(s) in the sewer lines, or residents have sump pumps or down spouts hooked up to the sewer system. Mr. Seagraves reported that the average daily gallons are about 130,000 to 135,000, and less during the summer months. However, only during heavy rain events, such as on Dec. 24th, it spiked to 250,000 gallons. Thornbury Twp. is permitted at 180,000 gallons per day. Mr. Faulkner stated that the high rates began about 2 years ago when Delcora noticed the increase. Mr. Seagraves noted that for years the Township has used cameras to visually find problems. Mr. Seagraves reported that to address the situation, an insert was added to the recent sewer bills explaining the problem and offered a free inspection. So far, 10 property owners have requested an inspection, which will be performed by the Building Code Inspector. About 2 weeks ago Pennoni walked the lines, but did not find anything. The Township will need to do metering at various locations. A meter can be rented at about \$2,000 per month. The problem is that Delcora checks the pump stations about every 2-3 days, not daily. Mr. Faulkner stated that their search will be concentrated on the East side, however the West side will also be investigated. Mr. Jacquet asked about a smoke test. Mr. Faulkner stated that it is an industry standard. Mr. Seagraves noted that the Township will try to avoid using a smoke test, as residents will be alarmed if they get smoke in their basement. Mr. Faulkner stated that if the manhole is blocked off, a smoke test can be used. Mr. Morley suggested pressurizing the pump station. Mr. Faulkner felt smoke testing was a better alternative. Mr. Seagraves felt that to narrow the problem down, the Township should investigate different metering options or meter each pump station. Mr. Seagraves reported that the Township should begin by investigating the pump stations at Pierce, Fox Brook, and Meredith. Mr. Jacquet asked if there is data correlated with gallons per

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minute. Mr. Faulkner explained that it may not be precise, and the best data is the pump run time. Also, holidays mean extra pump run time. Mr. Seagraves stated the first step is educating the public and the next step is to isolate the problem. Mr. Faulkner noted that the pumps need to be monitored during a rain event. Mr. Seagraves concurred and added that ground water is high in Spring, so metering is best done in March and April. Mr. Morley asked if a problem could be isolated manhole to manhole. Mr. Seagraves replied that there are still laterals between manholes. Mr. Jacquet asked if other townships have the same problem. Mr. Faulkner stated that almost every township has this problem to some extent. Mr. Seagraves noted that older systems were designed to take stormwater and sewer together. Mr. Faulkner stated that our system is not that old, so it is perplexing as to where it's coming from. Mr. Seagraves stated that currently when a property owner sells or refinances their home, they need to obtain a sewer certificate from Mrs. Zitarelli. However, we may now want to make sewer inspection mandatory with a refinance or selling of a home, as some homeowners may not know their sump pump is connected to their sewer. Mr. Morley noted that older homes may get foundation cracks and install a sump pump which could easily be tied in to the sewer. Mr. Seagraves noted that information is in the newsletter and on the Township's web site. Mr. Seagraves reported that Black Bell Farm development is low-pressure and their connections should be checked. Mr. Seagraves felt that the problem was along the creek or other low-lying areas.

b. Township Manager's Report: No report was submitted.

c. Spring Newsletter Article: The members suggested Mr. Raimondo insert timely information.

7. **NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (Optional):

8. **ADJOURNMENT:** On a motion by Mr. Morley and seconded by Mr. Raimondo, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Zitarelli
Sewer Advisory Committee Secretary

cc: Sewer Committee Members
Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey Seagraves, Twp. Manager
Suzanne Howat, Bookkeeper

Chuck Faulkner, Twp. Sewer Engineer
Ken Kynett, Esq., Twp. Solicitor
Geoff Carbutt, Subdivision Coordinator