The regular meeting of the Upper Allen Township Sewer Advisory Board was held on November 21, 2019 in the Upper Allen Township Municipal Building, 100 Gettysburg Pike, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County, Pennsylvania.

MEMBERS
George Bedorf, Chairman
Christopher Gleeson, Vice Chair. (absent)
Bruce Yerger, Secretary
Dave Gabel
Robert L. Haines

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS
Jim Cochran, Commissioner
Paul M. Rigney, Commissioner
Barry A. Cupp, Sewer Dept. Manager

GHD ENGINEERING SERVICES
Joel Kostelac, P.E.

Chairman Bedorf called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all. Roll Call was taken by Sewer Department Secretary, Kathy Ferrari.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2019

Chairman Bedorf called for approval of the minutes of October 24, 2019 meeting. Mr. Yerger made a MOTION to approve the minutes of October 24, 2019. SECONDED by Mr. Gabel. ROLL CALL: carried unanimously.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

CHAIRMAN’S RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

There were no visitors.

OLD BUSINESS
ALLENDALE INTERCEPTOR/LEGACY PARK PROJECT STATUS

Mr. Cupp reported that in October E.K. Service started work on Segment A, Part 2 and Segments B of the 18-inch sewer interceptor. The initial portion completed was Part 2 of Segment A through the proposed commercial section. Mr. Cupp said that the contractor did not encounter any rock or water in this area. He said that at this point for the developer to proceed with building up the area and starting the commercial work, E.K. Services moved down to the very lower end of the project at the other end of Legacy Park, just below the proposed bridge. Mr. Cupp provided the Board with a photo presentation of this area of the project with Mr. Hockenberry providing a brief detail of each photo. Mr. Hockenberry reported that the first three upper section of the project are complete for a total of 40% completion. He explained that there are ten total runs and then the contractor jumped down to the lower end of the project and is currently working upstream. He said that the contractor is encountering a good bit of rock at the downstream end and a good bit of ground water when digging down for the first manhole. Initially a 6-inch diesel pump was put in place and running 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for dewatering. Mr. Hockenberry stated that there is no blasting allowed in this contract for rock removal, so the contractor is using mechanical means for removal. The contractor is using a filter bag which he explained is an erosion/sediment control device noting the dirty water that they are pumping out must go through some type of filter device before it is released. He added that you can see the water in various areas while the pumps are running so the contractor placed a #4 rock to firm up the subbase before installing pipe. A sewer pipe will be installed inside a 36-inch diameter steel casing pipe for access ability since a bridge will eventually be built over the sewer pipe. He said that since the bridge is not yet installed there was no boring required and the contractor was able to easily dig and install the pipe. Mr. Cupp noted that he included in the presentation a photo of the pumping station for Legacy Park which pumps all the way into the Borough of Mechanicsburg. Mr. Hockenberry stated that we are keeping track of the rock removal noting that it is a pay item by the cubic yard. He said that the contractor is dealing with limestone in various locations and removal is very time consuming. He said that yesterday the contractor was able to turn off the 6-inch diesel pump used for dewatering. Currently the contractor is dealing with just rock and not rock and ground water. Mr. Hockenberry stated the E.K. Services is doing a very good job. Commissioner Rigney asked if the contractor had encountered any sink holes. Mr. Hockenberry said that he noticed one approximately two weeks ago but not in our easement area. He said he took a photo and forwarded it to the contact person for Landmark Homes to make them aware. A week later he noticed another one, again not in our area but did again make Landmark aware. He added that at some point we may also deal with sink holes on our portion of the project. There was no further discussion.

GHD INTERCEPTOR/TRUNK SEWER FLOW MODELING

Mr. Cupp said there are no new reports on this item.
2019 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AT GRANTHAM WWTP

Mr. Cupp reported that on November 14, 2019, a pre-construction meeting was held at the Grantham Wastewater Treatment Plant with Shiloh Paving & Excavating Inc. Projects were discussed in detail. He said the intent is to begin the grit/grease facility concrete work and the control building garage door work this year around mid-December. He stated that at this point and now that we are into colder weather, we believe that the contractor will request a time extension to do the concrete work in the spring. Mr. Kostelac reported that GHD did receive Shiloh’s tentative schedule today. He said they plan to mobilize the week after Thanksgiving and as Mr. Cupp mentioned they have the work on the grit/grease pad and control building scheduled out through the end of the year. He said they will demobilize (if the plan goes according to schedule) and remobilize in the spring to finish the concrete repairs and coatings and final paving. Commissioner Rigney pointed out that in Mr. Cupp’s reference to the grit and grease handling facility he always puts in the clause “designed to be an integral part of a future sludge storage pad;” he questioned if it is Mr. Cupp’s belief that we be getting one sooner than later. He added that there was a lot of discussion years ago regarding the pad and cost. Mr. Cupp said the purpose of the grit and grease design is to accommodate future DEP regulations. He said depending on what the regulations are and what degree of treatment is required for our sludge, if we want to go to Class A sludge processing, we will need a place to store it. He explained that the grit and grease handling facility is laid out to accommodate a future sludge storage pad. Commissioner Rigney asked if both Mr. Cupp and Mr. Kostelac believe that the Township will be forced into Class A sludge processing soon? Mr. Kostelac responded that currently there is no regulation/requirement for municipalities to produce Class A sludge. Discussion ensued regarding current disposal methods, current/future land application cost and changes to DEP biosolid disposal requirements. Chairman Bedorf commented that it has been this Board’s understanding from the beginning of the grit/grease handling discussion and past discussions of the sludge storage pad that that moving forward there would be a potential for the installation of a sludge storage pad.

ROLO COURT

Mr. Cupp reported that this issue was briefly discussed at the November 6, 2019 Board of Commissioners meeting and again in an executive session at the November 20th meeting. Mr. Cupp stated that the bottom line is at this point it appears the Township cannot do a whole lot because we cannot enter private property to do inspections without an administrative search warrant. He provided Commissioners Cochran and Rigney with a summary of everything that has occurred up to date with this issue; noting that the Sewer Advisory Board was not copied because they were already provided with information and have discussed the issue at the last two meetings in detail. Mr. Cupp said that based on a suggestion made by Mr. Hockenberry, our next step in addressing this issue is to invite the Rolo Court Mobile Park owners to meet with the Township in person and attempt to work with them noting that the Township has the resources to help them identify their problems and offer some advice. Commissioner Rigney commented that he agreed with the suggestion noting that it shows the Township is trying to address the issue and operating in good faith. Mr. Cupp stated that in the past we have worked with other private sewer owners such as Messiah College and
Messiah Village. Both Messiah College and Messiah Village followed through with the suggested plans from the township. He said he suggested a similar plan with Rolo Court’s owners by means of a letter. He said our hope is to obtain a better response from them by meeting with them in person. Discussion ensued regarding sewage blockages/overflows, rules/regulation, violations and private property owner responsibilities. Commissioner Cochran said that the Township needs to be informed and see the sewer on the ground at which time we can enter the private property based on the condition being a threat to public health. He said we cannot work off someone’s photos or hearsay. When a backup/overflow is occurring, the Township must be invited onto the private property to observe the actual event. He added that the owners of Rolo Court also own other parks in different locations and are well versed on their rights pertaining to sanitary sewer overflow/backup rules/regulations. He said there was recent discussion on calculations of revenue generated in Rolo Court and how the owners are not willing to do any more improvements/maintenance than absolutely required. He stated he thinks it is a valiant effort by staff to reach out to the Rolo Court owners to work with them but would not be surprised if they declined. Chairman Bedorf asked what is the next step for the Township if they refuse our help? He said there was talk about reaching out to home owners who rent the lot and ask them to invite us onto the lot and then if we witness something that we suspect is a public safety issue we would then be able to proceed with obtaining an administrative search warrant. Discussion ensued regarding previous discussion on permitting, home owner submitted photos, clogged drains and actual viewing of an overflow/backup event. Mr. Haines questioned whether the Township needs to see the actual event or just evidence of the event. Commissioner Cochran said the Township must see the waste on the ground which would warrant a public health issue. Discussion ensued regarding documented reported complaints and overflows dating back to 2007. Mr. Cupp said Mr. Hockenberry had staff run a tv camera up from the 7 laterals that enter the park as far as they could go, and they noted that the one pipe was egg shaped. Mr. Hockenberry explained that there are 7 wye connections where Rolo Court Mobile Park connects to the township sewer main. He said that they the Township has televised as far as they are legally allowed. Discussion ensued. Mr. Hockenberry stated that since he started with Upper Allen Township, anytime there is a reported sewer issue staff responds immediately or as soon as possible. He added that in many incidents Roto Router or a similar company is called in to jet or snake the lines which does not require a sewer repair permit. The point of a permit being issued is so that staff can do an inspection. Mr. Cupp said that sewer repair permits were created and issued for resident’s protection. Mr. Hockenberry said that his records show that there were 8 incidents in Rolo Court since 2007. His records also show going back to 2003 to 2019 private responsibility incidents 66, (blockages, backups and surcharges) that the Township was made aware of township wide while over that same time period at Rolo Court were 8. Township incident report total during that same time period was 30. Commissioner Cochran said that the Board of Commissioners wants to help the Rolo Court residents but must be careful because current laws protect people even if they are wrong. Mr. Haines stated for the record he reached out to the Central Regional Office for DEP and they have started enforcement action against Rolo Court. They sent the owners a NOV (Notice of Violation) within the last month or two. He added DEP had a difficult time determining the owner. He said that normally you have 30 to 60 days to respond to the violation. Chairman Bedorf commented that looking forward the Township needs to see how big of risk this issue might be in the Township. Do we have more of these
private community sewage systems other than Messiah College and Messiah Village? He said right now these sewer systems are relatively new and owned by responsible parties with financial resources to maintain them but there is always a chance that could change. Mr. Cupp stated that the only private systems in the Township that he is aware of are Messiah College, Messiah Village and Rolo Court. Discussion ensued regarding current code, enforcement limitations, weak ordinances, Trindle Station Development grinder pump issues and private resident maintenance responsibilities and legalities. Chairman Bedorf said so that in conclusion of this discussion it is a priority of Township staff to find out how big the problem is at Rolo Court and come up with a plan to address the issue. Mr. Hockenberry asked Mr. Haines that on an NOV (Notice of Violation) issued by DEP, is its standard procedure to copy a municipality? Mr. Haines replied they should but recommended that Mr. Hockenberry reach out to his contact at DEP and request that the Township be copied on all future action/correspondence on any/all violations that occur in the Township. There was no further discussion.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Chairman Bedorf adjourned the meeting 7:55 p.m.

NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER 26, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M.