

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
January 21, 2010**

The meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Keith Endy. Committee members present in addition to Mr. Endy, were Gene Gabel, Barry Christman, and ex-officio member Frank Deery.

Also in attendance were Council members Lori Carnes and Terry Mest; Dennis Harman, The Pidcock Company, Nathan Lauck, Severn Trent Environmental Services, Larry Lloyd, Berks County Conservancy, John Lea, Montgomery County Lands Trust, and a concerned citizen.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 23, 2009 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Endy, seconded by Mr. Gabel and approved.

Severn Trent Environmental Services Report – Water and Sewer

Mr. Lauck reviewed with the members the Severn Trent report on the operation of the Water and Wastewater Plants and distribution systems.

The complete report is on file in the Borough Administrative office.

The Pidcock Company Engineers' Report

Mr. Harman reviewed the Engineers' Report for the month of January. The complete report is on file in the Borough Administrative office.

The level of Trout Run Reservoir increased approximately 2.5 feet since last month. Approximately 2,601,000 gallons were pumped from the Trout Run Reservoir. There was no pumping from Ironstone Creek.

Regarding the Booster Pumping System, Mr. Harman noted that the pumps are scheduled to ship from Texas on January 27th, 2010, and all other equipment is expected prior to that. Work should begin in February following delivery of the pumps.

Unfinished Business – Water and Sewer

Watershed Management Plan, Montgomery County Lands Trust and Berks Conservancy Conservation Easement – Mr. Endy opened discussion concerning a Conservation Easement pertaining to the watershed property. Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Lea responded to questions posed by members of the committee and council. Of particular concern to members is control over the objectives of a conservation easement to enable future council's to continue to operate the water system without restrictions.

Mr. Lea and Mr. Lloyd noted that the easement document spells out the easement objectives, which will be determined by Council. Most easements contain three standards. A minimum standard which is typically areas surrounding existing buildings; a second standard which restricts the amount of impervious surface; and the highest

protection areas with significant natural resources, which would permit no buildings and no disturbance. The management plan for the property would include water supply protection, recreation and forestry. The management plan would be revised approximately every five years. Following discussion, it was decided that all committee members and council members present favored pursuing a conservation easement. Mr. Lloyd noted that the first step is to apply for a Highlands Conservation Grant. Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Lea will work together on this application. It was noted that it could take a year or more for grant approval. Following approval of this grant application, the borough would apply to the DCNR for matching grant funds.

Discussion was also held on a Source Water Protection Plan. Mr. Lloyd reminded the committee that the DEP will pay for the preparation of the plan. He also noted that in the future it is possible that the DEP will require public water systems to prepare a Source Water Protection Plan. Following discussion, the committee and council members present agreed to proceed with the preparation of a Source Water Protection Plan. Mr. Lloyd will contact the DEP on behalf of the borough.

New Business – Water

There was no new business to conduct.

New Business – Sewer

There was no new business to conduct.

Other Comments

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. was made by Mr. Christman, and seconded by Mr. Gabel. The next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16th, 2010 beginning at 7:00 p.m.; however, assuming Council approval the meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday, February 17th, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Spaide
Borough Secretary