

**Penn Township Supervisor
Special Meeting
May 24, 2017**

Chairman Brenda Moyer called the 5.24.2017 Special Meeting Meeting to order at 4:30 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present included: Supervisors: Pete DeWire, Brenda Moyer and Solicitor James Bathgate.

Public Present: Dan Page, SEO, Bill Kline, Glenda Ruch, SEDA COG, Bill Seigel, SEDA COG, William Moyer, Jan Ritter, Darwin Swope, Ray Cerezo, and Dan Kuruna.

Persons Present to be Heard:

Glenda Ruch and Bill Seigel provided information to the Board and public who attended information on the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) Program. Penn Township proposes using funding to undertake an On-Lot Disposal Rehabilitation/Replacement Program for income eligible residents who own and occupy their homes and are not serviced by public sewer system. Funding for these projects could improve the quality of life for township residents without any direct cost to residents or the township. Many projects are eligible with CDBG funding but LMI (low/moderate income) guidelines must be met.

DEP requirements and guidelines are required to be in place or adopted by the Board to use the CDBG funding for this project. Part of the requirements would necessitate Penn Township's current ACT 537 Plan have a section requiring Penn Township residents to have on-lot septic inspections with a determined frequency. It is not clear the status of the township's ACT 537 Plan and it is likely the Plan does not include this requirement. While this is a requirement of DEP, DEP is not currently able to strictly enforce the regulations. Another option would be for Penn Township to adopt an on-lot management program requiring on an annual basis @ 23-30% of the municipality's residents, with on lot systems to excavate, pump and have systems inspected or a Plan in place that would require routine on-lot inspections.

SED-COG reiterated DEP has indicated they are not aggressively enforcing these issues unless there are community failures that they are aware of.

Bottom line is does the township want to put the on-lot program in place and offer the grant options to LMI (low to moderate-income) families? Concern for the 2015 funds already allocated that need to be used by 7/2019.

Public Comments:

Bill Moyer: Moyer questioned where haulers would take waste with so many systems being pumped and was concerned the ESCRA sewage plant would not be able to handle the waste. Moyer also questioned whether there were problems in the township with septic failures.

Moyer questioned the SEO and the number of inspections he has done and if there seemed to be an issue with failing systems in the township. Moyer was concerned that older systems, once inspected may not meet today's specs and would need to be rehabilitated.

The SEO indicated he does inspect systems, typically at the request of the resident and not aware of excessive systems failures.

Bill Seigel noted haulers have requirements to meet with hauling septic waste and have predetermined sites for waste.

Moyer questioned how many municipalities in Snyder Co. were participating in this program. Ruch indicated she was currently only working with Penn Township, but all Snyder County municipalities are invited to go to the county and apply for project funding.

Moyer question what happens to the money if the township does not go along with the current idea. Ruch indicated a new project would need to be identified.

Moyer hoped the Township do not adopt "this", while stating he was not making a threat, he guaranteed there would be people in here.

Dan Kuruna: Kuruna questioned where and how DEP gets the authority to be the overseer of this program.

Seigel noted the approval of the ACT 537 Plan in the '70's give DEP the authority. Functioning within the legislation passed. Kuruna also considered the absence of the PTMA to be a gross mistake given the topic. Let's see if the PTMA has even a preliminary thought for future extensions.

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Darwin Swope: Swope indicated the discussions are not focused correctly. If we are truly concerned about public health and safety this is the wrong approach. Swope indicated sewer lines need to be extended to pick up the problem areas and suggested investigating viability of smaller community sewage systems. Swope noted the members of the PTMA need to be removed one by one because they are not doing their job and doing a disservice to the community. Swope questioned why Weis Markets is connected to the Penn Township system and using up our capacity. Swope was also concerned for the cost to install a new septic system in some areas due to topography or soils if your system has been determined to have failed. Swope also questioned how funding was allotted for municipalities. Seigel went through the detailed process of how monies allocated. Swope proposed again all five members of the PTMA be removed starting this year, while they are all good people, they are not serving in the best interest for the health and safety of the township.

Ray Cerezo: Cerezo question how long funds would be available and if they were only available to LMI families. He also questioned if the CDBG monies could be used to cover the inspections that would be required in there were an on-lot disposal system plan to enforce. Answer was no, unless a plan was in place and an inspected system was determined to be failing. Cerezo questioned the acceptable timeframe for inspecting on-lot systems. SEO recommend at least every three years.

Jan Ritter: Could the township use the funding to clean up a blighted property? Seigel indicated there is a defined process to declare a property blighted / nuisance. Use of allocated funding is limited to 30% for blighted properties.

Dan Page: noted if DEP were to direct the township to update the ACT 537 Plan for Penn Township or develop an on-lot sewage maintenance plan and the township neglect to do so, DEP would have the basis to deny any sewage facilities planning modules submitted to DEP for approval, in turn could stop any subdivision, land development and building within Penn Township.

Jon Payne suggested the Board hold a vote on whether the On-Lot Disposal System Habilitation / Replacement Grant is the identified project for the CDBG funds, suggesting a small number of residents would likely be eligible for this funding and to receive it, a burden would be placed on greater numbers in the township. He also noted there are opportunities for low interest monies available for owners who do need to replace or repair systems.

Therefore, on motion by Jon Payne, second Brenda Moyer and Board acclamation, Penn Township shall not pursue any longer and abandon the On-Lot Disposal System Rehabilitation / Replacement Program as our CDBG project but do try to identify find a viable project.

June 7, 2017, 7pm, public hearing date scheduled at the Penn Township building with SEDA COG expecting Supervisors and the public to provide suggestions for funding considerations.

August 2, 2017 supervisor meeting, SEDA COG will be present and ask Penn Township to identify the project the CDBG funds to be used.

Executive session called at 6:06 pm to discuss personnel issues.

The board reconvened at 6:13 pm with no decisions made during the executive session.

On motion by Pete DeWire, second by Jon Payne and Board acclamation the bills and payroll will be paid.

On motion by Jon Payne, second by Pete DeWire and Board acclamation, the May 24, 2017 Special Meeting was adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Moyer