

ROUTE 209 SEWAGE PROJECT
MEETING MINUTES
February 5, 2020

Meeting opened at 3:00 PM

Present were: Tim Gartner, Patricia Branch, Bill Pitman, Paul Fischer, Nick May, Al Schneider, Bill Kiger, Peg Emanuel, Fred Weber, Mik Weiss, Joe Dooley, Linda Edgar, Mike Mrozinski, Tony Waldron, Frank Tarquinio, Dave Clark, Eric Kudrich, Mark Spatz and Commissioner Matt Osterberg. HRG Engineering staff via phone – Matt Roberts. Milford Water Authority staff via phone – Scott Sheldon

Meeting was videotaped.

Minutes from January 8, 2020 Meeting – Approved

A status report was provided from HRG. They still have not completed on-site assessments. That will probably continue after February. We don't need to have all the mail surveys back. It is the on-site inspections that are key. Matamoras and Milford Borough are done. It is just Milford Township and Westfall Township that need to be finished. We have an Alternatives Analysis and the mapping for those. We are still working on the costs. I want to sit down with the stakeholders and go over the additional terms we're looking at and get some feedback. Coming up for the next month is we take the Alternatives and any comments from this meeting and finish out the costing for the different Alternatives and the right structure for those. We don't have the rate information just yet. We need another week or so before we can pull all the information together.

I want to use this opportunity to get some feedback. Maps were displayed for meeting attendees. We looked at a number of Alternatives and there are 6 different Alternative series. The point of the Alternatives Analysis is to look at things a number of different ways and see what the costing looks like. In this one, we're looking at going down the main street in Matamoras with a gravity line-that's Alternative 1-A. Then 1-B is going down the main street with a low pressure line. Westfall Township's sewer terminates in a low pressure line around the Price Chopper. It comes out right around the main street and comes down and intersects throughout Route 6. If we pick that up with a low pressure line, the grinder pumps would just push into that and continue to push out of Westfall. If we go gravity, that alternative would replace the low pressure line all the way to the Car Wash (by Perkins). That gravity line would go under the bridge, the old pressure line would then do the tie-ins to that pressure line would just tie-in to the gravity and then it will be gravity all the way down to the car wash where it can be pumped up to the plant. Whenever you switch from a pressurized system to a gravity system you have to find a spot to pump back into the pressure system. Ultimately, the lines going to the plant are all pressurized to get there. Those are the 2 Alternatives. Obviously, gravity it just flows into the line and goes down. With pressure systems, it goes into a small grinder pump and then it gets pushed into the line and goes down. Between the 2, the low pressure system would be more cost effective to purchase the grinder pumps and install those than to do a gravity line with extension. One of the big things between gravity and low pressure systems is that when you go from gravity and have to get it into a pressure system, you have to do that through a centralized pump station. Centralized pump stations are around \$600K. They are at least a half million dollars. They have to have back up power, emergency generators, lights and they are expensive systems. This alternative is just going up the main street to Matamoras and not branching out to any of the side streets. The Plan would conclude that the rest of the side

streets would remain on-lot systems and an Ordinance would have to be in place for OLDS (On-Lot Disposal System) Management and that could be the desired alternative from the Borough. This is what we would propose to DEP.

Mark Spatz then moved on to Alternative 2 and Alternative 2-A. They look largely the same layout. These were the streets we were looking at based upon the needs assessment and the on-lot inspections in Matamoras Borough. A lot of the systems are suspected malfunctions because they are cesspools. Maps will go out to the stakeholders group. Alternative 2 costs more than Alternative 1 because there are more lots. A question was asked if the lines are going to be designed with enough capacity to take the whole borough or do you keep it a type where it's going to have to be replaced later on? Mark Spatz said he will look at that. You can't just put in a really big pipe because you have to get a minimum velocity through the pipe. When you're going into a pressure system or gravity system, you can't oversize the pipe too much. It's a balance between the two. We want to have the biggest pipe we can to get the minimum scour of velocity.

Tony Waldron asked Mark that if we went with gravity versus the pumping, if it needs to be expanded, would one be more accommodating than the other, more costly than the other? There is some belief that more properties are going to need to be served. Mark answered that if this plan holds us through for the next 20 years, then that is a successful plan. Fred Weber from Milford Borough had asked at another meeting if you run the pipe down Broad Street and hook up commercial venues, is that going to be financially feasible? The answer was a hesitant no from someone on the phone previous meeting. Eventually we would have to do the side street and the alleys, but we're certainly not talking about a 20 year window for the borough because it was not financially feasible to just have the commercial district-that we need to expand out to the rest of the borough. Mark Spatz said it was probably him on the phone that answered that and, if that was what I conveyed, it was not what I meant to convey. On this Alternative 2 in Matamoras-this is more expensive-yes, the construction cost is more expensive, but then you're adding more connectors - it can level itself out. There is going to be a change in the numbers. In some cases it can go down, in some cases it can go up. We're trying to find that balance in there as well. That balance isn't just financial, it is based on community planning. As you branch out, you're adding more connectors on, but the costs go up too. When you're in a borough, if there is a density piece to that, as you branch out further your costs rise, but then you are adding a lot more homes on to the system at the same time.

Fred asked what was the point of surveying 200 people in the borough? Mark Spatz answered we have to. Fred asked if anyone is forced to connect to a central sewage system? Mark Spatz said that's up to the Council-what they do is up to the Council. Mark said DEP is typically not heavy handed with forcing towns to connect. What really occurs with these types of systems is if you're going to go up any branch, anywhere, even up the main street, you have to have people that are going to connect because it costs millions of dollars to get it there. Once you have that plan established, the finances in to pay the debt service, then you install it. Tony Waldron added that the financing is based on proving you're going to be able to pay it back. Last time, just by doing the commercial district, it wasn't going to make it a financially feasible project. You need the big number to see how that is going to be divided and be apportioned. Mark Spatz added that we are hoping to have those numbers by March. The numbers have to be vetted by the stakeholders' group, we're not just coming out with first draft numbers that aren't right.

Frank Tarquinio was asked by Fred Weber if it's up to the Borough Council when the sewer gets expanded up alleyways, what is the general feeling? Frank answered a large part will be finances. My guess is that since we don't have immediate pressure on us to do it, people's systems are not failing, that would probably be longer term in the future – 15-20 years if not longer. I think going up the streets is going to depend on how much funding you get by grants. If we can get enough grants over 3 years, to maybe do a block or two because we don't have pressure as far as I can see. Mark Spatz added that once the planning is out of the way, it will give the community choices. There are well established businesses are in need of sewer. Once this planning gets done you can say we're trying to finance these projects, public/private partnerships, businesses can help the borough in getting grant funds to them by demonstrating a need. Writing letters along with grant applications. There's a lot of things you can do once you get the plan approved then it's actually the work of trying to get it financed.

Fred Weber asked what the break down was in the borough, how many failed (septic systems) and why? Mark Spatz answered almost all of the systems are suspected failures. Fred Weber then asked what this is going to cost the homeowners? The hook-up fee and annual fees could be anywhere from \$6K-\$20K depending where the plumbing is. These are things we need to know. Commissioner Osterberg responded that our role is to find out what this costs and then to go out and find out what kind of funding we can get. Mark Spatz from HRG is telling us it is going to be a 15-20 year project and I believe that is true. The water company updated every water main in this community. They did not do it all at one time. They did it as they found funding. They needed to do it all at one time, but they did it over time. We need to be patient. To throw out a number of \$6K-\$20K is unfair at this moment until the engineer tells us these numbers. We just need to slow down here a little bit without stopping this process. We need to figure this out and then we'll figure out where the money comes from. Anthony Waldron added he was there when Hawley put sewers in back in the mid to late 1980's and people wanted to make snap judgments. You can't make snap judgments when you don't have the whole picture. It's not something where we can say let's decide now whether we're going to do this or not until you have everything laid out and then you have to look at what the finances and alternatives are. Sometimes you can scale back an area. It can be done incrementally. It's not an all or nothing.

Mark Spatz said we should have some ranges of numbers in April, that's our goal. Mark Spatz referred back to the Alternatives presented and said he felt those are good Alternatives, all four. The gravity is more expensive than the low pressure, but it's not that much more expensive. One of the bigger questions that I have is, are these the right streets? A discussion was had looking on the map and the streets in the borough. Frank Tarquinio said that in the Comprehensive Plan there were the top 5 concerns of people in the borough and the biggest item was to work with Milford Township to look at doing a central sewer. It is not a new item. It's not that nobody wants it, there are some people that want it. Fred Weber responded that what he heard here today is very positive and encouraging.

Mark Spatz continued with Alternative 3 – extension of the Main to get out to Milford to serve the town. It looks at a low pressure system extending out to get the Milford Township line and another one that looks at gravity. With gravity you need additional pump stations and things like that. These are 2 alternatives that we're going to have in the report to satisfy DEP's perspective. They want to make sure you look at a lot of different things. There's no question, the low pressure extension all the way out is half the cost, it's a lot more affordable than this way (gravity). If you drive from Westfall to Milford you're going up and going down. Every time you go down, you have

a pump station, that's \$600K. It's just not affordable to go gravity all that route and add all those pump stations.

The next one is Alternative 4, 4A and 4B. This is where we actually come out all the way through and go through Milford Township to get to the Milford Borough line and do a low pressure system in the borough itself. One step goes to Milford Township line and the next step is go all the way into Milford Borough with one line. One is gravity and one is low pressure. Again, this is about half the cost between the gravity versus the low pressure to be a pressurized system. From this point forward, the low pressure is more cost effective and that includes buying the grinder pumps as part of the project. If you go this route, who owns and operates the grinder pumps is another topic to talk about.

Alternative 5A looks at gravity through the Borough of Milford down through Westfall. Again, it's about twice the amount of low pressure. Alternative 5B is doing the low pressure just within the borough and then the rest of the line all the way down through gravity. The costing of this for the borough is fine because it's low pressure, but after that you get into the gravity service and it jumps way up. Finally, 5C is just low pressure the whole way and a costing for that. It would be between Series 4, 4A and 4B, it just goes down Broad Street, it doesn't go out Harford Street. When we get to Series 5, it goes down Broad Street and out Harford Street. When you're looking at the Series 4, they're just going down Broad Street. Frank Tarquinio asked if going down Broad Street meant down to the light it stops? Mark Spatz answered just a main on Broad Street. Frank asked then everyone has to reverse their sewer coming opposite? Mark answered yes, it would just be a main in Broad Street for business connections. We can slide that over if we go down the back side we're going to have to do of them. Discussion followed regarding there being no real streets behind the buildings on Broad Street. There are easements coming across the back of the property lines. Mark said there's a negative connotation on grinder pumps, pressurized systems. The fact is they are generally more affordable. In the beginning their service record wasn't that good-they're mechanical. Over the last 15 years their service record have gotten a lot better. Frank Tarquinio said that if you have guys up in this area, we can walk with them because we have a pretty good idea of what's going on. We abandoned old water mains in these streets, so we have a new water main and there's an old water main that you would probably have to cross over and the State has just repaved all these streets. They might have you repave the entire street from shoulder to shoulder not an overlay. Mark Spatz responded that on the 2 alternatives we should be splitting and using the alleys. The alleys are only 15' wide, so we would have to look at the cost. Mark Spatz asked Matt Roberts if he got all that and Matt Roberts replied yes, that Broad has recently been repaved or it would be hard to go through there. Mark said it's more that the systems all flush out the back, they're worried about rerouting the systems inside the buildings. Matt Roberts said they will do an alternative for that. Mark Spatz said they will have to work that in to the project costs, we'll have to look at that. We were looking at two, one going down just Broad and one going down Broad and Harford Street. Do we need both sets or should we look at just going down Broad and Harford Street? Is there any desire to just go down Broad Street? Mike Mrozinski said there is a senior center on Harford Street-that's a big facility (Belle Reve). Mark Spatz said to Matt Roberts they are talking about coming down Broad Street and when you get down to Harford Street make a left as an alternative (East Harford). Frank Tarquinio added that the Township has Key Food and Apple Valley. Mark Spatz said one alternative would be Broad Street and East Harford Street. Another alternative would be Broad Street and both sides of Harford Street (East and West). Tony Waldron said that on Broad Street, you're talking about going down Broad Street itself or using an alley. Would it be an alley on the Eastside or the Westside? Mark Spatz answered both. Commissioner

Osterberg added it would be in the back because that's where everybody's sewer is-in the back. Commissioner Osterberg said Pear Alley, along Forest Hall, goes all the way to the Grand Union (Key Food) and also all the way down to Belle Reve. The only thing with that is you don't pick up the far side of Harford Street, you would have to bring laterals across. The Dimmick and places like that would have to jump across. Unless you do easements over there and right-of-ways through the people's backyards. You would come down Blackberry and go all the way to the Waterwheel and back up, but that's not for years and years. Meeting attendee Linda Edgar asked if this is going to extend behind Apple Valley up to Grey Towers? Commissioner Osterberg answered that is up to the township (Milford) officials. Right now in this manner it's showing right to Apple Valley and I don't think it's up to Pine Acres at all. I don't think that's on here yet.

Mark Spatz said the final alternative is 6 and that just extends out different streets in Milford Borough. This would be a low pressure system and then going up different streets. It would continue down Broad Street and go up Sawkill and out to the Waterwheel and Mill Street. It's basically added on additional branches. The other thing to consider with the Broad and Harford Street is they have a lot of street-scaping done, so we're going to have additional costs trying to come up underneath all that bluestone walkways and maybe the alleys would be better. When you're looking at the cost analysis, you have to take into consideration all those street lights that are out there, the bluestone and fancy sidewalks. Fortunately, all the sidewalks we're dealing with are ADA compliant now when we came through with the water main. You still have to deal with all the other infrastructure that's out in front on Broad and Harford. Mark Spatz said when looking at Alternative 6, this is based on our needs assessment, if there are tweaks to it, you need to let me know that stuff. That's it and I'll send those maps out. I will e-mail them out to the stakeholder's group. Commissioner Osterberg suggested it would be easier if you just send it out and make a set for each of the municipalities-we need to see the whole plan anyway. It should be just one big packet and if they need more for their Planning Commissions, they can just print them out.

Bill Schneider from Westfall Township said one thing Mark and I talked about was the size of the pipes. Obviously, Westfall will not need as large a pipe as you to serve all of Milford. That is something that will have to be discussed and figure out a timeline there because we're (Westfall) going to head to the township line now, soon. If you would have built this 20 years ago, it would've been much cheaper, you'll have to look at these things as we move along. Those are some of the things we're looking at. Mark Spatz said they will look at the flow differentials. For this level, it's just a pipe diameter, it doesn't have that much change on the costing, but ultimately for the design and construction, we'll have to get a gage on where towns are. In some scenarios, we might have to put two different lines in the same trench. We would have a smaller one for the near future capacity and a larger one in the same trench for the far future.

Frank Tarquinio asked about grinder pumps, the size of the grinder pump? Mark Spatz replied the grinder pumps pump slow and they have a high head pressure. There is a lot of expandability. The main gripe when they first started was that the systems weren't as expandable, so the grinder pump industry has solved that problem. These other little problems have been solved in the last 15 years. They're pretty affordable, the pump itself is a cost, but the lines are not nearly as deep only 4' deep versus 8', 10', 12' and up to 20' deep sometimes. Then you would have to terminate in a \$600K - \$800K pump station. With these, you don't have that and the grinder pumps can get down to \$4K if you're buying them in groups. They're really flexible for where they can go. Wherever the house sewer comes out, you chop the line, demo from there down and put the pump right there and you only need a space about 5' X 5' and it pumps it out wherever it needs to go. As we're going down

this road we're looking at all of these. I like gravity, but when you get beyond the negative sentiment of the grinder pumps, they're cost effective. I think for Milford that's where it's going to be headed toward-the pressurized system. Matamoras you have some options there between gravity or a low pressure system. It was because there is no elevation. Mark stated you're upriver of the plant. There's a bunch of hills and there's a huge ravine.

A question was asked in the submission to DEP we have to have alternatives in there as well-2 central sewage options, would you take public input to develop that section? Mark Spatz answered yes, send me what you got. The other thing is for the 537, I am requesting that I get the municipal waste load management information regarding the sewage capacity and extension plans. Can you get that to me? Tony Waldron said there is a Right To Know (RTK) procedure that you can submit, the 537 was written before the RTK request. That (the RTK) came in the late 1980's, early 1990's and the 537 was written in the early 1970's. You certainly can, but we need it in writing and we have a person, Bill Schneider is the Chairperson of the Westfall Authority and I am the attorney (Tony Waldron). You can call first to make sure there is someone there (Tuesday through Thursday, sometime they're there other days). An attendee said they want to see the numbers because I know one of the questions that came in early on, with all these additional townships jumping in, they're going to be at capacity, I'm curious about the expansion plan, how it looks and what are the current numbers. Mark Spatz added that these alternatives wouldn't require expansion. When we were talking about expansion, we talk about full build out, both towns. That will require an expansion. An attendee also asked when does the Delaware River Basin Commission get in on this, because they are in control of what gets put in the river right? Mark Spatz said they're involved in the DEP review process. Our intent is to get these alternatives formalized and get the costing and set another meeting with DEP and DRBC to show them where we are at and get their preliminary questions going. DEP generally defers to the DRBC. Mark Spatz said he thinks the requirement is to only submit the report to the DEP, but we usually send it to both. Peg Emanuel asked for clarification about the gravity not needing a pump station. Mark Spatz said every time you terminate it has to go to a pump station. Peg said so the low pressure needs the grinder pumps? Mark Spatz said those would NOT need to go to a pump station. Either way it's going through a pumping station. Peg asked if a grinder pump went from a home or business to the line? Mark answered it does. Tony Waldron added it's on the property itself. Mark Spatz said they're usually just a 2' diameter top and a cylinder that goes straight down and there's a pump inside there. Attendee mentioned it's interesting because you said you could get the cost down to \$4K? Mark responded the grinder pump varies because it's \$8K-\$4K depending on the number, we're going to have a range. Peggy Emanuel asked about Alternative 5A-are you recommending low pressure through the borough? Mark said he is not recommending anything, he goes based off what the costs are. From an engineering standpoint, I try to make sure everybody is well informed on what is the least expensive alternative to get the job done. That is one metric, it's a powerful metric, but it is not the only metric decisions are made by. There are other things. It looks like right now it's going to be the least expensive alternative to get the job done. Peggy said with the gravity system through Milford Borough, then you need a pump station and where would that be? Mark Spatz answered exactly. How many pump stations total would you need for the whole project, any guess on that? Mark Spatz answered it depends on which alternative you select. If you're doing the least expensive alternatives, it should be zero – low pressure systems would be pushing everything from Milford up and either Matamoras would gravity that down to an existing pump station or you would low pressure down to an existing pump station. There would be no additional pump stations. If you go gravity in certain sections, there would be a number of them, if I had to guess it, 5 or 6. I didn't really look up the number. We will identify that in those specific Alternatives. As your analyzing

gravity further, you really have to be cautious because there are things like the big ravine that goes under the 3-Lane-you're going to have a grinder pump station right there because there is no way you're getting the gravity underneath that. You're not going over top of it because it would be too deep by the time you get there. There are also low spots that you have to look at how deep can the gravity really get before it's unacceptable.

Residents/homeowners will have options on how to handle the costs. It's not coming out of pocket, there are other alternatives and it will be covered in the 537. Commissioner Osterberg said there is a document heading out from the borough that will answer a lot of frequently asked questions. PennVest (loans) is at 1.75% as of right now. If you get funding from USDA or PennVest that does mean that people will be mandated to hook-up. Loans have to be repaid, not grants. Commissioner Osterberg said when we get these numbers, that's when Mike Mrozinski will actively go out there and look for and identify funding sources and then go from there. Until we know numbers, I don't think it's fair to throw \$20K out there until we're absolutely certain and then, even then, we need to know the funding sources available. Maybe the funding source is a super low interest loan that helps people offset this, but we need to know that before we put fear in people that we're laying a \$20K bill on somebody. That is not the plan here and that was never the plan or intention, to see any resident stuck with an exorbitant bill. As Tony (Waldron) said, PennVest or DEP will not let you build this if it's not affordable. Mark Spatz added that when you get into PennVest and when you talk about mandatory connections and things of this nature, it's mandatory connection where you build the line, but if you don't build the line there, nobody has to connect. When they were building the plant in Westfall, there wasn't all of this that's out there. Walmart wasn't out there then, they were able to do this there with a minimal amount of hook-ups. Mark Spatz added that the Pike County area does so much better than other communities I've worked in with rational, sane and deliberate conversations that are controlled. With that said, what do we need to do to get to that goal? When we get to a cost figure that the cost is too high, then the question is how do we get that lower? How do we drive the cost down? Until we say there is no other way we can drive this down any further-that is the point in time where hard decisions need to be made. Until then, I don't want people to take numbers that we're starting to see and say that is the final number. If there is concern with that number, let's talk about what we need to do to get it lower. We will try to push it down all the time, but we need to know the pinch points with that. It's not going to be free.

With no other business, the meeting stood adjourned. Next meeting will be on March 4, 2020 at 3:00 PM in the Commissioners' Meeting Room.#