



/PRINCETON
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING
of the
PRINCETON SEWER COMMITTEE

April 6, 2022

The meeting of the Princeton Sewer Committee (PSC) was convened at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2022 via Virtual Meeting/Zoom Conference. D. Goldfarb opened the meeting in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 275. In conformance with the requirements of the Law, Notice was provided of the date, time and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy of the adopted Schedule of Regular Meetings in Monument Hall and Witherspoon Building and by mailing copies to the Trenton Times, Princeton Packet, Town Topics and by filing a copy in the Office of the Clerk of Princeton. Adequate notice was provided to the public and to all parties concerned.

PRESENT: David Goldfarb, Valerie Haynes, Eve Niedergang
ALSO PRESENT: Andrew Filippi, Sewer Design Engineer; Dominick Itzi, Sewer Operations Manager; Jim Purcell, Assistant Engineer; Janice Most, Secretary
ABSENT: Deanna Stockton, Engineer/Deputy Administrator
PUBLIC:

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

No amendments to the Agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

V. Haynes moved to approve the March 2, 2022 Minutes as presented.
E. Niedergang seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

Township of South Brunswick Response to Stony Brook Regional Sewage Authority (SBRSA) February 14, 2022 Letter; Re: Wastewater Treatment Plan Capacity

Discussion: the South Brunswick type of Ordinance could work for Princeton except for the Affordable Housing model; affordable housing is an expected cost and impacts the Municipality; talk with Princeton Administrator B. Hvozdovic about how South Brunswick enacted their Ordinance; A. Filippi spoke with B. Hvozdovic who suggested he reach out to the South Brunswick Attorney, who stated he is not in charge of implementation and provided another contact, S. Cevera, who composed the Ordinance and stated that Developers have paid via the Ordinance requirements.

Discussion continued: how is South Brunswick implementing their program; are there other Municipalities who have implemented a program; South Brunswick stated that no other Municipality has responded - Princeton should respond even though the initial letter did not request a response; no need to involve Princeton Affordable Attorney at this time; when River Road capacity reaches 90% that triggers a mandatory requirement to notify the DEP as we cannot consistently violate capacity; SBRSA has an agreement with the Member towns that additional flow must be accommodated and the Agreement can only be revised with the consensus of all Members; respond to SBRSA after the Mayor and Council Sewer Presentation; keep this topic on future Agendas for response to SBRSA.

Pump Station Design and Reconstruction Update

A. Filippi stated that two consultants will be interviewed within the next couple of weeks for work to begin during the 2023 construction season.

D. Itzi stated that grant money from FEMA will be used to purchase two new generators for Winfield and Pretty Brook pump stations; road repair is completed at Pretty Brook by the culvert, with no sewer work needed.

Presentation to Mayor and Council Regarding Long Range Financial Plan

Discussion: there are large projects scheduled for the May 11, 2022 Mayor and Council meeting - reschedule the presentation to the May 23, 2022 meeting.

Budget: ten year budgeted plan is nine million per year; year 2022 will be five million then back on track for the following years; sewer work is included in the Capital Budget as it is fee-based; a self-liquidating utility can be created and will have an impact on sewer rates although it would be treated differently by the Finance Department; sewer work should not have a cap on expenditures; the Operational Budget has a cap on expenditures; there seems to be a disconnect with the Finance Department that needs to be mended; D. Goldfarb and E. Niedergang wish to be part of all finance discussions.

Presentation Review/Discussion: D. Goldfarb will introduce and speak to the presentation;
A. Filippi and D. Itzi will be available for questions, clarifications, etc.

Princeton Sewer Investment Plan 2022-2032

Slide 1: River Road Twelve Month Average Daily Flows – January 2003 through February 2022

D. Goldfarb explained the slide.

Discussion: add bullet points to explain/refer to chart; highlight what we are saving by removing gallons; if West Windsor and South Brunswick reduce billing Princeton's will increase; explain rainfall line with scale; redo chart with layovers; reach out to SBRSA for chart.

Slide 2: Capital Costs/Ten Year Capital Budget Breakdown

A. Filippi explained the slide.

Discussion: separate slide into two –

1. plans for next ten years
2. spending

Slide 3: User Fee Basis

Based on Capital, Operations, and Management SBRSA (Treatment Costs)

Ten-year cost breakdown

Discussion: this slide will be removed

Slide 4: Anticipated Change to Sewer Rate Assuming Usage of 135 Gallons Per Day

A. Filippi explained the slide with the average annual sewer rate and year-to-year change.

Slide 5: Annual Sewer Rate of Municipalities in New Jersey Assuming a Usage of 130 Gallons Per Day

The slide portrays year 2021 rates for

Atlantic City, Cherry Hill, Cranbury, East Windsor, Ewing, Franklin, Hamilton, Hopewell, Jersey City, Lawrence, Montgomery, Princeton, Riverton, South Brunswick, Trenton, West Windsor

Slide 6: Questions?

End of Presentation

Discussion: add to presentation – 1. Illustrations of underfunding; 2. Cost of not maintaining the system; infrastructure to maintain the system is like maintaining the roads; make a notation in the presentation that the system is “overlooked because it is underground.”

Infiltration and Inflow (I/I Program)

A. Filippi stated that Mini System 35 is in the final design stage; there are issues with getting back the signed Right-of-Entry Agreements from affected residents – considering going door-to-door and explaining the project to get the signatures, at the time there are 50% needed back; have the project placed in the Mayor’s weekly Newsletter. D. Itzi stated that all is good with the collection system.

Adjourn

At 10:50 a.m. E. Niedergang made a Motion to adjourn. V. Haynes seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting has been rescheduled to Friday, May 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. via Virtual Meeting/Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Most, Secretary
Princeton Sewer Committee

Adopted: June 1, 2022