

**Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update
Dolington Area On-Lot Sewage System Survey
August 22, 2013 Public Information Meeting**

The public information meeting was called to order by Board of Supervisors Chair Dan Rattigan at 7:00 pm. In attendance were the following members of the Board of Supervisors: Chair Dan Rattigan, Vice Chair Bud Baldwin, Treasurer Mary Ryan, Member Larry S. Breeden and Member Tom Cino. Also in attendance were Solicitor Mary Eberle, Township Manager Sally Slook, Water/Sewer Engineer Tom Zarko, P.E., and Director of Planning and Zoning Dave Kuhns.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mr. Rattigan led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

WELCOME/INTRODUCTION

Board of Supervisors Chairman Dan Rattigan welcomed those in attendance and noted that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the results of the Dolington Area On-Lot Sewage Disposal System Survey. He then introduced the Township's Water/Sewer Engineer, Tom Zarko.

PURPOSE OF OLDS SURVEY

Mr. Zarko reviewed a power point presentation to the Board of Supervisors, and began discussing the purpose of the OLDS Survey. Mr. Zarko reviewed that previously the Board of Supervisors directed staff to obtain proposals from independent consultants to perform an On-Lot Sewage Disposal System Survey within Taylorsville Area to provide an updated assessment of OLDS conditions. The Bucks County Board of Health had previously identified the Dolington Area as a "problem" OLDS malfunctioning area.

SCOPE OF WORK

Mr. Zarko reviewed the scope of work for the OLDS Survey, and stated the survey work was done when either the owner or tenant was onsite. The survey documented any indications of OLDS malfunctions, and performed sampling/testing of any observed potential surface malfunction as well as performed sampling/testing of well water, along with conducting soil probes.

PENN'S TRAIL ENVIRONMENTAL – QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

Mr. Zarko provided an overview of the qualifications of Penns Trail Environmental Associates, and it's Principal Surveyor, John M. Dudish.

Mr. Zarko then turned the meeting over to Mr. Dudish who spoke about his involvement in all but one of the property surveys. Mr. Dudish explained that he has had over 12 years experience with the Bucks County Board of Health, and 23 years as an independent environmental consultant as well as being certified as sewage enforcement officer since 1978.

SUMMARY OF SURVEY

Mr. Dudish reviewed to the Board that 58 properties were identified in the target area and thirty-five (35) owners responded to mailing. Four (4) owners declined to participate, and twenty-three (23) owners failed to respond to certified mailings sent by the township. Mr. Dudish also reviewed the property inspection criteria that were used for the physical inspection of participating properties. Pictures of identified properties were displayed on the screen for the Board of Supervisors to review. Mr. Dudish also discussed the physical inspection used for visible indications of sewage system malfunctions, some of which include shallow depressions, green areas during a draught season, and/or wetness or seepage on elevated sand mounds. Mr. Dudish explained where he would locate water samples, as some were in closets, basements, crawl spaces and in hard to get to places, while looking for well water which could indicate a failing system. He explained other ways to collect samples as well. Mr. Dudish further explained there was evidence of one

malfunctioning OLDS, but general maintenance could be performed which would rectify the problem. Mr. Dudish stated that he did not see failures that were alleged to be occurring in the Dolington area.

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE ACTIONS/ACTIVITIES

Mr. Zarko reviewed his conclusions with the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Zarko stated that the problems in the Dolington area properties surveyed are being managed at this time and that performance of existing OLDS could possibly be improved by water conservation and an increase in system overseeing and maintenance. Board discussion followed, and Mr. Zarko responded to Board members questions.

Mr. Zarko recommended that staff meet with the Department of Environmental Protection to review the most recent findings of the Dolington area and the best approach to move forward with the Act 537 plan update.

Mr. Zarko asked if there were any questions or comments from the Board. Ms. Ryan asked if we should now ask the DEP to allow us to move forward with the Act 537 Plan without installation of a sewer system currently. Mr. Zarko felt that they will be sending us educational material and sessions on system maintenance so the well may continue to function the way they are currently.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mary Barbara, 817 Dolington Road, wanted to know if Mr. Dudish knew the depth of the wells discussed with non-fecal coliform forms.

Steven Markin, 75 Dillon Way, wanted to know if when they go before the county, would they go with recommendations or wait for the county to give the recommendation to the engineers. Mr. Zarko said that he would take this to the DEP to start, as a draft plan, but felt that 30 to 60 days would be a reasonable amount of time to know how to proceed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Approved: September 17, 2013