

**Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update  
Taylorsville Area On-Lot Sewage System Survey  
February 6, 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., Mike McRee 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:**

The Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Dan Rattigan, welcomed those in attendance and noted that the purpose of this evening's meeting was to discuss the On-Lot Sewage Disposal System Survey that is proposed for the Taylorsville Area. He then introduced the Township's Water/Sewer Consultant, Tom Zarko, who would be providing the presentation this evening.

**GENERAL OVERVIEW OF ACT 537 SEWAGE FACILITIES PLAN UPDATE AND REQUEST FOR ON LOT SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM SURVEY:**

Mr. Zarko noted that the Bucks County Health Department had identified the Taylorsville Area as a problem on-lot sewage disposal system area at the outset of the Township's Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update process. He explained that all properties included within the Taylorsville Area were served by on-lot sewage disposal systems and detailed the main components of an on-lot sewage disposal system and explained how such a system functions.

Mr. Zarko reviewed the Bucks County Health Department's responsibilities for management of on-lot sewage disposal system installations within the County. He explained that a specific Sewage Enforcement Officer is assigned to each municipality, who is responsible for site testing and permitting of on-lot sewage disposal systems, as well as investigation and response to on-lot sewage disposal system complaints.

Mr. Zarko indicated that, as a result of the Bucks County Health Department's on-lot sewage disposal system management responsibilities, the Township reached-out to the Health Department at the early stages of the Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan Update process to obtain input concerning any problem areas in the Township. He noted that the Health Department had identified the Taylorsville and Dolington Areas of the Township as problem on-lot sewage disposal system areas.

Mr. Zarko noted that the Board of Supervisors had directed Township Staff to obtain documentation from the Bucks County Health Department's records verifying that both the Taylorsville and Dolington Areas were indeed problem on-lot sewage disposal system areas. He then reviewed inconsistencies between the summary information originally provided by Health Department representatives and actual records found at the Health Department with regard to on-lot sewage disposal system malfunctioning problems within the Taylorsville Area. It was noted that the actual records obtained from the Health Department appear to indicate a reduction in the number, and severity, of problems within the Taylorsville Area.

Mr. Zarko explained that, due to the inconsistencies in the information provided by the Health Department, he had recommended to the Board of Supervisors that an On-Lot Sewage Disposal System Survey be conducted within the Taylorsville Area. He explained that the survey would include an inspection of the on-lot sewage disposal system at each property, review of on-lot sewage disposal system performance with

property owners and/or tenants while on-site, documentation of any indication of on-lot sewage disposal system malfunctions, performance of sampling and testing of any noted surface malfunctions, and performance of sampling and testing of well water. He noted that the Township was requesting proposals from outside consultants to perform the survey, and the results of the survey would be presented at an upcoming public meeting.

Mr. Zarko indicated that information obtained in conjunction with the survey will help the Board of Supervisors make decisions with regard to the Act 537 process for the Taylorsville Area. He noted that it would be in everyone's best interest to participate, as the greater amount of participation would result in the best data.

Mr. Zarko noted that property owner authorization forms pertaining to the survey were available for signature in the meeting room or could be taken home, signed, and returned to the Township. A number of questions were raised by the Board of Supervisors concerning the proposed On-Lot Sewage Disposal System Survey, as well as the Act 537 planning process in general. After discussion, the Board of Supervisors asked the audience for any questions concerning the presentation.

Howard Nenner, 1120 Taylorsville Road, asked for clarification about the direction of the project, and the need to provide authorization for the survey to be completed if his recent tests performed show no deficiencies. Mr. Zarko stressed the importance of the survey, and how that would assist the Board in proceeding with the process.

Steven Markin, 75 Dillon Way, questioned what the effects of a cesspool system on the surrounded area? Mr. Zarko responded that such cesspools are now illegal, and effects could include surface discharge and contamination of ground water.

Hal Pitkow, 1105-1107 Taylorsville Road, had questions regarding the scope of the study. Mr. Zarko responded with information regarding the location of the properties in the study area, and the background on how they were identified.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Rattigan at 8:36 pm.

Approved: February 19, 2013