



Borough Council Minutes
Public Hearing 7:10 PM
Borough Annex
April 23, 2019

Public Meeting Called to Order by Council President Sain: 7:10 pm

When recognized by the president, per Borough Code, state your name and address for the minutes.

President Sain requested to add the following documents to the record:

- Updated petition from Lisa Salvato
- Letter from Angela Smith

President Sain introduced Mark Spatz, the engineer from HGR, and Bill Snyder, from Westfall. They were invited by Council to provide information to residents.

Public Comment:

Loretta Buchanan of 207 Avenue L- inquired how much will this cost all together including the pump, the street, and the cost in filling in septic systems. She also inquired when this would happen and expressed concern over the financial burden public sewage could cause elderly residents.

Mark Spatz engineer from HGR- Explained the board is voting on entering a study to plan for public sewer. This study will determine the cost and time frame. It will also look into grants to help with funding. Public sewage will cost only the people using the system, not all taxpayers. An authority will be running the managing sewage. We will be using grants to bring down costs.

Councilman Sigreto- Questioned the \$5,000 for a grinder pump that was mentioned.

Mark Spatz- Responded that depending on the section of town we may need either a gravity pump or grinder. The 537 plan is not the final say it just gives us an outline to work from. The public will have a say throughout the whole process. The plan will also look at the financial viability of the system.

Loretta Buchanan of 207 Ave L- Questioned what the cost per resident per month will be.

Mark Spatz- Stated with inflation costs go up every year but probably around \$70 a month.

Councilman Sigreto- Questioned what the cost of a grinder pump will be.

Mark Spatz- Stated that we will try to go with a gravity pumps but cost in bulk are about four to five thousand per pump. He also said that the town can get grants to cover the cost of the grinder pumps.

Councilman Rose- Questioned the cost of filling the septic tank.

Mark Spatz- stated it would cost residents one last pump of their septic and then to fill it with gravel.

Loretta Buchanan of 201 Avenue L- Questioned the cost of the electric on the grinder pump.

Mark Spatz- Stated the pumps are 220-volt pumps but we will try to get grants to save residence the cost on the pumps.

Loretta Buchanan- Asked if the DEP will mandate public sewage once we do the study.

Mark Spatz- Answered not unless there is public safety issue, having public water helps us. If a system is functioning, they won't force public sewage. Property owners will be interviewed and systems looked at to access our needs. Our SEO was concerned with two or three areas but had no extreme concerns currently. This is our borough's plan.

Wendy Himes of 302 Avenue O- Stated that this seems like a done deal. She also mentioned it can take 10 to 20 years to have all the systems updated.

Lynn Homer of 501 Avenue L- Stated the borough has already had one family removed from a home that was condemned due to failed septic. She reminded the audience that public sewage does not have to be mandatory but should be available for people who can't replace their septic systems. Lisa Salvato of 600 Avenue K- Stated she has an older home with a failing system and is very concerned about losing her house due to no room for a new system. She questioned what options will there be for filling systems if we don't get public sewage. She stated that she feels we need public sewer and mentioned our own SEO is saying that we have problems.

Betty Riggs of 700 Pennsylvania Avenue- Questioned combining a part grinder and part gravity system as she had heard that was heard that was not possible.

Mark Spatz- Responded yes you can combine gravity and grinder pump systems. The study will show where and what pumps are needed.

Betty Riggs of 700 Pennsylvania Avenue- Asked if insulation jobs be put out to bid.

Mark Spatz- Stated, yes, all PA construction jobs have to be advertised and the town has to go to the lowest bid unless there is a viable reason not to.

President Sain- Stated the 537 plan will be paid for by Pike County, the cost of the study is \$35,000.

Julie Silvers of 107 Avenue B- Asked what the urgency of doing this now is. She also asked what system does the school have and could the school have made our problem worse.

President Sain- Stated the school has their own system on an in an area where there were no houses. Therefore, it's unlikely they've made our situation worse.

Jim Wood of 310 Avenue L- Stated central sewage is not free. There will be hookup fees and monthly fees. Once it's installed there's no going back.

Russ Jenks of 602 Avenue H- Stated he is a former SEO and asked if will lower-cost gray water systems will be considered. He stated that there are new innovative systems and new technology that could save the borough money.

Mark Spatz- Replied that new technology will be considered depending on our needs which the study will access. Currently, many towns are rebuilding sewage systems. Matamoras is fortunate that we are putting in a brand-new system with updated materials and new technology.

Mary Gellomino of 9 Avenue N- Questioned if during the study they make note that a system is failing but the town doesn't go through with public sewer is the homeowner responsible to update the system.

Mark Spatz- stated that it is unlikely if systems are failing the town will choose not to go forward with the plan. The reason we enter into this plan is because our overall future goal is to have public sewage. However, public sewage takes a lot of time. We need to start now because it takes so long. We can't wait until it's an emergency if certain areas are public safety concerns then they will be first priority. Currently, Main Street is a focus for the economic reasons. Main Street would be first, then high need areas, then we would move forward as funding is available. Everything will be planned out.

Linda Kozak of 707 Avenue K- Stated in the past the main line was planned to go down Avenue K and Avenue L at 10th street. She asked if we are, we going to be able to put the main line down Main Street.

Mark Spatz- Responded they may have considered that if the street was just paved but since this is a few years out we don't have to worry about that.

Councilman Rose- Asked if we need to consider prevailing wage.

Mark Spatz- Stated yes, it is state law.

Councilman Rose- Questioned digging up the roads, will we have to pay more to have our roads repaved.

Mark Spatz- Stated repaving roads will be planned for under construction cost.

Councilman Rose- asked if the plan will look at where lines will go in relation to water lines.

Mark Spatz- Responded no, it will give a general cost. There are guidelines in place but they're not strict rules. The guidelines were created with clay pipes in mind and are only guide for where the sewer pipe should go in relation to water lines. The guidelines say 18 inch vertical or 10-foot separation.

Richie Himes of 302 Avenue O- Asked if there's no urgency then why do we have to do this now. He requested more information as to why we are doing this right now.

Mark Spatz- Stated that Westfall is doing a sewer extension if we join now, we get grant money to help with costs. Westfall, Milford, and Milford Township want to get moving, that's the rush. It's a long process and they want to get it in motion.

Councilman Clark- Stated Milford Borough, Milford Township, and Westfall are applying for Grants and multi municipal blocks get more grants than stand-alone municipalities. If we do this alone later will be competing for Grants against them. So, the choice is to join now or go alone later. They gave us a deadline and that's what the rush is.

Julie Silver of 107 Ave B- Asked why Westfall, Milford Borough, and Milford Township are in a hurry.

Mark Spatz- Stated they have failing systems and want it for commercial reasons. Public Sewage increases property values. Milford Borough wants it for social economic growth of Main Street. When starting the plan, the long-term goal should be public sewage, otherwise, we should not be entering the plan.

Loretta Buchanan of 207 Ave L- Asked if the Westfall Condos have anything to do with why they are in a hurry.

Mayor Clark- Responded no, Milford Borough does not want the condos therefor that would not be a reason for them to rush along with a public sewage.

Ruth Wylie of 701 Pennsylvania Avenue- Stated that people are concerned with the fees and asked if could it be less than what we've estimated. She also stated they are currently paying about \$1200 a month in pumping their system.

President Sain- Responded possibly. He stated the more people that sign-up will bring down the cost.

Bill Snyder of Westfall- Stated the reason Westfall wants to get things moving is that businesses want to hook up to public sewage.

Councilman Losee- Aske if their will there be mandatory hook up.

Mark Spatz- Stated that the DEP does not usually force mandatory hookup. However, Penn vest loans or grants are not possible without mandatory hook up. Since many low interest loans and grants require mandatory hook up the way around it is to only require mandatory hookups in areas where public sewage is most needed.

Russ Jenks of 602 Ave H- Stated, as a former SEO, that we are polluting our environment without public sewage. Mark Spatz- Stated, it's the borough's choice for mandatory hookups. The choice is made by looking at funding.

Councilman Losee- Asked if the reason we don't want a centralized system is because it would cost more and if the grinder and gravity pump combination would be more affordable.

Councilman Clark- Stated our Water Authority would be handling the day to day operations of the public sewage but they would be under the direction of Borough Council so we would choose what types of systems based on funding.

Councilman Losee- Stated that Mark Spatz mentioned before that there would be surveys in the mail as to what type of systems residents have. He stated many residents including himself have cesspools. He questioned what will the DEP will say about those systems.

Mark Spatz- Responded cesspools are initially assess as failing systems but will be looked at further. If it's operating well then it could be moved out of that category. There are many criteria that are looked into for a system to be considered a failing system. During the study systems will be looked at randomly to assess the areas of greatest need.

Councilman Kudrich- Questioned what happens if your Cesspool fails now. He stated pumping is required which we know is costly and you would have no other options without public sewage. Mark Spatz- Stated if we decide to enter the 537 plan then it will be a plan for public sewage for the whole town but it'll be prioritized by need. The number of cesspools we have will help us with grant funds because it will make us look like we need the grants more than areas without. However, with Grant funds mandatory connection is required. We need to keep in mind, when we are entering this plan, that our overall future plan is public sewage for the whole town.

Councilman Losee- Asked Mark Spatz if he is aware of any study that's been done in the last 10, 20, or 30 years that actually shows our on the systems are affecting our water quality.

Russ Jenks of 602 Ave H- Responded the DEP can look back 30 years to see how many failing systems we've had. Mark Spatz- Stated the DEP will look at all the information when they're creating the plan.

Rick Manzie of 701 Avenue M- Asked how we are paying for public sewage; will it be by the gallon. Mark Spatz- Responded you usually pay one rate but the authority will decide that.

Betty Riggs of 700 Pennsylvania Ave- Asked if you're gone for the Winter will you still have to pay.

Mark Spatz- Stated the authority will decide all of that once it's created.

Councilman Sigreto- Asked to give some background information to the audience. He stated we are in this situation now because in 1952 when the city of New York offered to provide public sewage for all the towns along the Delaware River Matamoras turned them down. New York City installed public sewage in Port Jervis and all Port Jervis had to do was maintain the lines which they didn't do and therefore they're having problems now.

However, two years ago, New York City spent 6.2 million dollars to upgrade their sewage treatment center. We were offered in 1952 to join their system for free but we didn't and we should have and that's where we are today.

Bill Snyder from Westfall- Stated Westfall purchased the grinder pumps for their residents.

President Sain- Requested to reconvene the council meeting and to adjourn from the public hearing at 8:28.

ADJOURNMENT: 8:28 pm