

SPECIAL MEETING

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The Fox Township Board of Supervisors held conducted a special meeting on September 29, 2016 for the purpose of discussing the engineer's evaluation of the Toby Water reservoir and treatment plant. Those present: Mike Keller, Dave Mattiuz and Randy Gradizzi, supervisors, Kathy Dowie, secretary-treasurer, Rob Singer, Chad Hanley, HRG, Kathryn Ordiway, newspaper reporter, Irene Coder, Nick Brown, Jim Rettger, Clarence Gerg, Ken and Pam Anderson, Sandy and Bob Jaconski, Mike Agosti, Dorothy and Buzzy Beck, Janet Otto, Bob Gradizzi, Paula Micale, Kevin Zani, Annamarie and George Dragich, Pam and Joseph Schrecengost, Shirley Gradizzi, Alicia and Jesse Herbstritt and Harriet Moyer.

Chairman Mike Keller called the meeting to order at 6 PM and began by introducing the engineer for the project. Chad Hanley of HRG prepared a report evaluating the Toby Water reservoir and treatment plant to determine the upgrades needed to get the system back on line. Hanley explained that they will need to consult with DEP before a final design can be completed. They have anticipated the requirements that they feel will meet DEP criteria, but there is a possibility that additional items may be required. Hanley explained that the draft plan now includes a treatment plant with a membrane filtration system. The Plan also increase the size of the existing reservoir by 10 times. The initial reservoir was designed to hold 1.5 million gallons of water. However, after years of siltation, it now holds only 700,000 gallons. The increase in size of the reservoir will allow for adequate supply of water even in drought conditions, as well as meet the conservation release requirement that DEP will likely impose. Some of the work on the reservoir could be done in-house by Township forces, but the overall cost of the entire project is estimated at \$3.3 - \$3.8 million. Mike Keller noted that the report does not include any projected operating costs for the upgraded system.

Hanley continued by stating that there would be some finance options through PennVEST, which are typically 20 or 30 year loans. Even at these terms, the customer would be looking at paying \$50-\$70 per month just for debt service. Water usage fees would be in addition to this. He also suggested that an additional fee be added to cover the replacement of the membranes and other maintenance that would be need in the future of the plant. The membrane, which would last 8 – 15 years, would be in the six-digit figure to replace. The new plant would have a life expectancy of 30 – 40 years.

Jim Rettger asked if there was any growth factored into these figures. Mike Keller responded that this proposal is for a system that will produce 40,000 gallons per day, which is the quantity that was to be produced prior to the shutdown of the system. Keller continued by stating that we were often over this daily limit with the taps that exist now. However, since switching to St. Marys water, the daily usage has dropped by 10,000 gallons per day for some unknown reason. This change in volume is not reflected on the usage bills, which means the loss was not sold – it was being lost somewhere on the system.

Several visitors asked if grant funding would be available. Hanley explained that before you can even apply for a grant, you must have the project designed and permitted and ready to construct. We are not there yet.

Mike Keller commented that the Township also committed to another option, that being St. Marys Water taking over the system permanently. This option has not yet been explored but would likely be much less than the new plant and reservoir. Janet Otto responded that the St. Marys option would be the most economical for customers that are on a fixed income and could not afford the figures that were proposed.

Ken and Pam Anderson commented that good water is worth the cost and they feel that Toby Water was much better than St. Marys Water.

Shirley Gradizzi commented that she understood the need to plan for the worse case – i.e. a drought, but has there ever really been a drought? Randy Gradizzi and Mike Keller both responded that there has been drought conditions many times where the system could not produce enough water to serve the customers.

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Bob Jaconski asked if another reservoir could be built on the other side of the road, using the Sawmill Run water source. Randy Gradizzi replied that it could, but that is a different water source and the quality is not the same as the Lost Run water that now feeds the system. Randy also commented that he and Rob Singer have discussed the possibility of building the new reservoir above the existing one. This may be easier and less expensive since the land around the existing reservoir may be very difficult to dig. This would have to be looked into more though.

Bobby Gradizzi commented that exploring other options is good, but doing so just adds to the cost.

Mike Keller summarized by stating that the Board will continue to explore the options, particularly that of having St. Marys Water take over the system and keep everyone informed as they receive more information.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Randy Gradizzi, seconded by Dave Mattiuz to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 PM. Motion carried.