**Minutes of the Joint Meeting**

**of the Bedminster Township Board of Supervisors**

**and the Bedminster Municipal Authority**

**September 25, 2013**

**Call to Order**

The Joint Meeting of the two Boards was called to order by Mr. Wismer at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. The following Supervisors were present: Glenn Wismer, Morgan Cowperthwaite and Mark Schmidt. Authority members present were Joseph Guagno, Larry Longacre, Craig Trauger and Lou McKay. Jay Heacock was absent from the meeting.

The following officials were also present: Alison Rudolf, Township Manager, Michael Sullivan, Administrator/Operator, Jonathan Reiss, Esq., Authority Solicitor, John Rice, Esq., Township Solicitor, and Douglas Berg, P.E, Authority Engineer.

**Public Comment**

Cindy Albright – 212 Dean Drive – Ms. Albright expressed her dismay at the sewer construction project that took place on Dean Drive this summer. She did not feel the notice provided was adequate and did not provide sufficient details particularly for the property where she lives that included a large easement for the project. She presented a video and photographs to document the damage to her property. She expressed dissatisfaction with the restoration that has taken place to date. She would like the property restored to the same condition as it was prior to the construction.

Meredith Dornin – 112/212 Dean Drive – Mrs. Dornin is the owner of these two properties which she rents. She expressed her dissatisfaction with the restoration, the lack of adequate notice and the supervision of the project. She would like the property restored to its former condition.

Engineer Berg noted that the restoration of the project has not been completed; the final restoration date is October 15, 2013. The Authority is withholding a portion of the contract for payment pending final completion.

**General Business Matters**

**Water System Water Quality Discussion**

Michael Sullivan, President of Public Utility Enterprises, the contracted administrator and operator of the water and sewer system for the Municipal Authority provided a brief overview of the water and sewer facilities serving Bedminster Township residents. He reviewed the state and federal testing standards required for water facilities and the test results for the Bedminster system which are available on the DEP web site each month. Mr. Sullivan pointed out that the Authority has never violated any of the safe drinking water standards. He announced that on Thursday September 26, additional testing will be taking place on Kern Drive in an effort to isolate the problem causing water quality problems in the Stonebridge development.

Paul Fanelli- 6 Kern Dr. - Mr. Fanelli presented a bottle of discolored water that came from his home. He reviewed the history of the water problems at his home and his efforts to have the problems resolved. He expressed dissatisfaction that only one member of the Authority lives in the water service area.

Althea Tomlinson – 9 Gibson Circle – Ms. Tomlinson advised the members that she has experienced problems with discolored water at her home. She also requested that the Supervisors conduct the meeting instead of their consultants.

Scott Schurr – 8 Stewer Lane – Mr. Schurr expressed his concern regarding the discolored water and inquired about whether flushing helps improve the problem.

Mark Pakenas – 3 Stewer Lane- Mr. Pakenas advised he has excessive sediment in his hot water heater which requires replacement of the heater more frequently than should be required. He noted that due to his neighbors experience he does not drink the water.

John Zappini – 73 Kellers Church Road – Mr. Zappini inquired as to the causes of the discolored water.

Robert Boggs – 937 Rolling Hills Road – Mr. Boggs reviewed some history of the Township with sewer and water problems.

Rachel Nulty – 3 Greer Court – Ms. Nulty advised that she has called the Authority office in the past to report that her water was discolored and she was made to feel that her complaint was not appreciated.

Cindy Bish – 2 Gibson Circle – Ms. Bish reported that she has had brown water but has not reported it because it goes way.

Althea Tomlinson – 9 Gibson Circle – Ms. Tomlinson noted that she has standing water in the street in front of her home. It was noted that a previous homeowner on the street and made some unpermitted alterations which impacted the storm water flows in the area.

Jim Becker – 19 Ruhl Drive – Mr. Becker reported the problems he has had with discolored water primarily when he fills his hot tub.

Norman Veit- 5 Ruhl Drive – Mr. Veit reported that he has not had dirty water in the past two years.

Sandy Foster – 17 Ruhl Drive – Ms. Foster advised that she has had discolored water off and on for the last two or three years, she feels the problem has increased in the last year or two.

Joe Guagno – 11 Gibson Circle – Mr. Guagno noted that he has had some discolored water at his home.

John Patenaude – 18 Ruhl Drive – Mr. Patenaude noted the water at his home is very hard which cause problems with certain fixtures in his home.

Cathy Zawackis – 124 Wigton Circle – M. Zawackis reported her water is brown every day. She inquired about when a sewer replacement project was planned for her street.

Nancy Fischer – 129 Wigton Circle – Ms. Fischer reported a problem with discolored water but is more concerned about the odor of the water which smells very bad particularly first thing in the morning.

Brenda Cardona – 44 Kern Drive – Ms. Cardona expressed her concern about the quality of the water noting a rash her daughter got after bathing in it. She noted her doctor has advised her not to drink the water or use it for cooking. She also is concerned about the smell of the water and how it permeates her home.

Pauline Suder – 106 Wigton Circle – Ms. Suder reported her concern about the very dark brown color of the water she has had in her bath. She noted she has not called because it goes away and does not occur every day or even every month.

Sharon Walker – 7 Kern Drive – advised she is concerned about the water quality particularly in light of the death of two of her dogs.

Alesia Dolan – 419 Saddlery Drive – Ms. Dolan inquired about the heavy chlorine smell in her water. She noted that she lives in the Bedminster Hunt West development which was not notified about the meeting but she feels other residents in her development have experienced brown water also.

Erin Siciliano – 174 Pennland Farm Drive – Ms. Siciliano noted she had discolored water when she first moved in but has not had any problems in recent years.

Mr. Wismer thanked all in attendance for their comments; the Authority expressed their commitment to find the cause of the problems in Stonebridge and work to resolve them.

**Act 537 Planning**

Douglas Berg reviewed the Act 537 planning process with the Board of Supervisors. He noted the current amendment addresses the addition of the proposed Weis Market to the water and sewer system and also provides for the future inclusion of the C-2 district in the sewer planning area. He reviewed the next steps in the approval process; after the various agencies submit their comments, the document will be presented to the Supervisors for their approval.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Boards; adjournment of the Joint Meeting was in order at 8:50 pm. The Township Supervisors adjourned to an Executive Session at this time to discuss matters of personnel. They returned from their Executive Session at 9:15 pm at which time their meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison D. Rudolf

Township Manager/Assistant Secretary