

A Special Public Meeting of the Millcreek Township Board of Supervisors was called to order at 6:0 p.m. by Chairman John Groh in the Assembly Room of the Millcreek Township Municipal Building. Present were Mark Zaksheske, John Morgan, John Groh, James Bock, Shane Karnes, Mark Shaw, Esq., Anne Sokol, P.E., Emma George, P.E., Gary Snyder, Matthew Waldinger and Sheryl Williams.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Chairman Groh explained the purpose of the special meeting was to address the stormwater issues in the area of West 28th Street from McKee Road West to the Cul-de-sac.

Solicitor Mark Shaw gave a PowerPoint presentation of the historical topography of the area and underground sanitary sewer pipes from 1900 to the present. He emphasized that West 28th Street is a low area, and in 1900 there was actually a stream there. Mr. Shaw stated that in 1938 there was known to be a 60" pipe under 26th Street, and in 1941 PennDOT replaced it with another 60" pipe. In 1956, PennDOT project plans proposed a 24' extension of 60" pipe, but the 60" pipe was deleted and two 12' pipes, one 48" and one 42" were installed in its place. In September of 2009, Millcreek installed a 100' length of 42" pipe on the end of the PennDOT system to protect residents from flooding due to debris blocking the pipe inlet and lack of accessibility issues.

Mr. Shaw relayed that in July of 2017, following the flooding in June, the Township cleaned out approximately 1000' of the 65" x 40" stormwater arch pipe and the two 24" pipes that feed into it at an approximate cost of \$100,000. The channel next to Joe's Gym was also cleaned. It should be noted that the DEP has many requirements and restrictions that must be adhered to in order to clean the channel.

In the fall of 2017, the Township grouted and sealed a good portion of the sewer lines in the area to prevent backups, and completed the balance of the project in 2018, at an approximate cost of \$200,000.

Mr. Shaw stated that since that time, no flooding has been reported during nine major storm events, and Millcreek Township is confident that the aforementioned actions have reduced flooding potential in that area.

Mr. Shaw presented five (5) options to further prevent flooding, recommended by the Planning and Development/Engineering Department: Removal of the 42" pipe by Township, removal of the 42" and 48" pipes by PennDOT, increase of 60" pipe to 84" by PennDOT, creation of a stormwater basin by Township, or Township removal of the arch pipe and subsequent return of the area to an open channel. Mr. Shaw explained how each option would impact the topography and why several of the options would not be productive options, especially enlarging the 60" pipe to 84", as it would result in flooding to the railroad lines and surrounding property north of West 26th Street.

Mr. Shaw stated that creating a basin on the West 26th Street NLA II Real Estate property could be a viable option, but a design must be created and DEP permits obtained before any construction can begin, possibly in fall/winter 2019 or in spring/summer 2020.

Regarding the removal of the arch pipe, Mr. Shaw reported that there is not enough information to ensure it would be a viable option, and the Township would need to hire a consultant to analyze that option.

Mr. Groh reported that on April 12, 2019, the Board met with Sen. Dan Laughlin, Rep. Ryan Bizzarro and PennDOT engineers to discuss a plan of action, and everyone was in general agreement.

Maria Blakeslee, 4230 West 28th Street, reported that despite the pipes being cleaned in 2017, Contessa Drive has flooded three times in 2018 – 2019. She stated that she has lived there for 31 years and the flooding has worsened in the past few years.

Chuck Felix, 2744 McKee Road, stated that the flooding occurs because PennDOT reduced the 60" pipe down to 42", and because the Township allowed more building construction than the stormwater system can handle. He proposed putting storm sewer pump stations on lots that are for sale in that area to get water out of the area more quickly.

Tom DeFratte, 4357 West 28th Street, wanted to know how far north PennDOT would maintain the channel north of West 26th Street, to which Mr. Shaw replied approximately 50 feet. Mr. DeFratte opined that the channel needs to be maintained all the way to the flat area, and does not feel that Township's recommendations are enough to solve the problem.

Bill Danylko, Danylko Excavating, representing Sen. Laughlin, presented a drawing of an alternate proposal to install a new 60" pipe from Rt. 20 with enough grade to make the system work.

On recommendation of Mr. Shaw, it was moved by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Bock to adopt Resolution 2019-R-23; A Resolution Regarding Stormwater Issues on W. 28th Street. This resolution outlines prospective options and the course of action the Township intends to take to correct the flooding issues, including preventative measures by the Department of Public Works to maintain an open channel south of West 26th Street. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

There being no citizens to be heard or any further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Bock and seconded by Mr. Morgan to adjourn the special public meeting at 6:50 p.m.

Sheryl A. Williams
Township Secretary

Approved: May 14, 2019

John E. Morgan _____

John H. Groh _____

James S. Bock _____