

## Sewer Plant Statement

In October 2015, Township staff and the Board of Supervisors became aware of significant issues with the Township's Sewer Plant, including deferred maintenance and failure to replace capital equipment and processes, lapsed employee safety protective measures and the continued use of equipment that no longer worked correctly. The Board of Supervisors immediately made personnel changes at the plant, including bringing the Sewer Plant operations back under the supervision of the Public Works Department. The Sewer Plant is now being operated by Michael Moffa, who has worked for the Sewer Plant for twenty years. The Public Works Department will continue to provide assistance and oversight of the Sewer Plant staff. In regard to the personnel changes made at the Sewer Plant, the Board of Supervisors is not at liberty to discuss the personnel issues yet and will do so once a final resolution of the matter is achieved.

The Sewer Authority is an independent legal entity that owns the Sewer Plant and all sewer infrastructure. The Authority hires its own Solicitor and Engineer and has its own public monthly meetings. Other than appointing Sewer Authority members, the Board of Supervisors has no direct jurisdiction or legal authority over the Sewer Authority.

Once the Township became aware of the issues at the Sewer Plant, it retained Herbert, Rowland & Grubic, Inc., (HRG), a local engineering firm with extensive experience in operating municipal sewer plants. HRG investigated the condition of the Plant, the ten sewer pump stations and the two hundred mile-long sewer collection piping system. Josh Fox and his colleagues produced two separate reports, the first on the Plant and pump stations and a second on the collection piping system. Mr. Fox presented the first report to the Board at the February meeting and set forth his recommendations for capital improvements to the Plant and the pump stations. Mr. Fox is working collaboratively with the Authority's engineer and has attended the last three Authority meetings to provide advice and guidance on the recommended capital improvements. HRG has recommended improvements to the generator, replacement of the grit removal system, upgrade of the headworks facility and upgrade of the Downing Avenue Pump station as the priorities for the Authority to focus on in 2016 and 2017. He has also suggested other improvements coming over a seven year time period. The Authority has authorized HRG to provide design specifications for the generator and to design a replacement for three failing sewer manholes adjacent to the Sewer Plant and for Glace Associates, the Authority's Engineer, to design an upgrade for the Downing Avenue Pump Station and to repair Clarifier #3.

The Sewer Authority is responsible for initiating and funding all capital improvements to the Sewer System. The Township Board of Supervisors has no direct role in initiating or funding the capital improvements. The Board of Supervisors' and Township staff's role in this process is to advocate to the Authority to schedule these capital upgrades per HRG's recommended timetable. The Board and staff will continue to guide the Authority and assist it in any way it can to see that the necessary upgrades are made in a timely and economically way.

Any resident with concerns about the condition of the Sewer Plant is invited to attend the next Sewer Authority meeting scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 6, 2016.