

Amity's sewer capacity to cost \$9.7 million

Published: Wednesday, January 12, 2011

http://www.berksmontnews.com/articles/2011/01/12/southern_berks_news/news/doc4d2ca7c4b809b867074597.txt

By Denise Larive, News Writer

Amity Township's price tag for an increasing residential population by the year 2020 is \$9.7 million, said township sewer consultant Michael Sassaman, ARRO, L.O., a Reading engineering firm.

Sassaman said the construction cost estimate is \$9.7 million to expand the Amity Township Waste Water Treatment Plant, Old Philadelphia Pike, 2.2 million gallons per day (mgd) to 2.9 mgd in order to meet the needs of the area's population in 2020.

The state Department of Environmental Protection ordered the construction based upon the township's revised Act 537 Plan (sewage facilities plan) and an analysis of the township's current zoning, future needs of the township such as capacity for industrial development and the area's population in 2020.

The plant provides sewer to neighboring Union, Earl and Douglass townships.

Sassaman said 300 equivalent dwelling units are unreserved but there is plenty of organic capacity to handle new industrial uses within the township.

The township board of supervisors voted on Jan. 3 to delay the construction project and instead make less expensive sewer plant improvements throughout the next three to five years.

Amity's previous Act 537 Plan was updated in November 2003.

That resulted in a \$3.1 million upgrade/expansion of sewer to 2.2 million gallons a day, sewer to the north part of the township, and new lines installed in the Park Lane area and eastern and southern parts of the township.

A letter will be sent to DEP requesting that the construction be delayed and to amend the township's Act 537 Plan with the new necessary plant improvements.

Improvements will include

- Continuing to repair and replace broken sewer lines to prevent storm water (inflow and infiltration) that goes to the plant and is unnecessarily treated,
- Repairs to the equalization tank,
- Aerator replacement in the equalization tank,
- Repair of 18 manholes on Route 662 at a cost of \$40,000,

- Forced main work at pump station two,
- Draining, cleaning, inspecting and painting the anaerobic digesters at a cost of \$260,000 and
- Installing a fourth flood pump at a cost of \$45,000.

Township Manager Charles E. Lyon said he will compile a financial analysis of the necessary sewer expenditures for the board's review and approval.

In other business:

- The board reorganized on Jan. 3 for 2011.

Leadership remains the same at Amity Township for 2011 with Supervisor Robert R. Yanos as its chairman and Supervisor Kimberly J. McGrath as vice chairman.

Supervisor Terry L. Jones was appointed to fill the seat on the planning commission previously held by Neal Fisher.

Supervisor and Planning Commission Member Paul R. Weller said Jones attended 90 to 95 percent of the planning commission meetings in 2010 and looked at land development plans laid out for the commission's review.

Jones was elected supervisor in November 2008 and is Streets Division supervisor for the Borough of Pottstown.

The board presented Risa Marmontello with a plaque recognizing her 10 years of service to the township as secretary of the parks and recreation board.

Marmontello resigned from the board effective Dec. 31.

Scott Weller, Levensgood Road, was appointed to fill her seat on the board.

Yanos said one of his accomplishments as board chairman in 2010 was the board's approval of the planned business office and industrial district zoning ordinance amendment.

That ordinance amendment and the rezoning of 400 acres of land at north Limekiln Road on Dec. 15 will permit development of the previous low density residential-zoned land as the Amity Western Industrial Park.

Commercial development would provide tax revenue to the area and reduce the property tax burden of 27.65 mills that is paid primarily by residents in the Daniel Boone School District.

[Return to PAGING Mode](#)