

**CAMP HILL BOROUGH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING  
2145 WALNUT STREET, PROSSER HALL  
CAMP HILL, PA 17011  
May 5, 2011**

President McLemore called the public meeting to order at 7:19 p.m. Present were:

Deborah Donahue  
Don Edwards, Jr.  
Richard Guerin  
Burke McLemore  
Peter Robelen  
Carl Schultz  
Aubrey Sledzinski

Also present were Police Chief Jan Ammons, Solicitor Stephen Feinour, Borough Engineer Mark Malarich, Borough Manager Gary M. Kline and Borough Secretary Anne Shambaugh.

Mr. McLemore stated the events of nature in April were unprecedented and Camp Hill like many other areas experienced events that caused individuals to have flooding in their homes, neighborhoods and across town.

Mr. McLemore stated the problem is not unique to Camp Hill. He stated Council would like to look at possible financial measures that can be taken so the future is better. He stated there are a few things to consider:

- 1) I & I – if the sewer laterals are broken, ground water seeps into the sanitary sewer system;
- 2) If down spouts are connected to the sanitary sewer system this increases the flow during a rain event;
- 3) Rain water flow needs to be directed away from the house and not onto neighboring properties;
- 4) Should new standards for storm water management be considered; and
- 5) Should we preserve all trees – not just those within the right-of-way.

With these questions come the economic questions as well. The Borough would like to look at the “big picture” associated with the problem and not provide a band-aid or piece-meal approach but rather a solution. In order to do so, the following items will need to be addressed:

- 1) Obtain a legal opinion based on homeowner storm water issues including stormwater systems on private property and the overflow;
- 2) What storm water facilities exist and who owns them;
- 3) Develop a policy for residential complaints (to include rational measures);
- 4) Develop a “bank” of information regarding properties that have had issues to the information is readily available during the next event;

- 5) Get an engineering opinion regarding the options to try to control the flows and a monetary cost associated with those options;
- 6) Develop the information and present it at a Town Hall Meeting and
- 7) Produce the estimated costs with the proposed solutions.

Mr. McLemore stated during the tonight's meeting direct questions will not be answered by Council. The meeting is to allow resident's the opportunity to speak about the problems and issues they experienced during the two (2) recent rain events.

Mr. McLemore stated Council would not allow personal attacks or negative comments toward members of council, staff or otherwise and requested only helpful comments and suggestions be provided. He requested all comments be limited to approximately two (2) minutes in an effort to keep the meeting moving.

Mr. Malarich provided information regarding the April 28<sup>th</sup> storm noting Public Works measured 2 inches of rainfall in a 45 minute time span. He stated this equates to a 55-year storm event.

Mr. McLemore stated there will be a Public Community Event on May 6, 2011 between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. held by Cumberland County to get information from residents and business owners who experienced flooding during the April 16, 2011 storm. The event will be held at the Lower Allen Municipal Building.

Mr. McLemore thanked the Borough's Public Works department and stated they did an amazing job during the recent events. In addition, he thanked the Borough Manager, the Assistant Manager, the Police Department and the Fire Department for all their efforts during the storms.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Marybeth/Mike Stringent, 807 Conodoguinet Drive, stated there is a drain on Conodoguinet Drive that is filled with at least twelve inches of silt and dirt and there is now a hole around the drain. She stated their property is receiving water directly from Arlington Street (the street above them) and it flows directly onto their street and then their property. She stated she sent an email to all council members after each rain event and did not receive a response from any member of council. She stated she would like to know the plan/policy to repair the storm drain in the street before the street is paved.
- Jennie Lane, Conodoguinet Drive, stated the water was gushing behind her property leaving debris across her entire property.
- Mark Brown, 50 N 30<sup>th</sup> Street, stated he lives at the corner of N 30<sup>th</sup> Street and Beverly Road. He stated the road has been paved so many times that the curbing is almost non-existent. He stated the run-off from Beverly Road runs directly down N 30<sup>th</sup> Street onto his property. He is requesting the Borough increase the size of the curbing along the road to prevent the run-off in the future.

- Arthur Birdsall, 2430 Dickinson Avenue, stated he had access to sump pumps and was able to keep the water at a manageable level. He asked what caused the drastic flooding across the Borough and how can he prevent it in the future? He stated a well was recently placed in the field near Hoover Elementary School and he wanted to know if that contributed to the recent flooding.
- Henry Ballas, 2003 Princeton Avenue, asked where is the help? He stated he felt “let down” by the Borough during these events. He stated he and his neighbors had to replace furniture, carpeting, etc. as a result of the flooding. He asked how the Borough would allow the work along 581 to be done and why would the Borough approve it? He stated the existing pipe is much smaller than the previous storm water pipe and this must have contributed to the flooding.
- Laura Conrad, 809 Conodoguinet Drive, stated she called the Police Department for help during the first rain event as water was gushing down the street. She stated she did not get a response from the department and was disappointed no one responded to her call. She stated as elected officials [council members] she expects more from each of you.
- Kim Septa, 205 Deanhurst, stated she got water in her basement on March 10, April 16 and again on April 28. She stated it was not rainwater but sewage.
- Richard Manse, 2000 Princeton Avenue, stated he moved into the Borough in 1994 and never experienced any flooding in his basement. He stated once the sound barrier walls were built along 581, his basement floods with each storm. He stated the ground water was coming in through the windows in his basement.
- Joe Hefron, 3000 Princeton Avenue, stated he visited Representative Glen Grell to tell him Penn DOT screwed up when they put the sound barrier walls in. He stated the Borough contributed to the problem by approving the warehouse building permit along Spangler Road.
- Margaret Sharpley, 1937 Princeton Avenue, stated she lives right next to the tunnel under 581. She stated she had 5 feet of water in her basement and was forced to move out of her house for five (5) days. She stated she received more than \$5,000 in damages and had just had her basement waterproofed. She stated the tunnel under 581 is too small to handle the flow and the water just backs up because there is no where for it to go.
- Steve Knaub, 120 S 30<sup>th</sup> Street, stated there is drainage culvert that runs through the properties along the area near his home. He thanked Mr. Kline for returning his calls during the recent events. He stated the Borough continues to allow for development in the community that do not “store” their own storm water. He stated this contributes to the increased water on other properties. He stated all new development within the Borough should be required to have a capacity to store a 20 or 30 year storm. He stated the development is being subsidized by the residents and he doesn’t believe any one resident should have to bear the cost for repairing damages received during these events.

- Mike Barnes, 2815 Fairview Road, stated he had a great deal of water running down the culvert at the back of his property. He asked if the Borough could clean all the culverts on a regular basis before the spring it may help in the future. He recommended a community clean-up day where residents could assist in removing debris from these areas.
- Bruce Bigelow, 20 S 26<sup>th</sup> Street, stated in the 32 years he has lived there he never had any flooding. He stated since the culvert under Willow Park was repaired in 2009, he has had water in his basement 3 times.
- Roy Hanson, 122 S 31<sup>st</sup> Street, stated the problem has been going on for more than 10 years. He stated the engineers have charts – so where does the water go? He stated he is hoping to get responses and stated the corner of Yale and 30<sup>th</sup> Street has big problems.
- Betty Jordan, 2310 Lincoln Street, stated the storm water runoff from the Eisenhower School was tremendous. She stated she spoke to the School District and they are aware of the problem. She said the water runs straight down the parking lot onto Lincoln Street and that water all ends up in Willow Park.
- Lou Thieblemont, Lincoln Street, stated the events in April were bad. He stated he was out as a volunteer during the events and wanted to thank all the volunteers and employees who were helping. He stated the culverts to divert the water from Eisenhower School are not on the property so the water is simply running down the parking lot. He requested the storm water plans for Eisenhower be reviewed to determine if they were completed properly.
- Claudine Metistie, Westerly Road, stated she had water in her basement with significant flooding. She stated the bills have been tremendous and she is hoping for some help.
- Henry Ballas, stated council has lots of responsibility and we believe in you guys. He requested some sort of assurance to the elderly in the future and asked if help and assistance could be provided by the fire department to them during any future events.
- Susan Pickford, 2612 Chestnut Street, stated she had 2 ½ feet of water in her basement on April 16. She asked if squirrel netting could be placed over the storm water drains to prevent large pieces of debris from getting into the drains. She stated she had at least \$10,000 in damages to her property.
- Phil Helms, 2179 Yale Avenue, stated the water was coming up from the drains in his basement. He stated sewage was also coming out of his toilet into the basement. He stated the amount of garbage set out at the curbs was incredible and he is concerned about his resale value. He stated the drainage and sewer systems should not be tied together. Mr. McLemore stated the systems are separate.
- Ed Ward, 2196 Yale Avenue, stated he had 6-8 inches of sewer water coming up from the toilet in his basement. He stated he was able to minimize the damage during the first storm but not the second.

- Dana Little, 805 Conodoguinet Drive, stated she has photos of the second rain event. She stated the water was above the split-level fence and the water was bubbling up from the street. She requested additional research be done before Conodoguinet Drive be paved.
- Tom Balaban, 201 Deanhurst , stated he had 49 inches of water in his basement on April 16. He stated he lost 3 rooms worth of furniture as well as a washer/dryer, water heater, etc. He approximates \$40,000 in damage between the damage to the house and the items lost. He stated people keep saying it was a “natural” event but these problems were known before and because nothing was done the flooding occurred.
- Michelle Rasudo, 2165 Yale Avenue, stated she had at least 6 inches of water in her basement. She stated the insurance company is not covering any of her claims. She wants to know if the sewer water was safe? Is it safe once the water has been removed and cleared? Will it happen again? Is there any relief to help with the loss?
- Susan Marcus, 2815 Chestnut Street, stated the drain in her basement was plugged and the water pressure blew the drain off.
- Chris Chase, 114 Pennsylvania Avenue, stated his basement did not flood; however, he did drive around town to find the water. He stated the culvert near 581 was made smaller and the water was stagnant. He stated the Borough can probably expect a similar rain event within the next 10 years, not 50. He suggested excavating the drainage basin and talking to Norfolk Southern Railroad regarding help on the other side of 581.
- Chris, 300 S 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, stated moved to Borough 9 years ago and there was some water at that time during storms. Stated the bigger problem is the sewage in basements and the water and sewage coming into homes.
- Paula Orenstein, S 28<sup>th</sup> Street, stated she had 2 feet of water in her basement. She commended council on their sense of humor since the sewer bills were mailed out the day after the storm. She asked for a moratorium on paying the bills as relief to people who suffered damage.
- Molly Robertson, Mayfred Lane, stated she heard Lemoyne residents were being reimbursed for their losses by the Borough. She stated she contacted the Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Organization and the members came in and helped residents power wash, disinfect, etc. She stated if anyone needs the contact information she can provide it.
- Jessica Reagan, 305 Deanhurst, stated she had a sewer back-up in her home. She stated there was groundwater and sewage. She thanked the Borough for returning her call and had hoped the Borough would coordinate an outreach program for residents who were affected by the flooding. She asked why the Code Red system was not used to warn residents of the potential for flooding. She stated a neighbor lost everything in their basement because of sewage. She stated Deanhurst is piled with debris and she is deeply concerned about the

resale value of her home. She asked if the Borough knew they had a problem with the infrastructure, why was a new pool built?

- Brittany Duling, S 26<sup>th</sup> Street, stated six homes on her street were affected by the events. She stated there was not enough help and she was cleaning until 5 am the morning of April 17 to stop the toilet from spewing. She stated she is counting on council to take responsibility for this and she thanked her neighbors.
- Ron Gillius, 18 S 27<sup>th</sup> Street, stated the area near the High School was completely under water. He stated the storm drains were filled and once they were cleared, the water began to go away. He stated the water was just running off the streets onto properties.
- Dave Smonick requested Borough Council address the problems of the sewer system and not just build a new pumping station and double capacity.
- Mike Stringent, Conodoguinet Drive, stated everything runs down the hill. How do you address the problem – do you start at the bottom and work back or start at the top and work down?
- Don Brown, S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, stated it is important for council to know where the storm water areas in the borough are located and to ensure they are clear before storms.
- Skip Focht, 237 S 16<sup>th</sup> Street, stated his garage gets water with every storm. He stated he has been asking for help for years from council and no one has done anything. He stated he hopes they do more for everyone here than they did for him.
- John Cesack, 2190 Yale, stated a new sanitary sewer system is not the answer.
- Ron Schwalb, N 30<sup>th</sup> Street, stated the storm water culvert near his home is a problem. He requested the Planning Commission not approve any more impervious coverage until the existing issues can be resolved. He asked about whether the intersections could be made into drainage areas to alleviate some of the problems.
- Brad Robb, 304 Pennsylvania Avenue, stated he has 7 feet of water in his basement. He stated the water was coming in but not going out. He stated the problem will continue unless the problems along the other side of 581 are addressed.
- Kathy Tristan, 2180 Yale Avenue, asked whether the website would be used to provide updates to the residents regarding this meeting. She requested information be posted on the website so residents do not have to call the office for updates.
- Richard Manse stated the water was so high near Pennsylvania Avenue the fire hydrants were submerged.

- Maggie Devorek, 2005 Princeton Avenue, stated everyone is suffering because they lost personal items. She stated the residents are looking to council on how to move forward. She stated no one is quite sure what to do or the next step to take. She stated she believes the sound barrier wall is a large reason for the flooding near Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. McLemore thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions. He stated he appreciated everyone trying to work together on this issue.

He stated in response to the questions about the new sewer plant, those plans cannot be changed. The Federal Government has dictated the necessary changes and the Borough must comply with those changes.

Mr. McLemore asked the following rhetorical questions:

- How much are you willing to spend as a community to fix the problems?
- How much are you willing to spend as individuals for the responsibility of the problem, (ie, sump pumps, insurance, etc.)
- Should there be a moratorium on all new building until this is resolved?
- Should we not allow the removal of any trees until this is resolved?
- Do you want to remain a separate Borough or do you want to merge with a neighboring municipality?

Mr. McLemore stated updates would be posted to the Borough's website. Ms. Donahue requested an opportunity to get a sense of what the other council members thought about these issues and was wondering if they should grant the borough engineer approval to begin the assessment.

Mr. McLemore stated he would not re-read the original seven steps to follow and that the issue will be addressed at the next council meeting in 6 days.

## **INFRASTRUCTURE**

Mr. Kline stated the bid opening for the pipe under Trindle Road was Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup> and the lowest responsible bidder was EK Services, Inc.

- Motion made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Guerin, to approve EK Services, Inc. as the contractor to install the new sewer pipe under Trindle Road. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss council was adjourned by Mr. McLemore at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Shambaugh, Borough Secretary