

Penndel Borough Council Meeting Minutes

February 5, 2024

Council President John Stratz called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present at the Meeting

- Council President John Stratz
- Council Vice President Barbara Heffelfinger – absent
- Councilman Mark Moffa
- Councilwoman Robin Valentis
- Councilman Gary Nickerson
- Councilman Bud Murphy
- Councilman Bob Winkler
- Mayor Tom Sodano

Also present at the meeting

- Dave Truelove, Solicitor, Hill Wallack
- Geoff Thompson, Borough Manager
- Sean Perry, Police Chief
- Carol Schuehler, Value Engineering
- Marie Serota, Secretary/Treasurer

Council or Borough Announcements

Mayor Sodano apologized to new Councilwoman Robin Valentis for mispronouncing her name at the last meeting.

Consent Items

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 2, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING AND TO PAY THE FOLLOWING BILLS FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2024:

General Fund	\$38,443.81
Fire Tax Fund	\$ 66.92
Refuse Fund	\$22,388.67
Sewer Fund	\$83,223.18
Debt Service	\$.85
Capital Reserve	\$15,839.58
Liquid Fuel Fund	\$ 9,249.54
Non-Uniform Pension Fund	\$ 3,000.00
Police Pension Fund	\$ 3,000.00
Escrow Fund	\$ 114.00
Payroll Fund	\$ 1,082.85

Payroll

General Fund	\$28,742.98
Sewer Fund	\$ <u>3,512.26</u>
Total	\$32,255.24

Escrow Fund Bills

Schoolhouse Court:

Value Engineering \$114.00

SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY. All ayes, motion carried.

ReportsPresident's Report

John Stratz reported that they are going to start a new practice that the County Commissioners do for their meetings. Since they don't always have the answer to a resident's question and do not want to give the wrong answer, the form can be filled out with the question, and he can get back to them either at the next meeting or he can reach out personally before the meeting. That way they can give the citizens completely accurate information.

Borough Manager's Report

Geoff Thompson read his report which is on file in the secretary's office.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Sodano read his report which is attached.

Police Chief's Report

Chief Perry read his report which is on file in the secretary's office.

Solicitor's Report

Dave Truelove had no report.

Mayor Sodano asked Dave if borough council is legally required to include the mayor in all communications including emails pertaining to Penndel business. Dave said he would have to look and see what he was talking about. Mayor Sodano said he should be included in any and all communications with any police personnel or regarding any Penndel Police Department issues. His predecessor was compelled to initiate legal action regarding this same issue, so he'd like it noted that he expects to be included, especially in anything to do with the Penndel Police Department.

Engineer's Report

Carol Schuehler read her report which is attached.

Dave told Carol that because the land studies request is not on the agenda, it will have to be deferred to the workshop meeting under the Sunshine Act.

Gary asked Carol if there is a match required for the CDBG grant application for the basketball court. Carol said no. They do have to develop the plan, which is not a significant plan and the bid package for CDBG and administer the contract. That's the borough expense but the actual construction expense is generally covered by the CDBG grant. Gary said the ARPA funds the borough already has and is holding, those funds are for the specific repairs. Carol said that is correct.

Mayor Sodano said Carol talked about sediment reduction and infiltration. Since Langhorne Manor hill has no storm sewers, now that they've put those detention basins in, he asked if they positively or negatively will affect either Pennel's sediment reduction and/or the sewer infiltration. Carol said no to both. The sediment reduction is for their side of the tracks and their system. They can't take credit in any way as a borough. And, as far as the sanitary sewer is concerned, they're dealing with infiltration issues within the borough so, that again would be outside of Pennel. Mayor Sodano said she mentioned 50 Hulmeville Ave. and talked about the rejection by the borough of that plan that they submitted. Carol said they reviewed the plan and returned comments. Mayor Sodano asked if there has been anything from Bucks County Conservation on that. Carol said she has exchanged phone messages with them. Their reviewer was out sick, and his review will be coming soon. Mayor Sodano said that parcel has about a 4% slope roughly east to west, meaning it drops about four feet in elevation for every 100 linear feet moving westward from Hulmeville Ave. toward Chubb Run. And most of the properties immediately south of that parcel being the 300 block of W Lincoln Hwy., also have at least a 4% slope leading down to the cartway alongside the south side of that building. That cartway currently has a small area of gravel but it's predominantly paved. The rain gutters for that building dump the water right into that gravel area. It's going to flow down that cartway around the building and into the wetlands area that was disturbed behind the building. He asked Carol and Geoff why Pennel Borough issued permits for concrete work along the south wall of that building, which would obviously decrease any percolation into that gravel area and increase runoff and add to that water damage. He asked this question in an email to Carol, Geoff, borough code, zoning and a Bucks County Conservation District official. Nobody answered if they should be issuing permits for concrete work in an area that's already under this much scrutiny and being fined by the Bucks County Conservation District and the DEP. Carol said it was not her permit to review, it was a code permit. If they are removing asphalt and placing concrete, she doesn't think it's going to make a whole lot of difference with the storm sewer. If they are preserving the integrity of the building because there's a problem, she can understand why they would do that. Geoff said he looked at it after he was advised it was issued and he didn't see that it was a big deal. Mayor Sodano said he thinks it's an issue anytime they're decreasing how much water percolates into the ground and increasing how much flows into the area that they disturbed while they're under restrictions from Bucks County Conservation and the DEP.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE INVITATION TO BID FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF STORM INLET REPAIRS AS RECOMMENDED BY THE BOROUGH ENGINEER. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA.

Tim Weaver, asked how much of the COVID money is going into this. That money is still outstanding and none of these projects have been approved with that money except for the stormwater cleaning. Carol said this was planned with ARPA money, but she doesn't have it in front of her. The bid is set up with a base bid and two options so, once the bids come in, council will be able to look at the exact costs and how that relates to their other money. Tim asked how much money is left from the COVID money. John said he would get back to him.

All ayes, motion carried.

New Business

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO RATIFY APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MID-CYCLE INVOICES:

Langhorne Postmaster invoice dated 1/3/24 in the amount of \$297.01 for sewer/refuse billing postage
215Build invoice dated 1/4/24 in the amount of \$2,750.00, 50% deposit for windows in the police department
AT&T Mobility Invoice #X12262023 in the amount of \$156.35 for police department wireless service
Comcast invoice dated 12/26/23 in the amount of \$196.32 for internet and voice services at 300 Bellevue Ave.
Leck Waste Services Invoice #430513 in the amount of \$22,218.00 for January trash service
State Workers' Insurance Fund invoice dated 12/29/23 in the amount of \$1,555.00 for fire department workers' compensation insurance premium installment
The Hartford Invoice #357521827467 in the amount of \$680.68 for life insurance premium installment
Burcz Landscaping LLC invoices dated 12/31/23 in the amount of \$5,576.00 for lawn mowing service from April through December 2023 for all borough properties
GBA Premium Account invoice dated 12/1/23 in the amount of \$169.59 for dental insurance premium installment
WM Corporate Services, Inc. Invoice #6360-2448-1 in the amount of \$17,976.25 for December trash service
Signarama Invoice #3061 in the amount of \$1,145.00, deposit for the police department sign
Comcast invoice dated 1/2/24 in the amount of \$247.89 for internet at 790 Neshaminy St.
Comcast invoice dated 1/1/24 in the amount of \$378.79 for Business VoiceEdge service
Independence Blue Cross Invoice #240108455442 in the amount of \$6,248.83 for medical insurance premium installment
PECO Payment Processing invoice dated 1/9/24 in the amount of \$40.91 for electric at 790 Neshaminy Street
Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. invoice dated 1/22/24 in the amount of \$315.42 for the balance of July employee contributions for both pension plans
Selective Insurance Co. of America invoice dated 1/22/24 in the amount of \$7,983.00 for commercial package and workers' compensation insurance premium installment
PECO Payment Processing invoice dated 1/16/24 in the amount of \$1,412.43 for streetlights' electric

SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA.

Tim Weaver, asked about the \$1,145.00 deposit for the police department sign, what it is needed for and if it conformed to the new sign ordinance. Mayor Sodano said the sign does conform to the sign ordinance. One of the issues they've faced for a number of years is people come to this building looking for the police department because it's unmarked, so they're going to put a sign on the side of the building so that it's clear. Tim asked how much the sign costs.

All ayes, motion carried.

Letter from Penndel Planning Commission

Bud Murphy read the letter from the Penndel Planning Commission approving the sign for Manhattan Bagel.

MOTION BY BUD MURPHY TO APPROVE THE SIGN BASED UPON THE RECOMMENDATION FROM THE PLANNING COMMISSION. SECONDED BY JOHN STRATZ. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-1 APPROVING AND ACCEPTING BLANKET STORMWATER EASEMENT FROM SLR ACQUISITIONS, LLC, AS A RESULT OF CONSTRUCTION OF SINGLE-FAMILY HOUSE WITHIN THE BOROUGH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED SITE CONSTRUCTION/EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN FOR THE PROJECT. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY.

Gary asked what the easement was for. Carol said when a new home is built, they have to incorporate stormwater management. This easement is over the storm water management facilities that allows the borough to access them for inspection and maintenance, if necessary. It does not give the borough the obligation to operate the facility. It gives the borough the ability to evaluate if there's a question if the homeowner is operating it correctly and to inspect it while it's being installed and if there was a need to go in and address something that a homeowner wasn't taking care of. Usually, the OEM agreement would have that language in it as well.

Tim Weaver, asked if there is an ordinance covering this and if they have an enforcement mechanism in place to go after these people if there's something wrong with this blanket stormwater easement. Dave Truelove said the borough would have the right through the borough's obligation of health, safety and welfare through the MPC and also through the borough code. When there is a new house built, it has to undergo certain types of mandated requirements for different aspects of stormwater management. They don't want the property to cause any kind of runoff or flooding to other properties, so they had to develop a detention basin to capture the runoff and make sure that it operates properly. Periodically, the borough through either code enforcement or the engineer's office, will have the right to go there just to make sure it's maintained and operates properly and if not, then to make sure it's corrected. Carol said this property is proposing an infiltration bed, which is a big deep pit full of stone to pour any runoff from impervious areas into that infiltration bed and let it percolate down into the ground rather than running off the property onto the neighboring properties.

Dave Cahill, asked if Carol takes care of stormwater problems throughout the borough. Dave Truelove said she's involved in the process. Dave Cahill said he made a complaint about a stormwater problem in the rear of his property, the swale that runs the back of his property along the fence. The water is not draining properly and it's backing up on his property and the people that live behind him and next door. He asked the borough to send Carol out and she didn't show up.

All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY MARK MOFFA TO ADOPT RESOLUTIONS 2024-2, 2024-3, 2024-4 AND 2024-5 ACCEPTING THE BUCKS COUNTY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY GRANTS, FOUR DIFFERENT ONES, \$90,341.00 FOR A POLICE DEPARTMENT PATROL VEHICLE, \$51,180.00 FOR A PUBLIC WORKS PICKUP TRUCK, \$23,421.00 FOR THE PENNDEL/MIDDLETOWN EMERGENCY SQUAD CPR/CHEST COMPRESSION SYSTEM AND \$24,000.00 FOR THE PENNDEL FIRE COMPANY PARKING LOT MILLING, PAVING AND SEAL COATING PROJECT. SECONDED BY GARY NICKERSON. Gary pointed out that this is a grant program, and the borough has been awarded funds to make these purchases. This is just part of the process that they are accepting these grants. There is no match required. This is casino money. Mark thanked borough staff and professionals who were involved in this process. There is a lot of work that goes into applying for these grants and making the presentation to the Redevelopment Authority.

All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-6 AUTHORIZING THE RENEWAL OF THE CONTRACT FOR THE BOROUGH MANAGER FOR TWO YEARS, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 5, 2026. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY.

Dave Cahill, asked what he does and why they need him. John said he basically runs the borough. Most boroughs and townships have managers.

Jeff Jones, asked what type of raise he gets, if any. Dave Truelove said the hourly rate will go from \$75.00 to \$80.00.

Terry McIntyre, asked why a two-year contract instead of one. Dave Truelove said the borough code allows for an agreement of no more than two years, so this is consistent with the borough code. The issue here is whether they want to maintain some continuity. Terry asked if there's an issue with the contract, would the borough have the ability to part without having to pay it in full. Dave said there are termination provisions.

Ashley Fouch, asked why they have to renew the contract. She asked why they can't seek another candidate. Dave explained that theoretically, they could. The problem is the time expired, and he would not be working here at all and then they would not have a borough manager. The time to have done it would have been last year. Ashley asked if they could do month to month and do this as an open job and get a new candidate. They keep doing these things for multiple years and he gets a \$5.00 an hour raise. Post the job and let other people make things better. She asked why no jobs are posted and they just renew contracts.

Lynda Oettinger-Roe, said she heard a rumor that he makes in excess of \$70,000.00 for 15 hours a week. John said that is considerably less than all the managers in this area. Lynda asked who he answers to. John said council. Lynda said there are so many violations in town and so many ordinances being broken and he's not taking care of them. John explained they have an inspector that does that and if he doesn't, the manager will.

Gary said Geoff has been here for about 3 years. He believes it is money well spent. He oversees the day-to-day operations of the borough and supervises staff. He provides continuity and helps apply for grants. The amount of work that the borough has advanced since they've had a manager has been absolutely huge. This is an investment in the borough. He came here with decades of experience. If they were not happy with the work that he's doing, they could have terminated his agreement and looked for another manager. He believes the majority of council thinks that he's doing an excellent job. He is part time, and he does not receive benefits and pension.

Mark Kervick, asked, if he is doing such a great job for three years, what their debt was in 2021 and 2022. They're \$1,000,000.00 in debt right now. Gary said he didn't know where he got those numbers.

Unidentified Woman, asked for a job description for the borough manager, if he has an evaluation at the end of the year and if they could open the job up to someone else.

Mike Smith, asked Dave if there is a clause in the contract that says that Geoff could continue to work after his contract ends and get paid retroactively if there was an increase in his pay. They need to let the people know what their money is getting spent on. They are frustrated and need their questions answered.

Tim Weaver, said 15 hours a week at \$70,000.00 and if you were to put in a time for 40 hours a week, it would come to over \$204,000.00 salary for the year. And that's even counting the raise calculated in there. It's a disgrace that no one can answer the question.

Pat Dicken, asked who worked on the grants before Geoff. John said they had to pay to have them done.

Mark Moffa said there's an eight-page ordinance establishing this position and a three-page job description with at least 20 different responsibilities on file. Before they had a manager, the borough council president who is a volunteer, ran the town. Presidents turn over all the time and they have no continuity and it's often someone who doesn't have time to do everything.

All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADOPT RESOLUTION #2024-7 AUTHORIZING DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC RECORDS. SECONDED BY BUD MURPHY.

Anne Kinsey, asked how the records are destroyed and is it a law that it's seven years. Dave said it is the law under the act from 1968 for certain types of records that these qualified for. John said they are shredded. She asked if there was a cost for shredding. John said no.

All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO APPROVE AND SUBMIT THE 2024 CDBG APPLICATION FOR RENOVATION OF THE RECREATION FIELD BASKETBALL COURTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$130,000.00 AS OUTLINED IN THE 1/24/24 MEMO FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA. All ayes, motion carried.

MOTION BY GARY NICKERSON TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED NOTIFICATION POLICY FOR DELINQUENT SEWER/REFUSE ACCOUNTS AS OUTLINED IN THE 1/22/24 MEMO FROM THE BOROUGH MANAGER AND APPROVE THE DEFERRED PAYMENT AGREEMENT. SECONDED BY MARK MOFFA.

Geoff explained that staff has not been posting properties or shutting off water for the last few years based upon a prior council's policy regarding posting a property. In conjunction with Bucks County Water and Sewer, they would like to go back to, if necessary, posting properties that they have ten days to satisfy their delinquent account, or their water will be shut off. Right now, they send a series of notices and the following thing they'd like to do is start posting properties saying they have to pay within 10 days. If they don't, the water will be shut off. The posting and water shut off will be done by Bucks County Water and Sewer. They'd like to get accounts up to date and this is the only hammer they have to do that. He created this deferred payment agreement that they will work with people and have some sort of reasonable time frame for them to get up to date with their account.

Dave Cahill, asked when council voted to change the policy to not shut off the water. John said 2016 or 2017. Dave said he wants to know who voted on it and who they paid for doing the grants before they hired the borough manager.

Terry McIntyre, asked if when they changed the policy, if there was a waving of late fees for everyone equally. John said he could not answer that since it's been over seven years.

Vince Carcel, asked if there are people in this borough who get a waiver on their sewer bills because they have either medical or financial problems. John said he had never heard of that.

Mark Kervick, said he was the one that asked about the policies and procedures for delinquent refuse and sewer payments. He asked what they will have in place for those who may still be delinquent from 2016 and 2017. He asked how many delinquent accounts there are. John said they don't have that information at their fingertips.

Neil Berman, said he doesn't understand how they can shut his water off if he doesn't pay the sewer and refuse bill when he pays his water bill to somebody else. Mark said the PA General Assembly Act 28 of 2006 allows that.

Unidentified Woman, said they paid the mid cycle invoices, and they paid Waste Management almost \$18,000.00 and then they paid Lecks over \$22,000.00 for January. So, they're talking about late fees for the sewer but they're two months behind in paying the invoices. They can be two months behind but then they want to charge other people. Dave said they did not have a meeting in January. The woman said so their bills don't have to get paid if they don't have a meeting. Dave explained they were already paid and are being ratified.

Chris Cross, asked if he could see a copy of the memo they were talking about. Dave Truelove read the memo which is attached.

Tim Weaver, said they are lying. He has paperwork that went to Geoff, Marie and Bob. Comment #3 on the schedule of findings from Bee Bergvall and Company says for shut off procedures they had an unwritten informal policy and procedure for the shut off of delinquent sewer accounts that kept the past due list down. After a past due notice was sent to a property owner and account balance remained unpaid, a shutoff was sent to the property owner and was posted on the property, and it said council approved discontinuing this process a few years ago. There's nowhere in the records of council doing that.

Terry McIntyre, asked how it affects them not paying refuse. They're still going to have the trash picked up. Someone can't live in a home without sewer and water. It's illegal. So, if they were to do that then the person would have to be evicted. He asked what the time frame would be for that.

All ayes, motion carried.

Public Comment

Mike Smith, asked what Mark meant when he heard him outside the bathroom window talking to a resident and he said that's not what they wanted or had in their minds for the property at 50 Hulmeville. Mike asked if Mark was in charge of changing the TOD. John said it was all of council. He asked Mark if the owners of that property donated to him for his election. Mike asked why only one parcel was changed to metropolitan business.

Tim Weaver, asked questions about the 911 system going down, ransomware, how they would communicate with the employees and emergency management. He asked if they have local dispatch and response numbers or mass communications to the residents and when the last time PennDel drilled an emergency on paper. Also, if they could still govern, respond and provide services with no access to computers on the internet and about police losing access to their MDTs in their cars and also cell phones. He asked how they know they are prepared and who the person is in PennDel government who can say they are the point of contact to ensure when the computers go down, they can get the people's system and data back.

Dave Cahill, asked if there was an officer on the night of the rape on January 20th at the trucking company parking lot and on January 27th for the attempted child abduction on Walker Ave. Chief Perry said no for the 20th and yes for the 27th. Dave said they are still missing shifts since July of 2023.

Lynda Oettinger-Roe, asked if all shifts are covered in this town 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Chief Perry explained that they lost three officers in June, which is 1/3 of the department for full-time jobs. He has been saying for the six years he has been chief that the part-time model doesn't work. Dave Truelove said all police departments are facing the same challenge. There's a shortage of applicants. Chief Perry said he is trying to fix that by hiring more full-timers and less part-timers. The cost of four part-timers a year far outweighs what benefits for the year would cost a full-timer and you would retain them, and they're committed to 40 hours a week. With the lack of respect that there are for police officers, nobody wants to do it and they don't want to do it without benefits and a pension. Nobody does, especially when the neighboring departments after a couple of years, are making over \$100,000.00 a year. That's not even close to what Pennel officers are going to make. They put a lot into a background check and training and then they give them away to somebody else for free. Good ones leave and he's not going to hire bad ones just to keep them. That's not how he's going to run this department.

Mark Kervick, thanked the chief for trying to hire full-time officers. He asked what his plan was for the next two to three years. Chief Perry said one full-timer right now would be helpful and next year he would like to hire another one. Mark said they would need five full-timers, including himself, if they eliminated part-time entirely. Chief Perry said yes, but he doesn't ever see that happening with the budget. If three were covering the 2,080 hours a year, that would be a huge relief covering shifts and then they can utilize the part-timers and a little bit of a different method where we could have them cover weekend hours or have them cover staggered shifts or have them be a second officer on duty, which would increase the safety of the officers that are working full-time. The cost of the benefits and pension contributions can be offset by not hiring four part-timers a year because it is about \$15,000.00 per part-timer for training hours actually worked while they're working with somebody else and then the cost of a vest, gun duty belt, uniforms, life insurance policies, etc. Mark said they are looking at 20% increase just for the police department and they are already \$1,000,000.00 in debt.

Ashley Fouch, said nothing was mentioned about what happened in the truck parking lot. Chief Perry explained that it is a state investigation, and the state police are handling it. Pennel Police did assist them the next day with some of the investigation, but he can't speak on another agency's case because he doesn't have all the facts. There could be repercussions if they release information that's not factual and true. Ashley said they should be informed. Chief Perry said if there was an immediate threat to the residents, that would have been put out immediately. The state police released the information to the media who reported on the incident. Ashley asked Mayor Sodano about 50 Hulmeville Ave. and when he was asking about the permit, Carol and Geoff said they weren't involved. She wanted to know who knew about it.

Tim Weaver, complained about the amount of cubic yards of sediment that area is dumping into Chubb Run and that they are going to let them disturb another area. They need to fix what's broken first. The flow from the rain just sucked the sediment right into Chubb Run.

Terry McIntyre, said they don't need details, they just need to know that there was an incident and what type it was. Chief Perry said that's why it was reported to the news media by the state police who are handling it. For whoever is in charge of the ordinances, Bristol Township is



www.value.engineering
1578 State Road, Coopersburg PA
1-888-343-8673

February 5, 2024 Engineers Report Pennel Borough, Bucks County

➤ CDBG Grant Application

If directed by Borough Council, we will prepare an application for CDBG funds to resurface the Basketball Court at Memorial Park, add some benches and replace the aged chain link fence around the court. CDBG grant applications are due March 1st. We anticipate the grant application amount would be in the range of \$130,000.

➤ Inlet Repairs with ARPA funds

We have prepared a bid package detailing repairs to 70 inlet structures throughout the Borough. The bid is broken into three parts, with the highest priority repairs in the first group.

Bidders will provide costs for the base bid: 17 structures that are in most urgent need of repair. They will bid on option A, another 20 structures that are in need of repair, and option B, another 32 structures that require repairs or grouting.

Borough Council will be able to consider award of the base bid, or the base bid plus options depending on costs and available funding. To proceed, we request Council **authorize the project to be advertised** for bidding.

MS4 Permit Renewal

Our office prepared the MS4 permit renewal application and submitted it to DEP. The current permit expires on July 31, 2024, and the renewal application was required to be submitted by February 2nd.

The materials submitted to DEP for permit renewal indicate that the Borough met required sediment reduction standards in the Mill Creek watershed as a result of the storm sewer cleaning work. The Borough did not meet standards for sediment removal in the Neshaminy watershed.

To meet standards for the Neshaminy Watershed, the Borough must increase street sweeping frequency to a minimum of 6 times annually per DEP pollutant reduction guidelines, and select another sediment reduction project or projects. The prior approved plan to install a hydrodynamic inlet was derailed by a change in DEP standards.

➤ Growing Greener Grant

We have requested and received another extension for the Growing Greener grant from DEP. The extension is for one year, with a completion date of December 31, 2024.

The growing greener grant was awarded to the Borough on December 30, 2020 for installation of the CDS Hydrodynamic Inlet on Walker Avenue.

In May of 2021 we completed survey and were working with the inlet manufacturer on sizing the structure and contacted DEP with a question. This is when DEP advised us standards had changed, and the inlet was no longer an acceptable solution for this watershed.

We have had numerous conversations and meetings with the Department about alternate solutions. We looked at stream bank stabilization on the Chubb Run behind Pump Station 2 and Rita's, we looked at stream bank stabilization along the Mill Creek Tributary near the apartments, but neither could be accomplished within the program criteria.

We recently looked at addressing bank erosion for the waterway that is on the former sewer treatment plant property. Erosion has chewed at the stream banks, and the Borough has ownership and control of the land. This appears to be a feasible solution to meet pollutant reduction criteria for the MS4 program.

For further expertise in this matter, I contacted a firm that specializes in stream restoration design, Land Studies. They suggested a site visit from their engineer; a \$500 cost. Following the site visit, the Borough will be provided a cost proposal for a feasibility study and project estimating. If Council is agreeable, the engineer from Land Studies can visit in coming days to start this process.

50 Hulmeville Avenue

In January, a plan was submitted to both Penndel and BCCD to address outstanding violation notices for earth disturbance and waterway encroachment along the rear of this property. A review was issued by our office last week. We requested that they address all comments and resubmit.

Holly Avenue SLR Property

A new home is proposed on an existing lot on Holly Avenue. They have provided a stormwater design that meets the Borough Stormwater Code and are awaiting confirmation of sewage planning exemption.

Hydrant on Bellevue near Lincoln

PennDOT is currently performing a study for installation of a sign to prohibit trucks over 45 feet in length from making the turning movement that results in repeated damage to the fire hydrant.

NICMP

BCSWA required changes to the municipal charts of the Neshaminy Interceptor Connections Management Plan. The most significant revision was the removal of most "miscellaneous future connections" from municipal charts as a result of a recent DEP directive. We updated the chart as required but included one miscellaneous EDU annually. We have sent the updated chart to BCWSA and await reply.

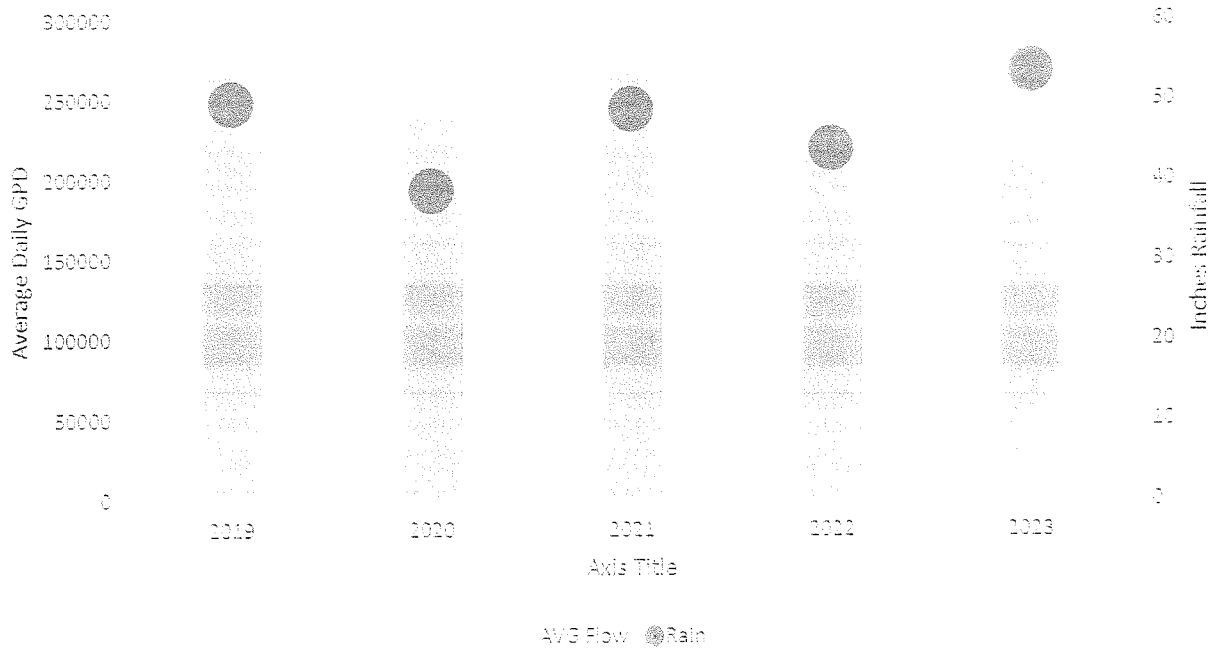
Chapter 94 Report

We have prepared the Penndel Borough 2023 Annual Wasteload Management Report for Penndel's sewage collection system and submitted it to DEP and the engineer for BCWSA. Total flows were up slightly from last year, coinciding with annual rainfall amounts about 30% higher than average. A graph of annual flow and annual rainfall over the past 5 years is provided below.

DCED grant for Inflow and Infiltration Work

I am pleased to report that the Borough has received a \$136,187 grant for sewer I&I work. Back in December of 2022 an application was submitted for the COVID-19 ARPA PA Small Water and Sewer program. Notice of grant award was received last month. This grant will help fund remaining repairs in Quadrant 1, and video inspection and trenchless repairs in Quadrants 3 and 4 of the Borough collection system.

Average Daily Flow and Total Annual Rainfall



Penndel Borough Planning Commission
300 Bellevue Avenue
Penndel, PA 19047
January 11, 2024

R.E Sign Permit application for Manhattan Bagel, 33 E Lincoln Hwy, Penndel PA - parcel # 32-005-039

Dear Penndel Borough Council;

The Penndel Borough Planning Commission met on Thursday, December 28, 2023. Present were Planning Commission members Leo Campbell, Hugh Campbell, Barbara Sodano and Council liason Francis Murphy.

The purpose of the meeting was to consider the sign application for Manhattan Bagel, 33 E Lincoln Hwy, Penndel PA. No representatives of the applicant were present.

The Planning Commission reviewed the application and considered it's conformity to relevant Borough codes and ordinances including, but not limited to, section 405-40 "General Sign Regulations", and all sections thereof.

The Planning Commission found that the proposed sign met all Borough Code requirements for such signs and the installation plan is consistant with all current good practices.

The Planning Commission voted unanimously in favor of the application and recommends Council approve the sign application and that no further action is required on Council's part.

Respectfully submitted,
Penndel Borough Planning Commission;

Francis Murphy
Leo Campbell
Hugh Campbell
Barbara Sodano

To: Borough Council & Mayor
From: Geoff Thompson, Borough Manager
Date: January 22, 2024
Re: Delinquent Accounts - Sewer & Refuse

Currently, Borough staff is following a policy established by a previous Borough Council which prohibited the physical posting for properties with delinquent accounts. Staff is recommending that Borough Council adopt a new policy which will allow for the posting of properties.

The current notification policy is as follows;

Current Notification Policy

Step 1: Past Due Notice mailed - after 7 days of after the due date

Step 2: Second Past Due Notice mailed - after 7 days of first Notice.

Step 3: Disconnect Notice mailed Certified – after 7 days of the Second Notice.

Proposed Notification Policy

Step 1: Past Due notice mailed - after 7 days of due date

Step 2: Second Past Due mailed - after 7 days of first Past Due Notice

Step 3: Third Past Due Notice mailed Certified – after 7 days of the Second Past Due Notice

Step 4: Property Posted (by BCWSA) - after 7 days of the Certified Past Due Notice

Step 5: Water Shutoff (by BCWSA) - after 10 days (The entire amount owed will become due and must be paid before the water is turned back on)

This proposed process is followed by most municipal utilities. Reasonable Payment Agreements will be accepted if the customer contacts PennDel Borough.

The proposed notification policy was developed by speaking with BCWSA and reviewing how other municipal utilities manage delinquent accounts.

BOROUGH OF PENNDEL
DEFERRED PAYMENT AGREEMENT

THE FOLLOWING IS A DEFERRED PAYMENT AGREEMENT FOR SEWER AND REFUSE SERVICE IN ARREARS.

TERMS OF AGREEMENT:

The undersigned hereby agrees to pay for charges incurred during the period ending _____, amounting to \$_____, resulting from sewer and refuse service supplied at the following address: _____.

In lieu of paying the total amount today, the undersigned hereby agrees to make partial payments as set forth below:

\$ _____	on _____	\$ _____	on _____
\$ _____	on _____	\$ _____	on _____
\$ _____	on _____	\$ _____	on _____
\$ _____	on _____	\$ _____	on _____

If an applicant for service has not fulfilled the terms of a Deferred Payment Agreement, the utility shall have the right to disconnect service or refuse services in accordance with these rules and under such circumstances, it shall not be required to offer subsequent negotiation of a Deferred Payment Agreement prior to disconnection.

Any payments made by the customer in compliance with a Deferred Payment Agreement, or otherwise, shall be first considered made in payment of the previous account balance with any remainder credited to the current bill.

While under the terms of this agreement, payment of all future utility service bills must be received in full by the due date.

If you are not satisfied with this agreement, do not sign. If you do sign this agreement, you give up your right to dispute the amount due under the agreement except for the utility's failure or refusal to follow the terms of this agreement.

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20____.

CUSTOMER'S SIGNATURE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

ACCOUNT NO. & NAME: _____

ACCEPTED BY BOROUGH OF PENNDEL:
