

Public Sewers Are Coming!

Hi, neighbor!

I'd like to respond to the letter dated August 28, 2007 we received from Tom Zeuner, Executive Director of the Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority (NBCMA), the Water & Sewer Authority, regarding public sewers installations in high priority areas, namely, Traymore Manor, Grenoble Manor, Harvest Acres, and residents along sections of Almshouse Road and Jacksonville Road.

The Township Solicitor and Township Manager have said on record that the total installation costs can be expected to be in the range of \$20-25 million. If we use as our basis 500 homes (they call them Equivalent Dwelling Units, or EDUs), that's an average of \$40-50,000 per home, not counting your home-to-street tie-in or decommissioning of your on-lot disposal system.

If public water is also installed, we can expect another \$10 - \$12,000 per home, based on a recent installation proposal I've seen for a nearby community.

The installation of Public Sewers is a "Done-Deal". There is no debating it or voting on it. The Township committed to installing public sewers in the high priority areas mentioned above in its plan approved by the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) back in Feb. 1997. Public Sewers were scheduled to be operational by Feb. 2002. The Water & Sewer Authority simply chose not to do the installation, in violation of PA law, and now it looks like **we're going to pay dearly for it due to construction costs increases** over the past decade. It's my understanding that we can now expect public sewers to be operational by late 2010/early 2011.

Mr. Zeuner's letter mentions the NBCMA will hold a special public meeting with affected property owners, after the updated project plan is approved by the PaDEP, to discuss the plan and its implementation. I understand this approval may not come until late 2007. Accounting for the holidays, we may not get to participate in this important meeting until January 2008. I feel this is much too long a wait for us as we need their best information now, even if it is a bit sketchy and filled with caveats. I will ask the NBCMA to strongly consider having this informational meeting much sooner.

In the meantime, I urge everyone who can, attend every NBCMA public meeting (normally the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month @ 7:30 pm) with me and we'll ask for a status of the Public Sewers Project as concerned citizens, even if it's not on their agenda for the evening. It's always best to call the NBCMA beforehand (215-357-8515) to make sure their meeting is on for the evening you want to attend. NBCMA public meetings are held at 111 Township Rd., Richboro, PA.

The next NBCMA public meeting is set for next Wednesday, September 26 @ 7:30 pm. Come out if you can. Insist that the board provides us open and timely communication on this important issue!

Thank You!

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