

**BERWICK TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 27, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Berwick Township Board of Supervisors held a Special Meeting on August 27, 2015, 6:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building, 85 Municipal Road, Hanover, PA. The Board met with the New Oxford Municipal Authority to discuss the possible purchase of Hamilton Township's sewer system. Chairman Foltz called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present were Supervisors Bob Foltz, Earle Black, Barry Cockley, Pete Socks, Tom Danner, Solicitor Tim Shultis, Secretary Jean Hawbaker, NOMA Representatives Steve Hovis and Tom Beamer.

Mr. Hovis explained they were in the preliminary stages. Berwick Township owns a wastewater treatment plant, and has an Intermunicipal agreement with Hamilton Township. Hamilton Township's collection system is treated at the Berwick Township treatment plant. Hamilton Township approached NOMA about potentially taking over their collection system. NOMA currently operates a wastewater treatment system and a water system. Both of those systems operate in New Oxford Borough and Oxford Township. We received a copy of your agreement with Hamilton Township, which may prohibit them from selling to us. Another option whether Berwick Township would be willing to consider the ultimate sale of the entire system to NOMA to own and operate. Tom Beamer has done some initial review of the entire system. We believe if we join the NOMA workforce and utilize them to operate both systems, that ultimately Berwick Township and Hamilton Township would see a cost savings from their rate payers.

Mr. Beamer explained that Hamilton Township approached NOMA. When we look at a broader picture of possibly joining both systems, there would a significant rate decrease. We do the same testing and the same maintenance.

Mr. Hovis stated Hamilton Township cannot withdraw without the written consent of Berwick Township; furthermore, they cannot assign their interest in the agreement, without the consent of Berwick Township. If Berwick is happy with the way things are working and not allow anyone to withdraw, just tell us, and we will go away. We want to know if you will consider it. We are not looking for a decision tonight. We would like direction from the Board.

Tom Beamer stated this is preliminary, but the proposal on the table is a 20% decrease in their rates. The minimum per quarter is 5,000 gallons. We would like to increase that to 8,000 gallons. We looked at Hamilton Township's budget and balance sheet, and we took an in depth look at the equipment and what we could do.

Tom Danner stated that for clarification purposes, NOMA's taking Hamilton Township's sewage and doing their administrative work. Mr. Beamer stated yes, along with maintenance on their pump stations, billing, debt collections and DEP reporting.

Barry Cockley wanted to know what the average customer fee is on a quarterly basis. Tom Beamer stated it would be \$90.00 per quarter.

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Tom Beamer stated NOMA has 7 licensed operators in sewer and water, an accredited lab and developed a maintenance program that has proven very effective, and our meters are radio read. We are very efficient.

Mr. Hovis explained that Hamilton Township has some financing associated with the sewer, so we spoke to some of the agencies that have financed it.

Tom Danner wanted to know if there would be any impact with DEP or the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Hovis stated we have not gone that far yet. If you have any interest in going down this road, you create a subcommittee and we create a subcommittee to talk about the issues to get to a point where we can reach an agreement.

Tim Shultis stated we could give you an answer to both or just one after our next meeting. We rely on Hamilton to offset our operation and maintenance costs. They have an investment in the plant. We would have to do our own budgeting to determine whether or not based on our user rate, if it would be financially feasible to allow Hamilton to withdraw. We need to study the issue.

Tom Danner wanted to know if Berwick could see the preliminary budget done for Hamilton.

Mr. Hovis stated we would be happy to sit down with you to discuss how we did the analysis and where we think the efficiencies of the Hamilton budget may relate to the Berwick budget.

Bob Foltz wanted to know when NOMA was last upgraded and how much more can NOMA take in and still meet their limits. Tom Beamer stated 3 – 4 years ago. We are working on a hydraulic upgrade, roughly 1.8 mgd, which is what we are allowed. We want to go to 2.4 mgd. We man our system from 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. with 24 hour on call service. The system has built in alarms.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1) Supervisor Foltz gave keys to the Supervisors that did not have one to unlock the recycling trailer.

SOLICITOR:

- 1) Tim Shultis explained that during executive session at the last meeting, the Board was consulted regarding issues with Lincoln Speedway, which may have had something to do with potential litigation and to review and discuss agency business, and if conducted in public would violate lawful privilege or lead to disclosure of information relating to the possible violation.

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PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Supervisor Foltz moved to adjourn at 6:38 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Socks.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean A. Hawbaker, Secretary
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