

## SUMMIT HILL BOROUGH SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 21, 2012

There was a special meeting held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at 7 P.M. at the Borough Hall. Council members in attendance were: Michael Kokinda, Michael Alabovitz, Francis O'Gorman, William O'Gurek, William Chapman and Jesse Walck.

The Special meeting was to discuss Sewer issues with in the Borough and the possibility of imposing a yearly Transmission fee for maintenance and repairs to the system.

**No Questions/Comments made from Council to open meeting. Questions open to the floor with response from council:**

**Question from the floor:**

- A Summit Hill resident feels like we have no choice but to fix and take care of our sewers; it has been an ongoing problem for many years; we are also not counting the cost of savings for the borough residents

**Response from council:**

- Borough Council Members agreed; stating all the residents are responsible for the sewers lines within the borough and maintenance needs to start as soon as possible.

**Question from the floor:**

- When the money is collected is there going to be a clause in the ordinance that the money is technically for the sewer?

**Response from council:**

- Yes

**Question from the floor:**

- The property owner is liable for the main line, correct? Is it possible for a home owner to get a contractor to put in a new line for the house for the main at the time?

**Response from council:**

- Yes. They don't see why the home own owner wouldn't be able to but they aren't sure at the current time; once they are replacing the lines on a block however, they are going to have to replace it.

**Question from the floor:**

- There's a property and the property owner is deceased, No one is now living in the residence. Who is liable for the property?

**Response from council:**

- The estate

**Question from the floor:**

- Which residents will have to pay for the sewer line transmission fee?

**Response from council:**

- Only sewer line customers will have to pay transmission fee. Residents that have septic systems will not be charged or responsible; As long as you're not connected to the sewer line you will not be responsible.

for what has been suggested? I don't know how you can  
so that each person who wants information. Is this a

- This is an informal first step and we are very early in this process that is why we are having this meeting because having the residents input is very important to Council; this is however a long-term plan for the borough.

**Question from the floor:**

- My concern is you have no plan and how many years is it going to be? There has to be written plan not just general information for the public.

**Response from council:**

- In order to do some type of plan we need money. We need an engineer, there will be engineering fees. Someone to inspect all the sewer lines, which we don't have anyone yet to do. We must solve all problems and issues first. We are possibly looking at \$100,000 per block for the sewer lines.

**Question from the floor:**

- Can we get any type of grants that would help with the costs?

**Response from council:**

- Unfortunately if we would apply for a grant and the water authority had an issue they would come in and look at our rates and they would tell us to raise them because our rates are too low as it is.

**Question from the floor:**

- How much will the cost be per year for each customer?

**Response from council:**

- It will be a flat fee for every unit (EDU) not just properties.

**Question to Landlords in attendance:**

- How many EDU's (Equivalent Dwelling Unit) are within the borough?

**Response from council:**

- It's hard to go by the number of households because of the school house apartments, rod and gun club apartments, etc.  
The first step we need to do is find out how many EDU's there are, how many connections, and then you can base our number off of that. Garbage collection is roughly 1500 households.

**Question from the floor:**

- How would you bill the school house apartments with how many EDU's they have?

**Response from council:**

- It would depend on the number of EDU's that we came up with and say it would be either \$50 per unit or \$100 per unit. It would be based on a flat fee, where each unit was measured by water consumption.

**Question from the floor:**

- When we start getting billed, will it be on our bills for the sewer or will it all be on one bill? Is it going to specify, quarterly or monthly?



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et; putting it on the quarterly bill is one possibility as well and the money will be kept separate for sewer

**Question from the floor:**

- When it gets to the point where it is about to go through does that work go out on bids?

**Response from council:**

- Yes the work will go out on bids.

\*\*Shireen Parsons ó flooding in basements. ó Sewer line is very bad. ó If the borough doesn't act with the sewer line, is the borough liable for the households whose basements get flooded?

- Yes our sewer system is getting older and falling apart but what happens, like Memorial Day, where it rained so hard and so fast. People pumped basement flooding in sewers; it has to be pumped outside. Some residents in Summit Hill had no consideration for neighbors. Didn't take sub pumps out of floor drain and put it outside. Not sure how many hundreds of thousands of gallons of water was being pumped into the pump station.

**Question from the floor:**

- First Cost ó Engineer fee/Camera?

**Response from council:**

œ Just to get the camera may be in \$60,000 range? But we're not exactly sure at the current time.

**Question from the floor:**

- Our storm drains haven't been cleaned in a long time. On several blocks there are weeds growing in them, the storm drains haven't been lifted in years and the bricks are collapsing in the storm sewers. The storm sewers are also higher than the street. There are a lot of areas which have to be checked on our storm sewers. There also have been certain areas that have been closed off where the water used to run. Where has/is that water now going?

**Response from council:**

- Will have the Workforce crew review the entire storm drains through out the borough and start cleaning and maintaining before the winter months.

**Question from the floor:**

- Do you have any idea of the cost for engineering fees? It doesn't sound like our storm drains are capable of handling everything because there is in such a bad shape. It's such a diverse problem that they are going to overflow into people's basements.

**Response from council:**

- If we do get the storm drains cleaned out that it may reduce some problems and it may help so that residents' basements are not being backed up with water as bad. As far as all the fees involved, the last meeting Ron put out some numbers of what it may cost for some fees and what it may cost for a camera. We are also not sure of what type of testing we may have to do. We are not sure because we don't know everything that is involved with the process yet.



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- - It would only make sense that if you were going to dig it up and do one then you might as well do both. Replacing Water lines?

**Bill Chapman:**

- Stated that his theory is this is going to be a separate account. We are going to be responsible for making sure that everyone is informed through every meeting with what money is in the account, the withdrawals that are made for repairs, and accounting will be made for those repairs. He is also a tax payer and is also interested in where his money going. He just wants to assure all the residents that the money will be accounted for in where it's going/what it's going for.

**Adjourn - Motion was made by Bill Chapman and second by Michael Alabovitz to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm; motion opened to the floor for comments; none made; Motion approved.**

**Susan K. Gibiser  
Secretary  
Summit Hill Borough**