

**Planning Commission  
Minutes  
July 6, 2009  
7:30 PM**

**Present:**

Brett MacKay, Vice Chairman  
John Gabriel  
Tim Shafer  
Paul Rea  
Robert deHaan  
David Mosesso  
Nancy Becker

**Absent:**

Patricia Younce, Chairman  
William Schalleur

**Staff:**

Joseph Leis, Director of Community Planning

**Opening Comments**

Vice Chairman MacKay called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Minutes**

Vice Chairman MacKay asked if there were any comments on the minutes and corrections were noted. Vice Chairman MacKay asked for a motion to the June, 2009 minutes, John Gabriel moved to approve and Dave Mosesso seconded.

Voting for:   Brett MacKay  
                  John Gabriel  
                  Tim Shafer  
                  Bob deHaan  
                  David Mosesso  
                  Paul Rea  
                  Nancy Becker

Absent:       Pat Younce  
                  William Schalleur

Vice Chairman MacKay announced next application.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Act 537**

Bill Dingman of Bursich Associates explained what an Act 537 Plan consists of and the current proposal to amend the Plan. He gave some history as to the agreement with Upper Gwynedd. He then explained the Merck request through Upper Gwynedd to purchase additional capacity.

He went on to explain the operation and funding of the Plan. Merck will pay approximately \$3.7 million. He showed a map with the location of the pipe to carry the waste. Bill explained the DEP formula.

Nancy Becker asked for clarification of the percentage of ownership between Upper Gwynedd and Towamencin. She then asked could this result in reduction to the sewer bills.

Tim Shafer asked what the size of the pipes are and will the old one stay.

Bob deHaan asked about the time estimated for the project.

John Gabriel asked if the new line will have excess capacity. Bill said it is for Merck only.

John Gabriel then asked about the 400,000 gallons excess capacity at the plant.

Bill dingman said there is 725,000 gallons of excess capacity, Merck will purchase about 500,000.

Paul Rea asked how much is Merck purchasing.

Nancy Becker asked what Worcester Township uses; Bill said it's just the one Development that's connected about 200 homes.

John Gabriel asked about how much excess capacity will be available. He doesn't feel comfortable with only 100,000 gallons remaining. He asked how do we know how much is actually sent to the plant. Bill described the process.

Nancy Becker asked about the metering process.

Nancy Becker asked what if a large user wanted to connect in the future. Bill said each applicant is reviewed when they want to connect.

Paul Rea asked about future expansion at the plant. Bill indicated they can expand

Tim Shafer asked would the new pipe be in Kriebel Road. Bill said yes.

Tim Shafer was concerned about Bustard Road being closed, during this construction it could cause traffic problems.

Nancy Becker asked about the current Authority Board and will this change anything. Bill said no.

Vice Chairman MacKay asked what is being sent to the plant. Bill said they currently discharge from their vaccine production. This would just be more.

Bill explained the regulations.

John Gabriel asked about dilution of the effluent.

Bill explained the plant operation.

Dave Mosesso asked if the plant is aware of this and can they handle the flow. Any upgrading to the plant will be paid by Merck.

Tim Shafer asked about the stream flow and will this additional discharge have any impact.

Bill described the location of the discharge.

John Gabriel asked when or to whom is the \$3.7 million to be paid, what additional costs will be incurred at the plant for treatment.

Bill explained the plant is reviewing that now. The operation and maintenance will go up but the sale of this capacity will result in Upper Gwynedd being responsible for more plant operation.

Nancy Becker asked will the applicant pay for any needed upgrades to the plant.

Bill said yes.

Nancy Becker asked about the recent problem Merck had with a fish kill.

Bill explained that was human error and Merck will be able to discharge to either the UGTMA plant or the existing plant in Upper Gwynedd.

Nancy asked about the trail being constructed with this project.

Nancy Becker thinks we should require any plant upgrades and the trail be constructed.

Dave Mosesso made a motion to authorize signature of the Plan and Tim Shafer seconded. With the condition that Merck through Upper Gwynedd pay all upgrades to the plant for this additional flow and that a trail be constructed over the pipe from Valley View Way Park to the plant in accordance with the Township Park, Recreation, and Open Space Preservation Update Plan.

Voting for: Brett MacKay  
John Gabriel  
Tim Shafer  
Bob deHaan  
David Mosesso  
Paul Rea  
Nancy Becker

Absent: Pat Younce  
William Schalleur

Vice Chairman MacKay asked if there was anything further, hearing none. Vice Chairman MacKay adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph T. Leis  
Director of Community Planning

JTL/ck