

PLAINFIELD TOWNSHIP

PLANNING COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING

April 4th, 2018

A special meeting of the Plainfield Township Planning Commission was held on Wednesday, April 4th, 2018 at the Wind Gap Middle School, 1620 Teels Road, Pen Argyl, PA 18072.

Chairman, Paul Levits, called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

The Pledge of Allegiance was performed.

ROLL CALL:

The following Commissioners answered roll call: Chairman, Paul Levits, Vice Chairman, Robert Simpson, Robin Dingle, Jeffrey Beavan, Terry Kleintop and Secretary, Paige Gerstenberg.

Also present were Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, Zoning Officer, John Lezoche, Solicitor, David Backenstoe, Esq., Special Environmental Legal Counsel, John Embick, Esq., Special Environmental Engineering Consultant, Michael Brunamonti, P.E., Alternate Township Engineer, Farley Fry, P.E., and Alternate Township Engineer, Robert Lynn, P.E.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

ACTION: Motion was made by Robert Simpson and seconded by Jeffrey Beavan to approve the February 21st, 2018 minutes as presented. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Paul Levits, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

TIME EXTENSIONS:

- 1. GRAND CENTRAL SANITARY LANDFILL, INC. (PEN ARGYL ROAD, PEN ARGYL, PA 18072) SLATE BELT HEAT RECOVERY CENTER:**

ACTION: Motion was made by Terry Kleintop and seconded by Robert Simpson to grant Grand Central Sanitary Landfill, Inc. and the Slate Belt Heat Recovery Center for an Extension of Time until August 31st, 2018. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Paul Levits, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 4-0-1 with Jeffrey Beavan abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. GRAND CENTRAL SANITARY LANDFILL, INC. (PEN ARGYL ROAD, PEN ARGYL, PA 18072) SLATE BELT HEAT RECOVERY CENTER SITE PLAN**

REVIEW; (APPLICATION RECEIVED FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD, 2018 and EXPIRES THURSDAY, MAY 24TH, 2018):

Chairman, Paul Levits, stated the intent of the applicant which is to construct a center for biosolids production. Plainfield Township Solicitor, David Backenstoe, named the members and representatives in attendance at the meeting on behalf of Plainfield Township. Attorney Backenstoe noted the rules to be followed throughout the meeting and the order of the presentation.

Waste Management representative, John Hambrose, introduced himself to the public and the Planning Commission. Mr. Hambrose stated that Waste Management has been in the Slate Belt for over 70 years. He noted that Waste Management is the largest provider in the United States. The applicant is seeking to use waste heat in order to recycle nutrients. Constructing this center would generate both revenue and jobs.

Synagro's Vice President of Project Development, Pam Racey, noted the changes that were made to the Preliminary Land Development application submission. One of the changes was the land use which was not properly zoned. The location of the site and the lot lines were changed in order to comply with Plainfield Township's Zoning Ordinance. Ms. Racey noted that the submission also clarified the access for the proposed facility. The road that will be used will be from Route 512 (an arterial road) and use the preexisting access drive to both enter and exit the facility.

The trucks proposed in the previously submitted Sketch Plan were also redesigned in order to address concerns that were stated from the Planning Commission. The trucks will also take the left over waste water to the plant that the biosolids were originally received from in order to eliminate all chances of the waste water getting into the waterways of Plainfield Township. Concluding the changes, many applications were submitted to subsequent entities including the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Ms. Racey noted that there will be other opportunities for residents of the surrounding area to attend information sessions about the application submissions to those entities. The submissions were very detailed. Ms. Racey mentioned to the Planning Commission that the noise levels were also addressed as this was a previous question from the Planning Commission. The proposed noise levels are at 60 decibels with the property line being over 25 feet away. The applicant will also be sure that the noise levels do not exceed the requirements. The applicant's intent is to adhere to the Boundary Standard only, and although the applicant is in accordance with OSHA, it is not their intent to strictly follow OSHA's standards as it is not required. Access to the submitted applications is available to the public on Synagro's website. The applicant also intends to hold a public Q & A on May 3, 2018.

Attorney Elizabeth Witmer, Esq., represented the applicant, Synagro Technologies, along with Attorney Matthew Goodrich, Esq. Ms. Witmer stated that the applicant is still waiting for a review letter from the County. Therefore, the applicant does not have all of the review letters at this point in time. Based on the letters that were already submitted by Plainfield Township and Hanover Engineering, there will be additional changes made to the submission in order to address the comments within the review. Ms. Witmer noted that there will be a court reporter present on stage with the Planning Commission in order to document and keep track of the concerns that are brought to the applicant's attention and to make sure such concerns are addressed.

Ms. Witmer stressed to the Planning Commission that their intended use is permitted by right within the Zoning District that is designated at the proposed location. Additionally, there will be two variances involved which will format the parking area. Such changes can easily be corrected. These changes will be part of the supplemental submission to Plainfield Township. Ms. Witmer noted that the sedimentation basin #2 shown on the plans is considered to be a developed water resource per Synagro's understanding. This water source is not a pond. Ms. Witmer also added that the access for the facility will be from an arterial roadway. Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, noted that the plans will need to include a Major Subdivision in order for the lot line adjustment to be rectified.

Following the discussion, Chairman, Paul Levits, allowed representative, Robert Lynn, PE, CSI from Hanover Engineering to read over the review letter dated March 16, 2018. The Hanover Engineer review letter is hereby incorporated for reference in these minutes as though it were more fully set forth at length as "Exhibit A".

Environmental Concerns:

Representative of Synagro Technologies, Dave Allen, responded to the following questions. One of the first comments from Hanover Engineering was in regards to Citizen Water. Mr. Allen noted that the applicant will replace the pit and fire hydrant with the assistance of the Plainfield Township Fire Company and PA American Water. Mr. Allen mentioned that there were errors within the narrative of the submission for Synagro Technologies, Inc in regards to sanitary wastewater and the discharge of the wastewater. This line item will be revised and corrected.

Information on the trailers that are currently proposed for use was also requested by Hanover Engineering. Mr. Allen stated that information on the trucks will be submitted. In relation to the trailers, it was requested that the applicant address environmental concerns with the transportation of sludge. Vice President of Project Development for Synagro, Pam Racey, noted that the trucks will be fully licensed, sealed, and contained. Therefore, there is no potential for leakage or the release of odors from the trucks.

It was questioned whether the biosolids would be dewatered and settled biosolids or a mixture of biosolids. Ms. Racey stated that the biosolids will be dewatered only. The pellet characteristics will be blended material only which consists of primary and secondary materials. Ms. Racey added that in regards to the odors, sprays will be used in order to mitigate any possible odors. It was also noted that there will be no potential for biological regrowth in the final pelletized product.

Hanover Engineering also requested information on the dust control coating that will be applied to the biosolids. Ms. Racey noted that this information was included in the DEP permit application. Synagro Technologies, Inc. will also be using another chemical called Aramaz.

Details on the proposed 5,000 gallon tank adjacent to the truck tipping area was requested by Hanover Engineering per their review letter. Mr. Allen stated that the general finalized detail on this matter will be given to the Township at a later time. In regards to the pumping station shown on the plans, the station will consist of duplex pumps which the material from those pumps will be hauled off-site. All of the saturated air stream will also be recycled, as stated by Mr. Allen.

Additionally, the proposed height of the storage silos are set at 75 feet. In regards to the proposed wastewater connection to the storage silos, there will be concrete pads present along with taking wastewater spillage measures. Mr. Allen also added that the proposed height of the process wastewater storage tank will be approximately 25 feet. Synagro's Project Manager, Jim Hecht, responded to the line item in regards to the use of waste heat from the landfill gas to energy facility versus natural gas over the next 20 years. Mr. Hecht provided that there will be approximately 84% of waste heat and 16% of natural gas.

Representative for EarthRes, Tom Pullar, responded to the question regarding submission of information regarding vector control and the corresponding standard operating procedures. Mr. Pullar noted that this information will be submitted with the SOP's. The process control information was submitted within the General Permit application with the DEP.

Information was requested in regards to the potential of sludge cake containing pharmaceuticals and the concerns with such. Currently, it was stated that there is no state or federal regulations in place for the use of pharmaceuticals. The applicant will be following the US EPA and the DEP regulations only. It was added that in regards to the potential for power failure and other unanticipated events, the NPDES and DEP permit applications included information on power failures and unanticipated events.

Representative, Brian Cataldo, provided information on the proposed cooling tower. He added that the tower will be a standalone unit at approximately 16 feet tall. The final

design has yet to be completed. For the above ground storage tanks, there will be cleaning systems put in place for all tanks.

The last line item addressed within the Environmental Concerns section of the review letter was in regards to a geotechnical report. Mr. Allen noted that Synagro Technologies, Inc. will provide a geotechnical report copy to Plainfield Township. Any other requested information was addressed within the application submitted to the DEP.

Zoning:

Within the Zoning section of the Hanover Engineering Review Letter, multiple items were also addressed by the applicant. The first matter addressed was in regards to the road classification where the facility will be placed. It was indicated by the applicant that the entrance and exit for the proposed facility will be located along an arterial road which is S.R. 512. The applicant also indicated that for the following matter, numbered as #2 under the Zoning review section, has been addressed within the PA DEP application that has been submitted. The applicant was aware that only one principal use is permitted on a lot.

The final line item within the Zoning portion of the review letter was in reference to a traffic study. It was requested by Hanover Engineering to accommodate truck passing in opposite directions for the western side access. Mr. Dave Allen stated that the exhibits that were previously submitted will be revised because of an overlap of movements shown on the submission. The truck traffic will be self-regulating. Additionally, there will be proper signage that will be provided for. In regards to the truck movements and passenger vehicles at the facility, it was stated by Mr. Allen that there will be adequate sight distance for the drivers on the site and the current proposed stage for the vehicles is typical for an industrial complex. It was also noted that there will be limitations to the eastern access way at the proposed facility location, especially with left turns.

Subdivision and Land Development:

Under the subdivision and land development section of the review letter, it was confirmed by the applicant that all properties within 200 feet of the proposed development have been rightfully notified. Additionally, there will be sanitary sewer profiles and water system profiles provided. Additionally, the perimeter boundary line of the site will be revised on the plan in order to reflect the changes made by the applicant. Mr. Allen also indicated that the site boundaries will also be abided by.

The existing utility easements, restrictive covenants and easements have been provided on the plan that was submitted by the applicant. Clarification in reference to the information on the addresses of landowner, developer, applicant, and respective corporate officers will be provided to Plainfield Township. Additionally, the Owner's Statement of

Intent will also be completed, signed and notarized. Mr. Allen also indicated that the project summary and zoning data information will also be provided.

In regards to §22-503.6.A and §22-503.B.C, the applicant will revise the plan in order to be in compliance with both sections. Soil characteristics, classifications, and definitions will be noted on the plan as requested within the newsletter. Additionally, there are currently no existing stormwater basins on the proposed area as indicated by Mr. Allen. It was requested by Hanover Engineering to provide evidence of plan approval by the Northampton County Conservation District in regards to erosion and sedimentation control to be provided. The applicant indicated that this information will be administered and issued by the PA DEP.

Mr. Dave Allen, noted that the slope areas shown on the submission will be in compliance as requested within the Hanover Engineering review letter. Mr. Allen also noted that the construction details of the sanitary sewer and water facilities will be provided for on the final submission. Deed restrictions and covenants imposed or to be imposed will be provided as well.

In reference to the public sewer, the Pen Argyl Municipal Authority will be providing a letter which will articulate the ability for Pen Argyl Municipal Authority to serve the project, conditions of service and authority to serve the facility. Mr. Allen stated it was duly noted that Plainfield Township, the Plainfield Township Planning Commission, and Hanover Engineering requested a traffic study to be conducted as it is essential to the review of this project. It was also duly noted by Mr. Allen that no subdivision or land development shall occur in such a way that it would negatively affect the health and safety of the public. Requirements for the recreation land area or fee-in-lieu of land will be provided.

Stormwater Management:

Under the stormwater management section of the review letter, Mr. Allen stated that design calculations for the proposed related inlet and pipe will be provided. In regards to the pre-development on-site ground cover, Mr. Allen stated that he believes this matter was addressed adequately within the submission from 2008 that was referenced. The Plainfield Township Planning Commission requested that more updated information regarding this matter be provided. Mr. Allen noted that they will come back to this matter once the review letter from the PA DEP has been received and reviewed. Precautions to be taken to prevent pollution of groundwater will also be provided.

Line item numbers 5 through 9 under the stormwater section of the review letter were noted and will be complied with as stated by Mr. Dave Allen. Evidence of the NPDES Permit approval and submitted application were requested. Mr. Allen stated that a copy of the application was submitted to the Township. Additionally, details of the specific

protections will be provided on the plan. §22- Appendix D.5.2 will also be complied with as stated by Mr. Allen. The stormwater management plan report narrative was also questioned and addressed. The plans in regards to this matter will be revised in order to show the changes made to the new spillway.

Mr. Allen added that drainage area maps will identify the flow paths used to determine the time of the concentration values and that the applicant will correct the grading at the upper reach of the proposed swale (707 Contour). The proposed swale will be labeled as Basin No. 2 Swale in order to stay consistent with the plans and stormwater calculations as requested by Mr. Robert Lynn of Hanover Engineering. In addition to this change, the stormwater easements will be provided around the stormwater facilities and that the easements will comply with §22-1009.11.B as requested.

General:

All items provided by Hanover Engineering within the general section of the review letter were duly noted by the applicant.

Commissioner's Comments:

Following the review letter from Hanover Engineering, Chairman, Paul Levits, made a reference to the design of the proposed trucks. Synagro's Vice President of Project Development, Pam Racey, added that Synagro will be using a trailer company, Travis Trailers, which will haul cake biosolids and liquid wastewater. Synagro is currently working with the company to slightly change tankage location. Chairman, Paul Levits, noted that this would be the first time that Synagro would be using these types of trucks considering there are changes being discussed between the manufacturing company, Travis Trailers, and Synagro Technologies, Inc. Mr. Levits also questioned who would be responsible if the current proposed design fails. Ms. Racey noted that Synagro would be the owners of the vehicles. More information will be provided regarding this matter at a later date.

Synagro's Project Manager, Jim Hecht, also added that these trailers, unchanged, have been used for decades and Synagro is only interested in redesigning the location to make the performance of the truck better. Both Synagro Technologies, Inc. and Waste Management use Travis Trailers.

Representative, Brian Cataldo, added that the typical odor standard is dilutions of threshold. Mr. Cataldo clarified by noting that the threshold increases and measures at emission point where the odors are located. This is also modeled with the distance to the property line.

Mr. Levits also made a reference to the OSHA rules and regulations. He questioned whether Synagro Technologies, Inc. would be required to follow the regulations set by OSHA. Synagro Technologies will meet all standards, but representatives noted that they are not designing the odor system in order to meet OSHA standards; the designs only resulted in being in compliance.

Township Manager, Tom Petrucci, questioned whether there are any safeguards with the odor emissions. Representatives of Synagro Technologies noted that they have continuous monitoring and censoring with the odor emissions. It was added that the system will be tested once everything is online and the operating perimeters are set. All settings will be aligned with the DEP requirements. Representative from EarthRes, Tom Pullar, also added that the odor control system is described within the DEP permit application that was recently submitted. The system is two stages. It is also designed to handle duct work and to control the odors from a two stage system.

Synagro's Vice President of Project Development, Pam Racey, reiterated that this system has two pumps. One of the pumps will be used for a backup in case of an unanticipated failure or other related issues. Ms. Racey added that these pumps have a 20 year life span. Additionally, there will be an alarm installed in order to notify the mechanics of any issues that may arise with the systems put in place. It was questioned whether there can be an alarm set at specific points based on the PH levels. Special Environmental Legal Counsel, John Embick, questioned representatives of Synagro Technologies on whether the Planning Commission can be rest assured that this will address all major issues with any possible malfunctions. Ms. Racey noted that this is not new technology and there are many facilities that have odor control and functioning system. Attorney Embick added that there are many facilities that have odor issues as well. Ms. Racey stated that the system is designed to capture, contain, and treat odors. Attorney Embick requested that Synagro Technologies prove to the Planning Commission that there will be no issues with odor emissions.

Chairman, Paul Levits, expressed concerns with the noise of the plant. Ms. Racey stated that there is a study that was done in Germany at another facility and she will forward that study to Plainfield Township. Commissioner, Terry Kleintop, questioned whether Ms. Racey has any support that rectifies any issues that may arise with the technology that is currently being proposed for use. Ms. Racey stated that Haarslev has many systems installed within the United States.

Commissioner, Robert Simpson, questioned the representatives about the trucks that are tarped with cake inside. Mr. Simpson asked whether the trucks will have a waiting time before they release the cake biosolids within the truck. Ms. Racey stated that there is potential for a slight waiting time, but a long waiting time is not likely. Mr. Simpson asked how the cake will be transferred. Ms. Racey responded by stating that the truck tips

into receiving pit where the cake is then released. Mr. Simpson asked Ms. Racey how the odors will be controlled once they are released from the truck. Ms. Racey noted that there is not enough volume and concentration within the period of time that it would require to create a nuisance condition. It was added that the receiving area does have a “pull effect” which extracts some of the odor into the odor control system. Commissioner, Robert Simpson, expressed concern with possible spillage of cake onto the ground. For instance, there is always a possibility of spillage during a rain storm. Representative, Brian Cataldo stated that the containment for receiving will have a concrete pad. Rain water will be pumped into waste water tank which will then be removed from the site. Mr. Simpson wanted to confirm that the truck has two compartments. Mr. Cataldo, noted that they are two compartment trucks which has a solid carrying trailer.

Mr. Simpson questioned whether the Township will be receiving a copy of the EPA pharmaceutical study. Ms. Pam Racey, stated that the requested information will be sent to the Township. There was a comment within the engineer review letter concerning a contingency plan for a power failure. Synagro’s Project Manager, Jim Hecht, noted that the notification letters that were sent out included all of that information.

Mr. Simpson also questioned whether stormwater runoff was also addressed within the booklet. It was noted that the NEPDES permit application articulated the stormwater management facility with basins and notated monitoring points. There will be no contamination within the basin. Mr. Simpson asked if the basin being referred to is an infiltration basin. Ms. Racey stated that it is an infiltration basin. It was noted that this basin is listed as an outfall on the Waste Management permit application, however, there has not been any discharge. Mr. Simpson asked whether there will still be an overflow swale in case of an emergency. Representative, Dave Allen, stated that the emergency spillway will drain into the Landfill access drive and through a pipe to Little Bushkill Creek.

Commissioner, Robert Simpson, had another question regarding stormwater discharge. Mr. Simpson wanted to be assured that there will be no contamination based on the stormwater discharge. Additionally, on the last page of the review letter, it was added that there are double walled above-ground storage tanks which are meant to store acid and hydrochloride which is used for cleaning at the facility. Mr. Simpson urged the applicant to go forward with a traffic study as this is a very important factor for this submission.

Commissioner, Robin Dingle, noted that she would like to see some type of long term water monitoring for the basin. Ms. Dingle added that this is a very porous area that has multiple wells which ultimately goes directly to resident’s water. Ms. Dingle would like to have additional perimeters due to the dated regulations in regards to this matter within Plainfield Township. Ms. Dingle expressed concern on the multiple issues that need to be further addressed in regards to impacts including the use of the trucks, roads, and the

traffic flow. She questioned what type of contingency plans the applicant has currently proposed in case of an incident where trucks go over pot holes (common issue in the area) and the odor that emits from the trucks at stop lights and stop signs within the Township and surrounding municipalities.

Commissioner, Terry Kleintop, brought multiple questions to the table. He questioned Synagro's Project Manager, Jim Hecht, if it was still the intent of the applicant to operate 24/7. Mr. Hecht noted that they will have the same operating hours as Waste Management's hours. Synagro's Vice President of Project Development, Pam Racey, also added that the truck delivery or entry to the facility will take place from 6:00AM-6:00PM Monday through Saturday. Mr. Kleintop stated that the applicant would be bringing in 400 tons from 6:00AM-6:00PM each day of operation. Per Kleintop's calculations, there would be about 16-17 tons per hour.

Mr. Kleintop stated that what this information is telling him is that at 6:00PM in the evening, the applicant will have 200 tons of Class B biosolids sitting at the facility for processing. Mr. Kleintop did not see any information on the submitted plans that would show that the applicant will properly control the biosolids material over the next coming hours. It was also questioned where the protective storage area is located on the plan for Class B biosolids. Synagro's Project Manager, Jim Hecht, noted that this area has storage which is designed to hold 600 tons at any given time. Mr. Hecht added that there are doors that can open and close during the day for transferring the material. Those doors will be secure after the proposed operating hours.

It is still the intention of the applicant to operate at the same hours as Waste Management. Synagro's Vice President of Project Development, Pam Racey, added that there are many plants which operate Monday through Friday. Ms. Racey noted that Saturday would be proposed to be a lower level of operation than during the week and Sunday would be used for cleaning the facility only. Based on the multiple calculations made by Commissioner, Terry Kleintop, he requested that a flow chart be created and supplied to the Plainfield Township Planning Commission based on the difficulty to calculate and understand everything.

Mr. Kleintop is also very concerned about the amount of biosolids that are going to be brought in at one time. Representative, Brian Cataldo, noted that the current proposed tank provides for three (3) days of storage. Mr. Kleintop requested literature to address the amounts and time frames for each delivery of biosolids. EarthRes representative, Tom Pullar, noted that there were flow charts that were supplied within the submitted applications to the DEP. Commissioner, Terry Kleintop, questioned Jim Hecht on what the projection was for the use of waste heat. Mr. Hecht noted that the percentages were 85% and 16% as previously discussed.

Mr. Terry Kleintop stated that the current cell capacity being proposed could possibly last until 2028-2029. The landfill will likely close a few years before then. Mr. Kleintop questioned what benefit there is for the applicant as it only seems to be 10-12 years. Mr. Hecht responded to Mr. Kleintop by stating that the applicant has used modeling information for their time frames that was supplied by Waste Management. Mr. Hecht also noted that it is still unclear the exact closing time frame for the Grand Central Landfill or when the gas will no longer generate enough energy for use.

Chairman, Paul Levits, wanted to clarify that there will be 20 trucks that will enter the facility with biosolid material and leave with the waste water. Ms. Pam Racey stated that this is in fact the current proposed schedule for each day of full operation. Mr. Levits asked who will own the trailers that are going to be used. Ms. Racey stated that Synagro Technologies will have ownership of these trailers. Mr. Levits also brought up a point as to whether or not the applicant will contract out with a hauler or not. Ms. Racey stated that the applicant has not decided at this point in time as to whether they will contract out haulers for the biosolids and waste water. Chairman, Paul Levits, referenced his concerns with pharmaceuticals not currently being regulated by the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Levits questioned if there were to be a legal change in current laws with respect to regulating pharmaceuticals, would the applicant then comply with such regulations once in effect. Ms. Racey stated that by law, they will need to comply with any regulations. Chairman, Paul Levits, questioned what the true hours of operation are for the facility as there seemed to be confusion on the actual hours previously in the meeting. Mr. Kleintop added to Mr. Levits question by asking who is responsible for setting the hours. Ms. Racey stated that the hours will be from 6:00AM to 6:00PM. She also noted that the DEP stipulated the hours that were set for operation. The receiving hours will be set at a later date by the managers. Mr. Paul Levits also questioned who the landowners would be for the facility. Ms. Pam Racey stated that the Grand Central Landfill will be the owners. Representative from EarthRes, Tom Pullar, noted that in the case of bankruptcy or if the applicant does not comply with specific regulations, there will be a bond set in order to cover those events.

It was questioned whether the Slate Belt Heat Recovery Center would hold such bond. Additionally, it was questioned what companies/entities are a part of the Slate Belt Heat Recovery, LLC. Representative, Pam Racey, stated that Grand Central Landfill will hold the bond. Also, the Slate Belt Heat Recovery Center, LLC. is compiled of three entities which include the Grand Central Landfill, Green Knight Energy Center, and Synagro Technologies. Ms. Racey added that the designated haul route that was detailed within the application submitted to Plainfield Township will be the same as Waste Management.

Special Environmental Legal Counsel, John Embick, Esq., Embick noted that he never knew a trailer to be tarped and airtight. Ms. Pam Racey stated that the tarping is not

100% airtight. Mr. Kleintop questioned Ms. Racey on where the Class B biosolids will be coming from currently. Ms. Racey is unaware of any specific generators at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Peter Layman, Solicitor for Pen Argyl Borough- Mr. Layman noted that there are major concerns on the impact this facility will have on Pen Argyl Residents. He mentioned that these concerns are quite significant.

Trudy Johnston, Chief Executive Officer of Material Matters- Ms. Johnston made many points and references to the letter she had written from Material Matters, Inc. dated April 3, 2018. The Materials Matter review letter is hereby incorporated for reference in these minutes as though it were more fully set forth at length as “Exhibit B”.

Ms. Johnston referenced the pollution threshold. She questioned how many times odorous air has to be diluted in order for there to be no trace of odors in the air. Ms. Johnston also requested clarification of the proposed biosolids and the sources that those biosolids will be from. In her experience, she noted that tarping trucks certainly produce odors. Other issues were also brought to the attention of the applicant including dust, gallons of waste water per day that are generated and noise.

Andrew Freda, Resident- mentioned concerns about 24-7 operations. Mr. Freda noted that there were many positive and negative aspects to the current plan that was submitted. He noted about property values dropping in the area. Mr. Freda added that a positive outcome of this plant would be that it generates revenue. Mr. Freda disapproved the findings that were offered by the applicant as some of which were conducted in other countries. There was much concern for the trucks that will be traveling up and down the road. Mr. Freda finished his comments by stating that the smell generating from the Grand Central Sanitary Landfill has yet to be fixed and adding another facility in the same area with the potential of strong odors will not help the matter.

Luther Bond, Podiatrist in Pen Argyl- expressed immediate concern of the medical waste with the proposed facility. Mr. Bond was quite surprised that such items such as pharmaceuticals do not need to be addressed, although they do in doctor’s offices. Mr. Bond also added that there are many viruses and bacteria that will be present at the facility because of the biosolids. Mr. Bond did not approve that these materials are not even being tested. He also added that the various toxic matters present at the area can be extremely dangerous especially if they all combine, there may be an enormous explosion like no one would believe. Mr. Bond added that there are also many side effects that the residents may have as a result of the facility. He noted that there may be many lawsuits on top of heightened healthcare costs for residents.

Emmanuel Damaris, Resident- questioned the Plainfield Township Zoning Officer on how this facility is considered a separation facility. Plainfield Township Zoning Officer, John Lezoche stated that it was defined within the Plainfield Township Zoning Ordinance. Mr. Damaris was very concerned about putting the surrounding resident's health and the environment at risk. Mr. Damaris also added that the approval of this facility would be in violation of Act of 1983. Additionally, Act 503 excludes the use of hazardous material. This Act only provides for domestic sewage, not commercial or industrial sewage. He noted that if the Planning Commission does the same, they will be in violation of rights as well.

Don Moore, Resident- expressed concern with offloading. Mr Moore questioned whether both access points at the facility will be used. Representative, Mr. Dave Allen, stated that they intend to use both access drives. Mr. Moore also brought up the 1999 Land Development Plan for the proposed area. He questioned whether a Highway Occupancy Permit was ever obtained. He also noted the revised Land Development Plan that was submitted in 2001 which had a note about an approved driveway location. Mr. Moore was also concerned about the Landfill closing and the possible intentions of using the trail as an access way. Mr. Moore had many additional questions for the applicant. At this time, it was stated by Attorney, Elizabeth Witmer, that all questions will be addressed at a later time.

Ian Robinson, Resident- requested information on the noise levels of the proposed facility which should be measured with a DBA scale. Mr. Robinson noted that other testing needs to be done to fully interpret and clarify the noise levels and vibrations. He would also like to know exactly how the measurements were taken for such information. Mr. Robinson stated that there are many other issues including the smell that would be emitting off of the tarped trucks especially with the amount of bouncing that the trucks will endure. Mr. Robinson also provided information on another facility that was forced to shut down. He would like to know how this system can solely operate on methane gas. Mr. Robinson added that natural gas has become part of the argument and he added that it has now become apparent to everyone that the methane gas will diminish when the Landfill shuts down for good. Because methane gas is about 1/3 of natural gas, the operators of the facility need to pump a lot more out.

Mr. Robinson also requested to know the following questions:

- How much heat does it take to dry the material at the facility?
- Who controls mixture of methane gas and natural gas?
- How do they regulate this amount of gas if it's not drying as anticipated?
- Is it someone that just turns a knob?
- Are there instruments used to determine the odor at the stack?

The above referenced questions will be addressed by the applicant at a later time. In terms of the scrubbing system, Mr. Robinson noted that there would need to be negative pressure inside the plant in order to pull air from the outside so that odors do not escape the facility. He would like to know how those levels are set and who will change the PH balance. Mr. Robinson noted that there is a lot of internal information that is needed. He also added that exhaust gas would have a temperature of around 700-800 degrees and if that were to be exposed to dust or vapor, this could easily ignite and create a massive explosion.

David Flyte, Resident- he stated that he enjoys having picnics and BBQ's in his back yard and hanging laundry. Mr. Flyte does not want the smell to be so bad that residents can no longer enjoy their backyard. He also questioned where the trucks will be parked when there is a major rain storm. He noted that the material from this facility has the potential of contaminating our water areas. Mr. Flyte also added that the smell of the facility and trucks will be extremely bad in the summer months because of the heat.

Thomas Bondurich, Resident- questioned how anyone will know or be able to tell between the landfill smell and the sewage smell from the proposed facility when they both smell terrible.

ACTION: Motion was made by Robert Simpson and Terry Kleintop to table the meeting for the next available meeting date. *Prior to the vote, Chairman, Paul Levits, asked if there were any comments from the governing body or the public.* Motion approved. Vote 4-0-1 with Jeffrey Beavan abstaining.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chairman, Paul Levits, thanked everyone for coming out to attend the meeting and appreciated all of the questions that were brought to the applicant's attention.

Having no further business to come before the Planning Commission, motion was made by Robert Simpson and seconded by Robin Dingle to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved. Vote 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Gerstenberg
Planning Commission, Secretary
Plainfield Township