

The following are notes, not official minutes. For an official transcript, go to the Delanco Municipal Building at 770 Coopertown Rd.

**TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING– JUNE 9, 2008**

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH BEVERLY CITY COUNCIL, BEVERLY CITY SEWERAGE AUTHORITY AND DELANCO SEWERAGE AUTHORITY**

Fred Weller: Presentation regarding sewage treatment and the dykes (dredge)

Phil Jenkins: Presented history of joint authority. 1901 Beverly plant – in 1947 with WPA grant, included Delanco when Beverly did a major extension. Current plant is simple and old and works well. DEP is changing standards – wants more pollutants removed since they go to river. Beverly 1 million gallons a day – right now between 5 and 6. When you hit 800,000 a day, state wants a plan. Plant upgrade in future – years ago spent money on study re going to Willingboro. We would have been responsible for upgrade. Right now we work well with Beverly – same engineer and attorney. We have to think of where we are going to be 30-40 years down the road. Do we upgrade where we are or move it? Decisions will affect both towns.

Bill Kirshner (Environmental Resolution engineer for Delanco and Beverly) Plant in Beverly is on prime real estate and state wants us to improve our plant. Issues – location – in flood plain and in regards to redevelopment in Beverly. Plant isn't the most efficient. Required upgrades need to be in effect by 1010 to remove copper, zinc, and lead. Every new standard calls for more. Currently treating 500,000 gallons a day. Each unit can only do 800,000 a day. Projection for both towns – 1.4 million gallons a day. Plant will be undersized – might be 20 years from now.

Options:

1. Upgrade where it sits – doable and will cost
2. Eliminate plant and send flow elsewhere – some towns are interested – Burlington Township, Burlington City, etc.
3. New facility – board favors this to have control over the money.

Most obvious place is the dunes site – Beverly portion is elevated and therefore isolated. It's undeveloped and on the border. Function and odors can be controlled. Factors: cost and the fact that this is a dredge disposal site. If site of current plant were sold, value could be used towards new plant. State grants available – possible merger of two authorities into one. Delanco would have an absolute say. Under current arrangement, Delanco is responsible for larger portion of cost because we contribute 75% of flow. Benefit to Beverly – would pave the way for redevelopment. Dredge disposal – no one wants these. Years ago everyone was going to fight light rail. It came. Maybe we would be better to work with dredge spoils to mitigate impact to local residents to eliminate trucks in and out. Spoils could go out on barges as is done elsewhere. Authorities are considering public private partnership. Would

say to state we will work with you on dredge if it is hauled out on barge. We want the site for sewerage plant. Asking Delanco Committee for support. If four of us go to state, we have a much stronger say regarding dredge spoils. If Delanco disagrees, it doesn't go any farther.

Weller: Authorities were deadlocked when Corps took away site for dredge spoils. We have to resolve that issue before we move on. Met with Mark Remsa and talked to Freeholders. An entrepreneur is willing to move dredge spoils - Mr. Bernardi, who has a stake since he is the redeveloper for the Beverly project, is willing to sit with state and enter a long term contract. Connors and Conaway stated that there must be another way and this is it. In New York, they have 5-6 patents on the barges. With today's fuel prices, it is cheaper by barge. If the towns go to Trenton with the entrepreneur, we may be able to do this. If it's not approved, at least we tried. The two issues – dredge and sewerage – will always be here. If we all work together as a team, we can resolve this. I would be asking for Delanco Township Committee to pass a resolution this evening. People don't want sewer plans. If you build 30 ft. in air, you can recover electrical power and use solar panels and get the credits we can get from the state/

Fitzpatrick: If we go to state, we should use the dunes to get Hawk Island off the list.

Weller: I don't think we would have a problem from meetings in EcoCenter – that's the last resort.

Fitzpatrick: Why wouldn't we do a study first for a cost estimate? Independent study should be done – cost of new plant vs. going to another township.

Weller: We are the ones who have all the answers to those questions.

Fitzpatrick: Cost analysis of the three options – upgrade, new plant, go elsewhere. Right now we are at half capacity. It's difficult to say yes before we even know the amount involved. If we go to Army Corps and they agree and we decide not to build...

Weller: It becomes open space. We already spend \$700,000 on a study for Willingboro site.

Fitzpatrick: Better to have an outsider – shouldn't use our current engineers since they are involved and have something to gain.

Weller: We can go to Bridge Commission and ask them for money to do that study.

Fitzpatrick: It's important to do that. I have no problem going to the Army Corps, but we need to know more before we make a commitment.

Weller: People in Beverly will still need a place to get to the river as open space. We can do an independent study. We can send letters out to see what townships are interested in getting our sewage and then going to

Hinkle: 10 acres in Beverly. Delanco has 30 acres on dunes. I'm afraid Delanco is going to get more dredge spoils on that.

Weller: We don't know what will happen.

Hinkle: Don't we have money set aside for studies?

Weller: Yes, but to go independently we can go to Bridge Commission.

Hinkle: What was the real reason we didn't go to Willingboro?

Weller: Cost was \$4 million upgrade + hook up fee. Willingboro said when you pump your flow, we will pay for pipe in the road because we want to run another pipe to river. According to the Clean Water Act, we will have to put out cleaner water than tap water. Aquatic life can't absorb pollution. When we go to do this, we don't say we are 500,000 gallons – we say we are 1.4 million. If we don't have someone on the board, they can use that money for anything.

Resident: What is the time frame for a new plant?

Weller: Five years.

Resident: Highest point elevation. What is the height of newest plants today.

Weller: About 25 feet. If they were going to use the dykes, we would move it over to Beverly side and give them time to get ready for that. The better elevation you have in a sewer plant, the better.

Resident: If both towns go for dredge spoils, what is plan B?

Weller: Another piece of ground in a hole – not as big. It would be an aeration plant, we would pump air in it. Delran spends over \$300,000 a year on energy costs to do this. It's the most expensive way to do it. .

Resident: What is the hook-up for Mr. Bernardi – what does he get from that?

Weller: He will get paid. County is interested in that silt.

Resident: Is he the developer of that property?

Weller: Yes.

Resident: How many acres would be taken of Delanco's dunes?

Weller: 6-8 acres.

Resident: What is the carrot for DEP?

Weller: Why did they spend all that money on a train through riverside towns and now they want to bring 50,000 trucks through town? People won't want to live here.

Resident: What is another incentive for state?

Weller: It's our home. It's not our sand.

Fitzpatrick: No incentive. You aren't dealing with DEP

Hinkle: DEP makes final decision.

Weller: Army Corps follows their decision. We don't know if this is going to work. We've taken our share for 40 years.

Resident: What is cost to county on roads for trucks?

Resident 2: Who is the end recipient of dredge spoils?

Weller: Inland for remediation – all we know.

Resident 2: Competition between who would get them by truck and by barge?

Weller: Don't know. State wanted mine operation. The only place for that is by a major highway. That's Palmyra Cove, but the turtles have more rights than you do as far as what they have put in your home.

Resident: Time frame for dredging?

Weller: Dredging in Philadelphia held up for a year. Doesn't impact maintenance dredging.

(don't know name): By fall state will be announcing decision on sites.

Templeton: What is the true boundary of what is owned by Delanco and the state in the dunes?.

Kirshner: We have the tidelands map.

Templeton: I asked for that in March. I'd like a copy of that. We need to have all the options for costs. As Ms. Fitzpatrick said, we need an independent study. Follow up from April meeting I intended, DEP was somewhat skeptical of barge option. The DEP was somewhat skeptical. My point at April meeting was river towns have experienced a lot of changes. We can't take all of that dredge anymore. Cost of removing materials needs to be looked into.

Weller: I think even if we had to go to congress...

Templeton: Congressional reps were very supportive of factoring in costs and changing law so communities could receive fee for truck or barge.

Weller: I want to say that if they want to drive a truck, you'll have to drive over some people.

Devinney: Agree with need for study. Dredge issue seems to be about how much political pressure you can apply. We could go to Trenton and say that we are looking at the possibility of a truck.

Resident 2: Ball park of what plant would cost.

Weller: Building – 8-10 million.

Resident 3: You are talking about moving material from a barge to a truck?

Weller: Barge to Roebing or anywhere that has railroad.

Resident: 3: Moving material three times seems over the top.

Corcoran: Edgewater Park would be affected by trucks – have you thought of them for applying political pressure?

Weller: Not as affected as Delanco. Edgewater has already made statement that they don't want trucks through the town.

Resident: We don't want trucks or spoilage.

Resident: 5: Why does everything go to Jersey?

Weller: PA takes part. They have Waste Management take spoils and cap their landfills.

Resident: 5: Seems every time someone wants to dump something, it goes to Delacno.

Templeton: Article on Delanco website – notes from DEP meeting.

Fitzpatrick: County engineer regarding trucking – some environmentalists. They don't care about the towns. They care about environmentalists and county if they talk about impact on roads.

Hinkle: There will be a lot of questions. They will be answered as we go along.

Weller: I'm hoping to get your Township Committee support tonight to hit their July funding. I'll be happy to answer questions.

*Submitted by Maureen Barrett*