

**MINUTES OF THE HANOVER BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE**

**March 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

Chairman Reichart convened the meeting of the Hanover Borough Council Water & Sewer Committee on Wednesday, March 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM, in the Hanover Municipal Building, 44 Frederick Street, Hanover, PA, as advertised.

**Attendance:** In attendance were Water and Sewer Committee Members G. Greenholt, Kress and Reichart; Councilperson Hegberg; Staff Members Secretary Felix and Water Resource Director Mains; Vice-President Mehaffey from Gannett Fleming.

**Public Comment:** None was presented.

**Approval of the Minutes:** It was moved by Mr. Greenholt, seconded by Mr. Kress to approve the minutes of March 10, 2022 as written. Motion carried.

**Potential Stream Project:** Presentation - YCCD/Stantec

Mr. Austin Byers from Stantec was present this evening to discuss a proposed stream restoration project to reduce the volume of sediment entering the stream between Sheppard Myers reservoir and the water filtration plant. He stated Stantec is working with the York County Conservation District (YCCD) on a proposed Growing Greener grant funded project. He is requesting a letter of support from the Borough with a funding allocation of \$10,000 to submit a Growing Greener Grant application to the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

Mr. Mains explained that the water coming out of Sheppard Myers Dam blends with Kitzmiller Dam before it reaches the water filtration plant. Every effort to reduce sediment pays dividends in lower treatment costs.

Mr. Reichart asked for a document explaining the project.

Mr. Greenholt asked for the total cost of project. Mr. Byers replied that the total cost (including construction) would be upwards of \$1.5 million. The match money the applicant would be responsible for would be approximately fifteen (15%) percent.

Mr. Byers stated there are two (2) affected landowners that have already given their consent for the project (when project was first submitted and denied for grant funding).

It was moved by Mr. Kress, seconded by Mr. Greenholt to provide an initial letter of recommendation from the Committee with more information to follow. Motion carried.

**Earthcare/Barton & Loguidice - Gasification Presentation**

Mr. Hegberg explained the background of the gasification concept as a waste to energy solution that could create a new revenue stream. Representatives from Barton & Loguidice, Earthcare LLC and Energy Systems Group (ESG) were present to discuss an initiative for a public - private partnership to construct a gasifier for production of biochar from sludge generated by the wastewater treatment plant. The ever-increasing cost to dispose of organic biosolids is a concern. The current process of farmland application of sludge may be further regulated in the future and no longer allowed due to environmental regulation.

The intent is that the Borough would own the gasifier itself and the "team" of Earthcare LLC, Energy Systems Group (ESG) and Barton & Loguidice would take on the risk of design and operation. The gasifier could be designed to accept other organic material from a range of facilities to create a revenue stream for the Borough generated from tipping fees, biochar value and carbon credit value. Funds appropriated from the effort could be used for our stormwater, flooding infiltration & inflow (I & I) work.

Sean Sweeney Vice-President of Barton Loguidice outlined the need for organics management solutions through a PowerPoint presentation for conversion of municipal sludge through gasification to minimize waste.

Biochar is created through thermal processing. It is a non-combustible operation, separating carbon which can absorb contaminants. The market for biochar is increasing, as the material can be marketed and sold. There are many uses for biochar such as remediation and filtration, and use in silt socks. Electric and labor are the typical expenses that the Borough would be responsible for in the operations process.

Michael Golden noted that Earthcare LLC is a leader in biochar production technology. He presented examples of biochar products and discussed processing.

Aden Murphy from ESG works with municipalities and discussed the potential for biogas generation. An additional benefit would be the ability to generate energy that could run the facility, if the electric feeds were cut off. The dried weight of the biochar is cheaper to transport since it weighs much less than wet waste.

The next step would be to allow the team to work with our staff on a preliminary analysis to develop the scope and returns of what a potential project would look like.

The Committee agreed to allow the team to develop an economic model for costs and then come back to the committee for further review of potential benefits and revenue.

**Public Comment:** None was presented.

**Adjournment:** It was moved by Mr. Greenholt, seconded by Mr. Kress to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Dorothy C. Felix  
Borough Secretary