

MINUTES OF THE GEORGETOWN SILVER PLUME JOINT WASTEWATER TREATMENT
COMMISSION

MARCH 2, 2010

MEMBERS PRESENT; Tom Bennhoff, John Jackson, Sarah Whalen and Lee Berenato. Also present were Mary Sims and John Curtis from the Town of Georgetown. Clay Brown from DOLA was present.

The meeting convened at 6:00 pm. Clay Brown from DOLA reviewed with the Commission the memos that he provided to the Commission prior to the meeting. Mr. Brown suggested a five year plan that would phase in the creation of an Authority by a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA). The Authority would assume wastewater treatment responsibilities including the collection systems of both towns. The proposal would include the eventual assumption of water operations of both towns if feasible. Mr. Brown suggested some first steps prior to working on the Authority. Mr. Brown suggested that a financial analysis of the wastewater system and the implementation of a new fee schedule be completed first. The financial analysis would include a review of costs, budgets and revenues to develop a long term financing plan. That information would be used to develop a more sustainable rate structure. Mr. Brown also suggested that the two towns enter into a MOU to outline the intent and work plan of the Joint Wastewater Treatment Commission.

The Commission had a lengthy discussion on the material. Mayor Bennhoff said he liked the concept of a MOU between the towns to codify what the Commission will be working on. Mayor Berenato volunteered to draft an MOU. The MOU will state the intent of the two towns to first complete the financial analysis and then to pursue the creation of the Authority. Mayor Berenato will send the first draft to Mr. Brown to review and then a final draft will be sent to the Commission members.

The Commission agreed that after the MOU, the first two tasks to be accomplished would be the financial analysis and the rate study. The Commission also concluded that the new rate structure be an amendment to the existing IGA. The pursuit of an Authority will require a new IGA that will replace the existing IGA. Work on the new IGA to create an Authority could start in late summer after the adoption of the amended IGA.

The Commission decided to meet twice a month until the financial piece is completed. The Commission meetings will be the first and third Tuesday of the month through June 2010. Georgetown will provide the meeting space. The project has a July date as the targeted deadline.

The Commission discussed methods of keeping the public informed about the Commission's work. Each town will distribute information using their existing outlets. Mr. Brown was asked to include some public meetings in the project schedule. Mr. Brown was also asked to include fee schedule adoption hearings in the project timeline. Both suggestions will be included in a revised project schedule and distributed to the Commission.

The next meeting of the Commission is Tuesday March 24th 2010 at 6:00 pm in Georgetown. The agenda will include approval of the MOU and progress reports.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm