



PRINCETON  
DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE  
AND OPERATIONS  
**PRINCETON SEWER COMMITTEE**  
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
*of the*  
**PRINCETON SEWER COMMITTEE**

July 6, 2022

The meeting of the Princeton Sewer Committee (PSC) was convened at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2022 via Virtual Meeting/Zoom Conference. D. Goldfarb opened the meeting in accordance with the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, Section 5, Chapter 231, P.L. 275. In conformance with the requirements of the Law, Notice was provided of the date, time, and location of this regular meeting by posting a copy of the adopted Schedule of Regular Meetings in Monument Hall and Witherspoon Building and by mailing copies to the Trenton Times, Princeton Packet, Town Topics and by filing a copy in the Office of the Clerk of Princeton. Adequate notice was provided to the public and to all parties concerned.

**PRESENT:** David Goldfarb, Valerie Haynes, Eve Niedergang

**ALSO PRESENT:** Andrew Filippi, Sewer Design Engineer; Jeff Hughes, SOC Foreman; Dominick Itzi, Sewer Operations Manager; Jim Purcell, Assistant Engineer; Deanna Stockton, Engineer/Deputy Administrator; Janice Most, Secretary

**ABSENT:**

**PUBLIC:**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

No amendments to the Agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

E. Niedergang moved to approve the May 13, 2022 Minutes as presented.

V. Haynes seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

**Princeton Sewer Information Request from Lisa Jacknow of Princeton Perspective (Local Online News Magazine)**

D. Goldfarb stated the Lisa Jacknow of the online newspaper Princeton Perspective reached out to Councilwoman Mia Sacks about doing an article on Princeton sewers. L. Jacknow presented questions to the Committee for the article in addition to speaking with D. Goldfarb.

*Note: numbering and questions are verbatim from Lisa Jacknow email of June 22, 2022*

Question 1 – “Please provide me with a brief background of the sewer issues in Princeton, what needs to be done and why.”

Discussion: there are multiple sewer issues in Princeton; flow is measured through the SBRSA; system is repaired as issues arise.

Question 2 – “Are these needs more extenuating due to deferred maintenance? And if so, can you please elaborate?”

Discussion: there has been deferred maintenance; Princeton system is older than surrounding Municipalities and could be more proactive; industry standards have changed; our geological status is different than others, Princeton has underlying hard rock; sewers are one of the many types of infrastructure that is unseen.

Question 2 – “The sewer investment for 2022-2031 was presented by Andrew Filippi and David Goldfarb at the Jun 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Is this a proposal for something Council has approved? If not, what is the expectation and timeline for approval?”

Discussion: Mayor and Council approved the June 13, 2022 presentation which means plans can be implemented with confidence; to note: Mayor and Council can withhold or stop funding at any point; the presentation laid out a plan for each year contingent on Mayor and Council budget approval; this Mayor and Council committed to the current plan and course of action at this time; yearly projections for the six year Capital Plan are reviewed yearly; this years approval was for the six year Capital plan and six year proposed Capital spending; current projects are to reduce extraneous flow; I/I reduction equals cost savings; I/I is important, but, more important is an established plan to maintain the system responsibly; there are 130-150 miles of sewers in Princeton; the calculated reasonable lifetime of pipes based on construction data has a financial impact.

Question 3 – “The plan shows an approx. \$7.5m budget per year for the next 9 years to replace mains, repairs and Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) reduction, replace “trunklines”, repair and replace pumpstations, and to replace vehicles and equipment plus another \$3m per year to “catchup” on deferred maintenance and replacement work. This seems like an extraordinary amount of money. Of course, we need our(our) sewers to work well, so can you explain a little to me about these needs and the financial balance sheets that come with them?”

Discussion: the June 13, 2022 Mayor and Council Presentation was referenced to show the impact on the average homeowner; sewer fees are not part of taxes, it is a separate fee that is assessed; 25-30 percent of dwellings are not served by sewers, e.g., northwest section of Princeton, which are not paying sewer fees.

Question 4 – “Are sewer expenses ordinarily part of the municipal budget and if so, at what cost?”

Discussion: funding for each year is completed through the Capital Budget; the full plan cost of \$5M is shown for year 2022; monies are approved, bid packages prepared, work proceeds.

Question 5 – “There’s more than \$20m worth of money requested via ordinances at the last meeting...is this for money outlined in the sewer investment plan? If not, please explain.”

Discussion: this is on an annual basis; cannot pay for all ten years of work at once.

Question 6 – “Can you please detail when we can expect sewer work to take place, and how this will effect residents/traffic around town?”

Discussion: with a plan in hand, work proposed will sometimes create disruptions that can be accommodated. Further – I/I reduction work will be minimal; majority of work will be in easements and pump stations; work in roadways can be timed with road reconstruction projects; importance of maintaining confidence of Mayor and Council.

D. Itzi will offer Lisa Jacknow a tour for better understanding of the system.  
Seeing helps understanding.

### **Connection Fee Ordinance**

Nothing to report.

### **Princeton Response to SBRSA February 14, 2022 Letter; Re: Wastewater Treatment Plan Capacity**

Discussion: the presentation completed for Mayor and Council can function as a response to SBRSA. D. Goldfarb will write a response letter for review at the next PSC meeting.

### **Pump Station Design and Reconstruction Update**

A. Filippi stated that Arcadis will survey sites within the next 30-60 days.

Discussion: full design not yet complete, looking at alternatives; there will be a separate contract for full design of stations; contracts will be awarded the second half of 2023.

### **Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) Program**

Discussion: on target with the 10-year plan; mini systems 36 and 36A are targeted after mini system 35 is complete; entering design on pump stations and trunk lines for 2023.

### **Public Comment**

No Public Comment

### **Other**

A. Filippi stated he received an email from Vicky Bergman concerning the New Jersey American Water solicitation for “Water Line and Sewer Protection Program.” He read V. Bergman’s email into the record along with his response. A copy of V. Berman email of July 1, 2022 and A. Filippi response of July 1, 2022 are attached as a part of these Minutes.

V. Haynes moved to cancel the August 3, 2022 Princeton Sewer Committee meeting.  
D. Goldfarb seconded. The Motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjourn**

At 10:04 a.m. V. Haynes moved to adjourn. D. Goldfarb seconded.  
The Motion passed unanimously.

The August 3, 2022 meeting is cancelled.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 7, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. via Virtual Meeting/Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Most, Secretary  
Princeton Sewer Committee

Adopted: October 12, 2022