

# Warrington



# Township

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**To:** Board of Supervisors

**From:** Christian R. Jones, Director of Water and Sewer/Assistant to the Manager

**Date:** March 24, 2017

**RE: Update on Water Situation**

***Costner Filtration Project***

The Costner monitoring well has been abandoned. A meeting was held on March 3, 2017 with the contractor to discuss upcoming work. The contractor will begin stripping topsoil and start the layout of the building.

***Air National Guard Cooperative Agreement Amendment***

A revised version of the Air National Guard (ANG) Cooperative Agreement (CA) Amendment was sent to Dick McCoy of the ANG on February 27, 2017 to reflect modifications requested by the ANG concerning the scope of work and costs through May 31, 2018 (excluding costs associated with the original CA). Additionally, a cost estimate for annual maintenance was sent to the ANG for review and planning purposes (past May 31, 2018). Mr. McCoy indicated that he would send the draft amendment to the USPFO—Major Casarella—in Harrisburg to see if it is acceptable. Once approved, we will place the amendment on the nearest Board meeting Agenda for execution.

***Public Water Connections***

As of March 22, 2017, 7 properties have been connected to public water (excluding 4 properties connected previously via my predecessor's "Friendly Lien Agreement" vehicle). Township Engineers and contractors anticipate 2 additional connections to be completed by the end of the month.

***February 2017 Water Sampling Results***

Water sampling results for public wells 5, 8, and 11 were received by the Township. Those results were posted to the Water Contamination Information page on the Township website.

***PENNVEST Grant Opportunity***

Township staff has been made aware of the availability of the PENNVEST Grant Opportunity. It has been suggested that we might pursue this grant opportunity in order to obtain funding for Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) Filtration System design and construction for our public wells not addressed (wells 4, 5, 8, and 11) by the Cooperative Agreement (CA) we have with the Air National Guard (ANG). There are multiple pros and cons to pursuing this grant opportunity:

Pros-

1. The cost of design and construction for GAC systems on all remaining public wells could be partially (or entirely) funded through this State grant instead of through our ratepayers.
2. This would provide the Township with the ability to use all public wells as backup in case of an emergency (or high demand) with our water supply from the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant (co-owned by North Wales Water Authority [NWWA] and North Penn Water Authority [NPWA]).
3. If the Board of Supervisors should wish to switch back to our public well system at the end of the ten-year Water Supply Agreement (WSA) we executed with NWWA in December of 2016, these wells would be immediately prepared for use.

Cons-

1. The cost to operate and maintain these systems would not be covered by the grant.
  - a. In order to keep them in working order, we would need to exercise the wells and filtration systems on a weekly basis (minimum).
    - i. There would be an additional cost in sending extra flow to Warminster Municipal Authority's (WMA) Log College Wastewater Treatment Plant.
    - ii. There would be additional energy costs for each system.
    - iii. There would be additional media exchange costs (changing out the carbon material on a regular [although relatively infrequent] basis).
  - b. Continued sampling of the public wells as required by law and in the interest of the public health, safety and welfare of our residents would increase costs.
  - c. **The burden of these additional costs would be placed on our ratepayers.**
2. The grant application process will impose substantial unbudgeted expenditures.
  - a. The Township Engineer indicated that past experience with the PENNVEST grant program had proven to be a long and arduous process.

- b. Taken from the PENNVEST Online Funding Request Portal:

### **Start Application**

PENNVEST uses the Online Funding Request to collect funding request information and documents, process the review and approval of the funding request, and work through to loan closing. PENNVEST has divided these items into six sections, to help you move quickly and easily through this process:

- **Start Application** - detailed project information
- **Plan a Consultation** - required to determine viable funding source
- **Complete Application** - project funding forms and documents
- **Submit Application** - online submittal of application
- **Review Status** - PENNVEST board review and ranking
- **Accept Funding Offer** - loan settlement

**To complete the Funding Request process**, you must first complete the Project Description and Planning Consultation. Upon approval, the next section will be made available on the far left column. Once all items in a section have been completed, your project will automatically move to the next step of the process.

- i. Unfortunately, there is the very real possibility that we may not receive grant or loan funding through this program. There is no guarantee.
  - c. Regardless, these application process costs may not be covered by the grant/loan which could place the burden yet again on our ratepayers.**
3. Manpower and Time Constraints are a very real concern.
- a. The Township Engineer is currently working on designs and inspections for multiple immediately necessary and officially budgeted projects (including but not limited to contamination-related projects funded through our CA with the ANG).
  - b. Departmental Operations personnel are occupied with their everyday duties as well as inspections and supervision of projects currently underway.
  - c. We cannot afford to push these existing projects behind/aside for these additional projects.
4. As referenced in section 2.b.i, there is no guarantee that we will be awarded the grant.
- a. Interested parties have relayed assurances made by PENNVEST representatives that they will work with PFC contamination-affected municipalities in providing funding through this grant program to address water contamination-related issues.
    - i. The same interested parties have indicated they would push hard to make sure we receive funding through this grant program.
    - ii. Although these assurances are somewhat comforting, no guarantees have been (nor could be) made.
      1. The best case scenario would see the Township awarded the grant.
      2. The middle scenario would see the Township awarded a loan.
      3. The worst case scenario would see the Township awarded nothing.

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- b. This opens the Township up to the possibility of laying out a substantial amount of unbudgeted expenditures which could only be recovered through our ratepayers.**

Options-

1. Authorize the Township Engineer to proceed with the “Start Application” and “Plan a Consultation” processes with PENNVEST (referenced in section 2.b) concerning the funding of GAC Filtration systems on wells 4, 5, 8, and 11. Following consultation, request recommendation from the Township Engineer and Township Professional staff concerning whether or not to pursue the grant opportunity further.
2. Refrain from applying for the PENNVEST Grant Opportunity at this time and consider applying in the future.

I will be sure to provide additional updates as there are updates to provide.

Thank you!