

IESI Bethlehem Landfill Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, February 18, 2016
Time: 1:20 PM
Location: Lower Saucon Township Council Meeting Room
Attendance: Priscilla deLeon, Council Liaison; Al Schleyer, IESI; Chris Taylor, Hanover Engineering, HMI; Diane Palik, LST Staff & Haz Hijazi. Absent: Donna Louder.

Mr. Schleyer did not have time to prepare the meeting agenda for this month, so he gave a brief overview. The technical consultant committee noted the 3rd quarter gas royalty report was not yet received. Mr. Schleyer said they have not received anything from BRE and requested that they get up to date with those quarterly royalty payments.

Mrs. deLeon said they are behind on payments and owe money. Mr. Taylor said the last payment received was June of 2015. The quarterly facility report to the township should have been received by now. It is out and has been distributed. Mr. Schleyer said as far as waste activities, there are no tonnage numbers for January to talk about. He said it may be slightly down due to things such as weather conditions.

Mrs. deLeon said we received correspondence regarding BRE. One is from Secretary Quigley in response to Lisa Boscola's letter and one from him in response to the Township's letter. He was responding to the shutdown of BRE. Supposedly they will be back on track early 2016 according to the report.

Mr. Schleyer said there are no numbers to report for commercial waste vehicles or police weight enforcement. BRE is still down and he has not heard anything from them. Mr. Taylor said the landfill flare is still running. The largest blower is still in operation.

Mr. Schleyer said the North Slope is fine and everything is still functioning well. Mr. Taylor asked if there is any news with leachate flows. Mr. Schleyer said they are up and down. Some of the rainy weather has caused them to push up a little bit. Mr. Taylor asked if LMC7 is still running over 100 gallons/acre a day. Mr. Schleyer said it isn't that high anymore. LMC8 is somewhere around 400 gallons/acre per day compared to over 600 last month.

Mr. Schleyer said there was one radiation alarm yesterday. Mr. Schleyer said the permanent cap on the north face is pretty much done and there is some additional wrap that goes down on the one bench where the bottom of the channel goes to. This will assist with the flow so it doesn't erode the bench soil. That gets installed then it still needs top soil and seeding. Mrs. deLeon asked how deep the top soil will be. Mr. Schleyer said 6" is what is called for. Mr. Taylor asked how many complaints have been received. Mr. Schleyer said just a noise complaint related to the flare incident.

The flare incident: Mr. Schleyer said we have talked about this over the phone and at the meeting last night. The upper portion of the temporary cap was still in construction phase to the point it has stopped due to the weather conditions. It was sandbagged down and most of the cover was in an anchor trench, the upper corner was not. The wind hit a certain direction on the upper slope and created a lift. It picked up some of the upper right of the temporary cap. It caused a ripple effect across the cap. It popped off a couple slip fit and opened up some vacuum lines. That in turn caused a quicker air intake and some rumbling noise into the flare itself. The equipment is functioning and the temperature has been maintained. Officer Louder responded to the call and let Mr. Schleyer know he was there and that there was a problem. Blue Flame was on site and they went down to reduce the vacuum on the flare and it stopped the rumbling noise. Mr. Hijazi asked if the liner went up because of the wind. Mr. Schleyer said yes, a sudden rush of air caused the rumbling. Mrs. deLeon asked how high it was lifted up. Mr. Schleyer said he doesn't know how high exactly. The seams looked fine. The liner people have to come out. Their focus today and since that day is to make more sandbags and weigh it all down more. In the case there is another storm, there won't be another problem. Mrs. deLeon asked if the rain started first then the wind. Mr. Schleyer said he isn't sure. The Operations Manager came up with an action plan. They called in more manpower and geared everyone up to bag the weight down on the liner. Mrs. deLeon said it was around 10 a.m. the noise started which generated the calls from the residents. Mr. Hijazi asked if this was the first time this situation happened at the landfill. Mr. Schleyer said yes, it was a freak wind shift that caught it right and pulled it up. Mrs. deLeon asked how big the pieces were? Mr. Schleyer said he thinks they are 16' wide which are on a big coil that unrolls and gets welded. Mr. Hijazi asked if there are limitations on the temperature for when it can be welded. Mr. Schleyer said yes. The colder it is, the more of a chance that the weld won't pass the testing. Mrs. deLeon asked what time DEP was called. Mr. Schleyer said he didn't know the times. He had an email from them that they are aware of a

noise. He emailed back a brief excerpt of what happened. This was probably around the same time he called Officer Louder.

Mr. Taylor asked if DEP has been out since this happened. Mr. Schleyer said he didn't see anyone out. Mr. Taylor said they are wondering how this sound caused this much disruption to the residents on Ringhoffer Road. Mr. Schleyer said he spoke with flare manufacturers and they said based on those circumstances, it can cause that rumbling effect. Another similar situation is when an oil burner is not adjusted correctly; it can create the rumbling noise. Mr. Taylor asked if it is the air being compressed and released that cause that. Mr. Schleyer said he isn't sure, but it is possible. Mr. Taylor asked if Officer Louder conveyed to him that nature of the complaints that he received. Mr. Schleyer said Officer Louder spoke to their weigh master and she said the windows are rattling. Mr. Taylor asked what else he was made aware of from Officer Louder. Mr. Schleyer said that was it. Once he heard that, he assessed the situation and told Blue Flame to slow the flare down which took the rumbling away. Mr. Taylor said we heard that people were reporting not only windows rattling, but their houses were shaking, as well as furniture and fixtures within their houses. Some people are alluding to possible damage to their properties. Mr. Schleyer said that residents who were impacted are directed to call the police non-emergency number.

Mr. Hijazi asked that other than windows rattling, people are saying there is damage to their houses. Mrs. deLeon said their houses were shaking. Mr. Hijazi said it is a shockwave that is coming from blowups. Mrs. deLeon said the police put in their report that if there were any damages, they should report it. She said on 69 News, there was a comment that someone felt this all the way over in Martin's Creek. Mr. Hijazi said that is a shockwave that happened through the air. He doesn't think it is blasting. Mrs. deLeon disagrees and thinks it happened in both the air and earth. Mr. Taylor said the Morning Call report says that Ringhoffer Road residents stated their homes were shaking for a couple minutes. One resident states his home shook for an hour comparing the feeling to a clothes dryer being off balance. It doesn't say that there are any damages; just if there are damages they can call the police department. Mr. Taylor asked Mr. Schleyer if he asked Officer Louder to provide his cell phone number to any residents that felt they were affected. Mr. Schleyer said a resident called the office and left his name. It was to alert them of the noise and shaking. Mr. Schleyer called him back and explained what had happened. Mr. Taylor asked if he mentioned any damage. Mr. Schleyer said he mentioned the windows and doors were rattling. Mrs. deLeon said she was disappointed there was nothing publicized on the Police Facebook page. They posted it the next morning.

Mr. Hijazi asked what we're trying to accomplish here. Mrs. deLeon said she just wants to make sure it is on the website. In her opinion the ball has dropped. Mr. Hijazi said for the purpose of this meeting, we have covered everything. Are we going to go knock on every door and ask if their cupboards were open? Mrs. deLeon said she looks at this meeting with a different hat. This committee is supposed to talk about different things that happen at the landfill and what we can do as a township to fix it. Mr. Hijazi said we do.

The next meeting is Thursday, March 17th at 1:00 p.m. with a 10:30 a.m. inspection. The meeting adjourned, the time was 2:00 p.m.