

**Village of Germantown Hills  
Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes  
October 24, 2019 5:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call/Minutes Approval**-Jim O’Laughlin called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. and roll call was taken.

<b>Village President/Trustees</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
Jim O’Laughlin – Chair	Present	Y	Y				
Mike Hinrichsen – Village President	Present	Y	Y				
Julia Miller	Present	Y	Y				
Dick Hartman	Present	Y	Y				
Marty Clinch	Present	Y	Y				

Also, Present:

Rich Brecklin, Superintendent of Public Works

Scott DeSplinter, Village Engineer

- a. **February 21, 2019 Meeting Minutes**-A motion was made by Dick Hartman to approve the February 21,2019 sewer committee meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Marty Clinch. **Motion passed #1.**

2. **Discussion and recommendation to the Village Board on the 813 Hickory Creek Grinder pump**

Frank and Lisa Lombardi were in attendance to discuss their grinder pump at 813 Hickory Creek Court. Their concerns are the grinder pump system is not failsafe and has asked if the village can help them financially because of the system failure.

Jim O’Laughlin stated after the last meeting the village had asked Scott DeSplinter to take a look at where the grinder pump system is located at 813 Hickory Creek Court to see if something needed to be changed as there have been two backups into their basement.

All State, the Lombardi’s insurance company, had asked for the pump so that it could be looked at. The village owns the pump but was willing to let them come look at the pump. All State didn’t respond when the village reached out to them.

Scott DeSplinter reported the insulation looks typical on the pump. If you wanted to lower the pump, he’s not sure if it would work without doing the elevations. If looks feasible but it would be a lot of work.

Mr. Lombardi asked about whether or not the village’s insurance is an option to help cover part of his loss due to the equipment failure. Ann Sasso had checked with the insurance company on the process and the village wouldn’t be liable on the property loss due to the equipment failure.

Mrs. Lombardi stated that their insurance doesn’t cover everything. This has happened a second time in ten months.

Rich Brecklin stated in December he discussed with Mr. Lombardi installing a check valve and an alarm inside the house.

Mr. Lombardi noted when it fails it is not limited amount of sewage it's other houses on the line that backup into his house.

Julia Miller stated she understands his concerns as she also has a grinder pump and has to experience back up issues herself. She also has an ejection pump so that is an additional concern.

Rich Brecklin explained how the pump works and that it is a pressure system.

Jim O'Laughlin noted the village advises residents to have the additional rider. Jim read the notice that is given to all grinder pump owners. Jim stated he doesn't have a grinder pump system but there's a lift station right out in front of his house and if it would ever fail several basements would flood. Jim explained the village sympathizes with them and if we could get rid of the grinder pumps, we would. Unfortunately, this decision was made years ago and now we have to live with it.

Mike Hinrichsen noted the village can't pay for something on personal property as that puts additional risk on the village.

Rich Brecklin explained when they do the preventative maintenance, they do test to make sure it meets specs.

Scott DeSplinter noted the check valve had to of failed. The nicked wire to the pump wouldn't have caused the problem. A failure with the check valve would allow the flow to come back. The first failure they experienced in December was from the pipe rotting. Both failures were not pump failures but different failures that caused the backups. Unfortunately, there's no way to inspect for these issues. The key thing to remember is that the system is pressurized at all times. The committee discussed how the pressure system works.

Rich Brecklin noted there have been other backups over the years and some have happened on gravity lines too. Rich recommended they get a hold of a plumber and start with adding a check valve and maybe look at adding an ejection pump or possible other solutions.

The committee discussed other options. The village is responsible for the pump so the pump and parts are replaced at no charge to the homeowner. Rich noted the manufacturer warranty would only cover the parts but not the property loss. Rich stated it appears the check valve failed in this case.

Scott stated anything you do between the house and tank is the homeowner's responsibility. Although, anything to do with the tank itself would be the Village's responsibility.

Jim O'Laughlin stated the village can't help the homeowner financially as this is why we tell residents to carry additional insurance.

Rich stated he would be glad to help with recommending some plumbers and meet with them to discuss and help them understand the system and how it works.

Dick Hartman stated he is sorry this has happened and can't imagine the devastation.

- 3. Adjournment**-A motion was made by Marty Clinch to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Julia Miller. **Motion passed #2.**  
Ann Sasso, Village Clerk