

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
German Township Board of Trustees
Public Information Meeting - Tremont Barrel Fill
May 30, 2017

The German Township Trustees met in special session on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7:00p.m. at the German Township Office, 3940 Lawrenceville Dr., Springfield, Ohio. Mr. Clark called the meeting to order.

Roll Call: Mr. Clark- present Mr. Kaffenbarger – present Mr. Metzger– present

The minutes will be taken by Angela Griest, Fiscal Officer.

Pledge of Allegiance

Purpose: To inform the community concerning the situation with the Tremont Barrel Fill.

Welcome & Introduction of the Panel:

- Charles Patterson, Health Commissioner, Clark County Combined Health District
- Rick Lohnes, Clark County Commissioner (arrived late)
- Bob Hackett, Ohio Senate, District 10
- Kyle Koehler, Ohio House of Representatives, District 79
- Karen Duncan, Springfield City Commissioner
- Warren D. Copeland, Mayor, Springfield City
- Marilyn Welker, People for Safe Water
- Larry Ricketts, People for Safe Water
- And in the audience is Ben Thaeler, field representative from Congressman Warren Davidson's Office (8th District)

Panel Comments:

Charles Patterson:

- This is not the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) plan from 2010 known as Plan 9A. It is a Plan 9A modified. The difference between the two plans is basically a second liner. Some of the liquids will be taken off, treated, reburied, and capped.
- It is not the plan that the people (the community) wanted. The community wanted none of the material reburied.
- Plan 9A modified will remove approximately 997 barrels of hazardous waste – 1.5 million gallons. However, the other 3 million gallons of liquid waste will be reburied. Some treated, some solidified.
- If we do not agree to this plan (9A modified) the USEPA will walk away. The matter will go back to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).
- It could be another 10 – 20 years before anything is done.
- We are now at a crossroads – sign by the end of the year or walk away. Do we take it (plan 9A modified) or do we walk away? It's not the plan you (the community) wanted. It doesn't make common sense.

Marilyn Welker:

- The hazardous and volatile compounds (VOC) are moveable.
- Concerned about air emissions at the site.
- We want documentation concerning the removal process, and want to be kept informed on what is going on at the site. We want and need accountability. Someone needs to be there to watch over the process. To monitor everything. – Mr. Patterson stated in response that the County could have someone available and on site during the process.

Mr. Ricketts:

- At this point, Plan 9A is the record of decision.
- The 9A modified plan basically makes it two liners instead of one.
- Most of the money for this is coming from the responsible parties (PRPs) about \$27 million dollars. This was ordered by the courts. They are liable.
- If Plan 9A modified is not approved, then the PRPs no longer have to provide the funds.
- We need to get beyond this to the next phase. The design phase. This is the phase where we may have some input.

Kyle Koehler:

- The PRPs have been identified.
- The USEPA has made their decision for plan 9A modified.
- If we don't accept it, the PRPs can walk away.
- I am concerned when the digging begins there may be waste that they didn't know was there. If we have this plan in place, the PRPs will be liable.

Karen Duncan:

- This has an impact on the Springfield City water. Our drinking water comes from this underground aquifer. It impacts your well water.
- I agree that we should dig up and take out all the contaminated waste, but due to circumstances, we must move forward and take what we can – Plan 9A modified.
- I still have a concern about the future with this plan. But at this time we do have the PRPs. We should accept and move forward.
- We will work for further input in the design phase.
- This is the best possible outcome for today.

Warren Copeland:

- If we decide not to accept this plan, the PRPs walk away.
- We may not agree with the plan, but we need to keep the PRPs liable for the cleanup.

Bob Hackett:

- Although this is not the plan we would have liked, this is not a bad plan.
- What will happen in the future – who knows.
- We need to take it (9A modified), it's the only option.

Rick Lohnes

- In agreement about what has already been said by others, that we should accept Plan 9A modified.
- We need to move the process along, and hold the PRP's accountable.

Mr. Clark: Governor Kasich has the final say in this matter. He can either agree with the Plan 9A modified, and propose the site for the National Priorities List (NPL), or negotiate a consent decree with the PRP's.

Mr. Patterson: The National Priorities List is more legal, must follow the laws when making decisions, and it makes it a more secure position.

Ms. Welker: The community has had a big effect on the decisions concerning the barrel fill. The USEPA has noticed the large support from the community, and the involvement of our representatives. We are not powerless.

Mr. Metzger: Thanks to everyone for coming out tonight, and to all the people who have worked so hard. I still believe that it all needs to be hauled out, and monitored. The difference between the plans (9A modified & hauling it away) is not worth the potential costs to the community.

Kyle Koehler: Mr. Butler came to speak with your representatives from the Ohio Senate and House of Representatives asking us what our people want. This meeting is to hear what the community has to say.

Public Comments:

- Question. Who is responsible to monitor?
 - Mr. Patterson: both the Federal and State will be on site while it is being done, the County will also be there. We will also be there when they are not there. We will monitor for leaks, and detection. The PRP's would be responsible for the costs of the continuing monitoring and repairs. An independent company does the testing.
- We don't have the luxury of waiting because we use so many gallons from that aquifer. We need to take the deal. If we walk away, we don't know what will happen.
- Yes we need the plan to have the funding, but concerned with the administering of the process. Need someone involved from German Township and Pike Township to be involved.
- How will you decide on what decision you will make? (Directed to the Trustees).
 - Response: By talking with the residents at this meeting, phone calls, emails etc.. Let us (trustees & Representatives) know what you think.

- What happens if this Governor does not make the decision before the next Governor takes office?
 - Mr. Koehler: It will go to the next Governor to decide.
- What happens if they find more than what they suspected there?
 - Response: Under Plan 9A modified the PRP's will have to come up the funds. That's why having the design and implementation phase are so important.
- It does feel like we comprising. But, we have an opportunity here to at least start to make a change. If we don't take this opportunity now, how do you explain it later to your grandkids why the water is not good for you?
- I live within a mile, as the crow flies, to the landfill. For my crops, my water is tested on a regular basis. The company that does the testing has commented that we have some of the cleanest water they have seen. Without this plan, will it still be in 2025? We need to do what we can to try to keep our water clean.
- What is the time frame for this Plan 9A modified to begin with the clean up?
 - Mr. Patterson: There will be a couple years in the design phase. And several years with the shovels in the ground. If we go with Plan 9A modified the process could be 5-7 years. Without it, we could be another 10-20 years in court trying to get something started. Testing shows there is not a current leak. There is so much water in the aquifer, that a very small leak may go undetected due to being diluted. We continue to monitor the wells.
 - Mr. Ricketts: The cleanup will take at least 1-2 years. It is done in a very small controlled area at a time.
 - Mr. Copeland: We need to do what we can now. The process will be monitored.
- (Kevin O'Neil – City Commissioner)I attended the last USEPA meeting and I asked if we removed everything, wouldn't that be better. Take it out. The USEPA is making threats. I think we should stand up and do it the right way. I agree with Mr. Metzger that it should be moved out. Don't agree with the Plan 9A modified. I don't think it is a good deal. If we get lucky maybe it won't leak. If we clean it up, and haul it away, we will not have to constantly monitor it. It only costs \$12-\$15 million dollars more to clean it up and haul it away than the Plan 9A modified. We could help to fund that plan.
 - Mr. Kaffenbarger: How do you plan to get the money?
 - Response Mr. O'Neil - by putting a fee on everyone using the water and/or sewer to help raise money to fund the removal.
 - Mr. Copeland: Kevin (Mr. O'Neil) does not speak for the City Commission. The other commissioners have agreed with the Plan 9A modified, but the City Commission has not taken any legal stance at this time.
 - Mr. Ricketts: If you donate to the fund for cleanup, you become part of the PRP's. You can be held liable. That is accepting a lot of responsibility for the future.

**End of Public Comment **

Mr. Clark: We are looking for information or feedback from the community. At some point the Township will make a decision. We will also ask the County, City and Villages to have an input and to pass that along to the Governor. But Governor Kasich has the final decision.

Mr. Copeland: We have had discussion at a City meeting. You need to talk with as many people as you can, and have them talk with us. We will listen.

Mr. Metzger: The community needs to talk with the trustees let us know what you think.

Mr. Koehler: USEPA has made this agreement: 9A modified. If we fight it, they may walk away. I don't want to let the PRP's off the hook.

Ms. Welker: Water is precious. This water source is a sole source, sand and gravel aquifer. It is one of the most productive aquifers. At this time there is no guarantee of funds. And there is no quick fix.

Mr. Clark: Thank you for coming.

Motion to adjourn: Mr. Kaffenbarger 2nd: Mr. Metzger
Roll Call: Ayes – All

Approved by:
Board of German Township Trustees

Recorded in the
Record of Proceedings
May 30, 2017

Angela D. Griest, Fiscal Officer

Robert Clark, President

Rodney Kaffenbarger, Vice President

Charles Metzger, Member