

Minutes of the Public Works Subcommittee of the Consolidation and
Shared Services Commission

February 8, 2011

Present: Valerie Haynes, Carol Golden, Alice K. Small, Anton Lahnston; also John Fry and Joe Stefko (on phone) of CGR.

Joe Stefko reported that CGR has begun its analysis of the administrative rules and responsibilities of the public works departments. Joe asked the subcommittee whether the community would accept any diminution in the level of current services in order to achieve cost savings. Subcommittee members responded that the consensus to date from various meetings with citizens and organizations is that residents want to retain current levels of service. The ideal would be to improve services through efficiencies gained from merging the departments.

For example, currently each department has its own six year schedule for capital acquisitions - CGR will look at whether a combined entity can eliminate duplicate acquisitions and thereby defer or reduce some costs.

Subcommittee members spent some time discussing the Facilities Report received at the last meeting. The report provides three potential site plans to consolidate some or all of the facilities at the River Road property owned by the Township, and currently used by the Sewer Operating Committee. Based on the site visits on January 20, the subcommittee agreed that improved facilities are needed, and that such facilities will enable the department(s) to operate more efficiently both from a service perspective and an economic perspective. For example, currently all the equipment is stored outdoors, causing excessive wear and tear of very expensive machinery. Provision of an indoor cold storage facility will extend the life of the equipment and save money over time.

Next steps - CGR will develop a series of possible administrative options and provide them to the subcommittee by February 28. The subcommittee will then sit down to discuss them with the DPW superintendents and supervising engineers. The subcommittee will schedule an additional March meeting on March 8, retaining the March 18 meeting date.