

Village of Doylestown

Emergency Public Meeting of the Water and Sewer Department

Date: June 5, 2025

Time: 3:03 p.m.

Location: Village Hall, Council Room

Minutes

Call to Order:

The emergency meeting was called to order by the Chair to address recent sewer backups affecting residences on Greenwood Drive. The Chair acknowledged the urgency of the meeting and thanked attendees for their prompt participation.

Roll Call:

Councilman Mark Hammer (Chair), Mayor Terry Lindeman, Harold Rozak (arrived 3:13 p.m., visiting councilman), Christina Mambourg (Village Administrator), Mark Lightner (Water & Sewer Utilities Superintendent), Jeff Pratt, Mark Weist, Ruth Ann Sheppard, Stefano Fischetti, Cynthia Tesmer.

Purpose of Meeting:

To discuss the cause of the recent sewer backup that resulted in flooding and property damage to four units on Greenwood Drive and explore both immediate and long-term solutions.

Resident Testimony:

- **Mr. Jeff Pratt, resident of Two Greenwood Drive, detailed the sewer backup in his unit, which he reported was caused by a lift station failure.**
- **Ms. Cindy Tesmer, resident of Four Greenwood Drive, described water and sewage flooding in her basement. She noted the financial burden of cleanup and the denial of her insurance claim.**
- **Mr. Mark Weist, HOA representative, emphasized the repeated nature of sewer backups in the area (three in eight years), property devaluation, and the psychological toll on residents. He also referenced communication concerns with Village representatives.**

Village Response and Technical Explanation:

- The sewer motor failed due to a phase loss in the power supply from a transformer that blew on May 31.
 - The failure triggered a system lockout to protect the motors from further damage. These motors are estimated to cost between \$9,000 and \$10,000 each.
 - The Village's alarm system, including a robocall alert mechanism, failed to activate due to the power supply being interrupted.
 - The motor system and generator performed as designed under these failure conditions, and the incident was attributed to an equipment failure from the utility company, Ohio Edison. Ohio Edison has stated the transformer blowout was an "Act of God," and they are not accepting liability.
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Insurance Matters:

- Residents were advised to notify their insurance companies.
 - The Village has filed a claim with its own insurer.
 - It was noted that claim denials and fear of rate increases or loss of coverage are deterring some residents from pursuing claims on their insurance.
 - The Village Administrator confirmed that the Village's insurer has opened a claim and adjusters would reach out to affected parties.
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Public Health and Safety:

- Residents raised concerns about the health hazards from sewage contamination.
 - Suggestions included contacting the EPA, though it was noted that EPA typically becomes involved only in large-scale or commercial incidents.
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Discussion of Infrastructure and System Improvements:

- Residents questioned the adequacy of the existing backup and alarm systems.
- Village representatives is researching upgrade options and shared that they are exploring:
 - Cellular-based backup alert systems with battery power

- **Installing cameras and level sensors for remote monitoring of lift stations**
 - **More robust alarm systems (visual and audible)**
 - **Improved maintenance and mapping of shutoff valves**
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Historical Context and Future Actions:

- **Some Village Council members and staff were unaware of the history of past sewer incidents.**
 - **It was noted that prior to the adoption of the Village Charter, the Board of Public Affairs managed these utilities and did not pass along records or incident history.**
 - **The Village is now committed to modernizing and redundantly protecting the water and sewer infrastructure.**
 - **Residents expressed desire to be involved in planning and solution development.**
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Action Items:

- **Village Administrator to follow up with residents regarding insurance claims and adjuster contacts.**
 - **Council to seek engineering assessments and cost estimates for system upgrades.**
 - **Residents to explore immediate mitigation, including bleach/mold clean-up advice and reach out for village-provided support.**
 - **Improve transparency and communications between residents, HOA, and Council.**
 - **Discuss drainage and stormwater impacts from nearby development at upcoming Planning Commission meetings.**
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Additional Motions and Committee Actions:

- **Mayor Terry Lindeman moved to have Utilities personnel work on Saturdays and Sundays for three hours instead of the usual two, and to check all lift stations on each weekend day.**
 - **The motion was seconded by Mark Hammer, Chair of the Water & Sewer Committee.**

- The motion passed by consensus.

Adjournment:

All residents were encouraged to attend public Planning and Council meetings and remain engaged with the Village administration.

The meeting concluded at 4:54 p.m. with a commitment to ongoing collaboration and updates.

Minutes Prepared by:

Christina M. Mambourg

Village Administrator

Date Prepared: June 12, 2025

Approvals:

Mark Hammer

Chair, Water & Sewer Committee

Signature: _____

Date: _____

7/21/25

Terry Lindeman

Mayor

Signature: _____

Date: _____

7-24-25

CJ Gadosik (absent)

Council Member

Signature: _____

Date: _____