PHILLIPSBURG SEWER MEETING
August 11, 2026
5:00 PM

Phillipsburg Housing Authority/ Envision Center Community Room,
535 Fisher Avenue, Phillipsburg, NJ

1. CALL TO ORDER **5:00 pm**

2. OPEN PUBLIC MEETING ACT STATEMENT – Council VP Clark
This meeting is called pursuant to the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Law. This meeting of August 11, 2026 was included in a notice sent to newspapers of record and posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building and has remained continuously posted as required notices under the statute. In addition, a copy of this notice has been available to the public and is on file in the office of the Municipal Clerk.

3. INVOCATION AND FLAG SALUTE

4. ROLL CALL

	Present	Absent
Councilman Fey	X (5:09)	
Councilman Saultz	X	
Councilman Wanisko	X	
Council VP Clark	X	
Council President Kennedy	X	
Mayor Piazza	X	
Alpha Representative		X
Greenwich Representative		X
Lopatcong Representative		X
Pohatcong Representative		X

I. Question or Concerns from Sending District Representatives- None

II. Review of EPA Administrative Order and Sewer System Improvement Needs

Dennis Yoder, Remington Vernick Engineering presented the following:

- Updated Administrative Order being drafted by USEPA – A Draft Compliance Schedule is in review.
- A Projects commitment list and the quarterly report were submitted to USEPA with a revised schedule (CCE commitment of $14.5M) proposed.
- WIPA Process – Three firms, NJ American Water, Aqua NJ, and Natural Systems Utilities were shortlisted. A walk through and a follow up were done. Questions were submitted and the proposal submission deadline is expected to be extended to Sept 23, 2026. The EPA and IBank will not issue authorization to advertise for the Riverside Way Pump Station or fund additional projects until the WIPA decision is made.
- NJDEP has funded a work order under the Technical Assistance Program.

- Planning & Design costs for proposed projects can be funded with NJIB Sage Grant appropriations. NJDEP is holding approvals of all I-Bank and NJDEP-funded projects, pending WIPA decision.

III. Sewer System Projects

- Riverside Way Pump Station Replacement. Remaining open items include Flood Hazard Permitting, which is with the Land Use Board, and an agreement with DRBJT Commission. Joint funding is also in review with FEMA to determine eligibility. They are working on an agreement with the Bridge Commission. There are questions about property ownership. Attorney Galacio stated that one of the sewer lines would cross a triangle of "lost" land whose ownership is unknown.
- Region 3 sewer priority work is in design. A TWA Permit was received. The application is with NJ IBANK for review.
- Lopatcong Creek Pipe Crossing Rehabilitation – On-hold pending FEMA funding potential.
- Replacement of the sewer interceptor connecting the Housing Authority to Warren Street Sewer is a USEPA project commitment. An engineering services proposal is pending (SAGE Funding). Easement procurement is needed.

IV. Wastewater Treatment Plant Planned Projects 2024 Sewer Utility Capital

- WWTP I-BANK project initiated for Blower Upgrades, Additional Screening before the grit system, Controls and Bio-Mag System Upgrades. Engineering services proposal is pending (SAGE Funding). The project is on hold, waiting for the WIPA decision.

V. District Flow Monitoring & Reviews

- The plant is running between 2.5 and 2.7 million gallons a day and is rated for 3.5 million gallons a day. July averaged 2.35 million gallons a day. A 4" rain event was a good test for the lines going down to Sawmill. There was no overflow.
- There have been several projects proposed by outlying districts, including a car wash in Greenwich which would use 11,000+ gallons a day. That was approved because Greenwich and the plant have the capacity. Another request received after that was for a development in Greenwich which would require 350,000 gallons per day. A letter was sent out that they do not have the capacity to serve at this time because their capacity is down to 135,000 gallons.
  Councilman Fey asked what capacity is available. Dennis stated they are working on agreements to even out the districts' capacities. Some have much more than they will use and others do not have enough for new projects. He can provide specific numbers.
  Councilman Fey asked about ultraviolet use and how Riverdale has handled capacity. Dennis explained sequence batch reactors which rely on continuous flow and the ultraviolet (UV) system. Due to the ebb and flow of our system, UV is used. Dennis also explained aerated and anaerobic (biomag) sludge treatment, their pros and cons and associated costs. Our current tanks are not tight enough for aeration.
  Dan Baransky, Natural Systems Utilities provided the following information:
  During the high flow event no manholes popped. More water is now coming into the

plant and three pumps are running. Mayor Piazza asked if as the pumping and collections systems get upgraded and flow increases, will the plant need to be upgraded? Dennis stated that as the flow increases it expands the available capacity. Dan added that sump pumps should not dump into the storm water system, not the sewer system. Additional systems, capacity, and volumes were discussed. Councilman Saultz asked what upgrades were necessary for the carwash and are they long term upgrades. Dennis stated the normal connection fees, based on the flow, will be applied. Greenwich has the capacity. Attorney Galacio stated that no upgrades are needed for the carwash. Upgrades to the plant capacity would only be required for the development project or another district town could transfer their excess capacity to Greenwich. Dennis added that the theoretical flow for the development project is based on the state formula allocating 300 gallons per home per day.

VI. NSU Operations - WWTP & Sewer System Operations Update

- Septage Receiving Update – Dan Baransky distributed charts and readings which he reviewed. All systems are running well and all readings are below acceptable limits. A quarterly report was done for EPA. An EPA inspector will be at the plant in late August or early September. All laboratory recertifications were completed. The WIPA tours went well. Aqua and NJ American seemed very interested. Those companies will be merging by 2028. A lot of upgrades have been done to the plant. There's still more to do that could increase capacity, but it is really nice.

Councilman Fey moved to adjourn at 5:38. Seconded by Council VP Clark. Ayes: 6, Nayes: 0, Absent: 4, Abstain: 0. Motion passed.