
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) “FEE”

After years of researching and deciding that there were no alternatives, the Township Supervisors asked that the township engineering firm (Lennon, Smith, Souleret Engineering, Inc.) do a study on the cost of implementing this unfunded Federal Mandate that basically states that all water leaving New Sewickley be pollution free.

For any waterway that the DEP identifies as “impaired,” the Township is required to develop a “pollutant Reduction Plan” (PRP). Each of the “Pollutant Reduction Plans” (PRP) must be designed by our township engineers, constructed by our township employees and outside experts, and maintained by township employees and outside experts for many years to come. Each PRP is unique and designed for a particular location. They are going to be expensive to design and build and get increasingly expensive in the years to come as the number of PRP sites to be maintained increases.

After months of work, our engineers came back with an estimate of the yearly costs of implementing the MS4 federal mandate. It came in at a staggering fee of \$318,198.00 yearly. Needless to say, the Township could not come close to covering this amount without some alternative source of income.

The Township started doing research to see the method used by surrounding townships who have already implemented the MS4 program. The implementation has moved from east to west in Pennsylvania starting with the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Consequently, there were many other townships and boroughs to be researched. Almost universally, a “Stormwater Fee” for all residents, businesses, churches, social clubs, etc. had been implemented. Our township engineers believe that all PA municipalities will enact such a fee within 10 years. They can see no other solution.

The Township firmly believes that clean water is very necessary. **The supervisors found it very difficult to implement this fee on our residents. However, after finding absolutely no other alternative, a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) “FEE” was implemented effective January 1, 2021. At approximately the time you receive your New Sewickley tax bill, you will receive a notice for your MS4 fee. In cases where you have just a lot and your home, that fee will be a flat rate of \$72.00. For those with 10 acres or more, each fee has been individually calculated. The same goes with social clubs, military bases, hospitals, churches, cemeteries, prison complexes, highway departments, universities, etc. Even the Township building, fire departments, Green Valley Park and all other property owned by the Township are not exempt.**

This fee can have no other use except stormwater management. Every penny taken in will go to ensure the water leaving New Sewickley is clean and pollution free and meets federal, state, and local EPA standards.
