The Rose Valley Planning Commission was convened by Chairperson Stephanie Middleton on October 6, 2016 at 7:30 pm in the main hall of The Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, PA. Those members present were Andy Detterline, Al Meyer, Hope Thurlow and Stephanie Middleton. Members Lynn Kelley and Dan Sheehan were excused.

Others attending the meeting included Mayor Tim Plummer, Solicitor G. Guy Smith, Council Members Bill Hale, Dave Firn and Bob Giorgianni, Borough Manager Paula Healy, DELCOROA Executive Director Robert J. Willert, DELCOROA Director of Business and Organizational Development Chris Lenton, DELCOROA Director of Operations and Maintenance Michael DiSantis, and around 35 residents of Rose Valley, many from the Long Point area.

Chairperson Stephanie Middleton introduced the DELCOROA representatives and explained that the public meeting was being held to discuss DELCOROA's plans to decommission the Rose Valley Sewage Treatment Plant and convert it into a transfer pump station. Michael DiSantis of DELCOROA then gave a presentation outlining the scope and impact of the project and other alternatives considered.

Mr. DiSantis explained that Rose Valley Borough had transferred ownership of the entire Rose Valley Sewer System, including the Rose Valley Sewage Treatment Plant, to the Delaware County Regional Water Quality Authority (DELCORA) in 2009 for a nominal dollar. The Borough did this because it knew the Treatment Plant, which was built as a WPA project in the 1930's, would not be able to operate much longer, and because it knew the Borough did not possess the engineering, project management or financial resources to address closing the plant. As a regional sewer authority, DELCOROA was obligated to accept ownership of the system and has operated it since then. The RV Treatment Plant serves 354 Borough residences and 127 in Nether Providence. Approximately 70 homes in the Borough are connected via the Brookhaven Road transfer pump station to Nether Providence and the remainder have on-site septic systems.

As expected, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection has now informed DELCOROA that it will not renew its license to operate the RV Treatment Plant, which expires January 31, 2018, because it cannot meet modern sewage treatment standards. DELCOROA has submitted a plan to close the existing Treatment Plant and construct a new pump station and forcemain pipe to convey sewage through Middletown Township Sewer Authority's (MTSA) piping system to DELCOROA's Chester Creek pump station and ultimately to DELCOROA's Western Regional Treatment Plant in Chester on the Delaware River.

The new pump station will be built at the current location of the Rose Valley Treatment Plant. The new forcemain pipe will go up the driveway from the RV Treatment Plant, out South Longpoint Lane and then up East Knowlton Road about 1000 feet to tie into a MTSA forcemain just downstream from an existing MTSA pump station. DELCOROA
considered alternative piping routes but they were much longer and therefore not cost effective. DELCORA also considered modernizing the existing RV Treatment Plant but this was prohibitively expensive. The capital costs for the conversion, to be shared evenly by all users, were estimated at $4.4 million, the majority of which was devoted to the pump station and force main, and a one-time $950,000 capital contribution to Middletown negotiated by DELCORA in lieu of a $5,000 per home tap-in-fee.

As part of the project, DELCORA also plans to replace approximately 220 feet of the existing force main which runs from the pump station near the Old Mill to the RV Treatment Plant below Longpoint Lane. The portion of this piping which will be replaced involves the stream crossing under Ridley Creek from the Robert's property over to the flood plain area of the Long Point Wildlife Sanctuary. The existing pipe is currently exposed in the bed of Ridley Creek and has been damaged in the past by large trees dragged down the Creek during storms and is currently susceptible to such damage in the future.

The DELCORA representatives reviewed the anticipated impact on users, and indicated the annual fee for Borough households tied into the system was expected to increase by approximately $300. Borough residents, who are billed directly by DELCORA were told of an anticipated annual hike from $517 to $817. Nether Providence bills its own residents and would be charged approximately $111,000 annually. While this is not good news, it would have been far more expensive had the Borough remained responsible for the Treatment Plant.

Mr. DiSantis also explained that even though the Borough sold its sewer system to DELCORA, the Borough is still required to have an Official Sewage Facilities Plan, known as an Act 537 Plan. DELCORA has prepared an Act 537 Plan Update for the facility changes outlined above and has requested that the Borough adopt the Plan Update as its Official Sewage Facilities Plan and submit it to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection for approval. Borough Council has asked the Planning Commission to make a recommendation regarding this matter. After much discussion, the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend that Borough Council approve the Act 538 Plan Update prepared by DELCORA.

Following the presentation by DELCORA and subsequent discussion, the minutes of the November 5, 2015 meeting were reviewed and adopted on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. The meeting was then adjourned at 9:35 pm. The next Planning Commission Meeting will be held on an as needed basis.