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Packet of 3 papers: Correspondance

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Our File # 6858*

Eric Neisser, Esq.
Constitutional Litigation Clinic
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15 Washington Street
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Re: Monroe Township

Dear Eric:

There seems to be a lot of building in Monroe, but no Mount Laurel Units. Stewie wants to know what you are going to do about it. *(Because he does not know what to do about it.)*

Very truly yours,

Ron
RONALD L. SHIMANOWITZ
For the Firm

RLS:al
Enclosure

More capacity sought

Sewer plans wait state OK

By Mike Fabey
Staff Writer

MONROE — The township is moving closer to increasing sewer capacity so more houses and businesses can be built.

The Monroe Town Council approved a resolution last week allowing the Municipal Utilities Authority to pump the township's sewage to the Manalapan Brook Basin pumping station and eventually onto Middlesex County Utility Authority's treatment plant in Sayreville.

To treat Monroe's sewage in Sayreville, the Millstone Basin sewage treatment plant, where the township's sewage is processed, will be converted to a pumping station.

The plan now only needs approval from the state Department of Environmental Protection.

MUA officials hope the state will approve the project in February so construction workers can begin laying six miles of pipe this spring from the Millstone Basin plant, on Cranbury Station-Union Valley Road, to the Manalapan Brook Basin pumping station, on Old Forge Road in the township's Outcalt section.

The conversion would increase MUA sewer service, which is near its

capacity of 1.5 million gallons per day, according to MUA Director Michael Rogers.

The MUA is converting the plant to a pumping station because it is cheaper than expanding the treatment plant to accommodate more sewage. Conversion will also be cheaper for residents.

Mr. Rogers said it would cost about \$5 million to convert to a pumping station and about \$9 million to expand the treatment plant.

Monroe will be able to generate more sewage under the conversion plan because the Sayreville plant can accommodate about 5.6 million gallons a day from the township. If the Monroe plant were expanded, it could accommodate only 3 million gallons a day.

Conversion will cost residents less than expanding the current plant because the overhead is less for a pumping station than a treatment plant. Developers in the township, who will benefit most from increased sewage capacity, also are willing to help pay for the conversion.

Mr. Rogers said residential customers' bills would increase by 75 percent if the MUA expanded the plant, hiking an average monthly bill to about \$300 from \$178. That does not include the yearly increases due to inflation.

Residents' bills will increase only by inflation under the conversion plan because developers have agreed to pay for the construction cost, Mr. Rogers said.

Without the conversion, growth and development would be at a standstill, Mr. Rogers said.

Because of limited sewer capacity, there was a moratorium on building in the township. It was lifted in April after pipes were patched, preventing groundwater from seeping into the pipes.

Township officials last year granted approvals to build another 3,100 houses in the future.

Whittingham, a planned retirement community, will contain 2,400 houses. RH Development's project includes a conference center, a commercial area and about 700 houses.

Another of the township's PRCs, Concordia, is scheduled to ask approval to build 1,700 additional homes.

Mr. Rogers said those developments would never get off the ground if the MUA's capacity is not increased.

Spokesmen for RH Development, the developer of Whittingham and Concordia, Union Valley Corp., said the developers would contribute their fair share for the conversion.