

# Nothing solid to go on yet

By ERICA HOBBS  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

## Official urges patience until feasibility study complete

Tensions ran high at the Reading Township meeting Monday evening, as the debate over a potential sewer system for Reading, Cambria and Hillsdale townships continued.

Hillsdale Township Trustee Tom Evans attended the meeting to update his Reading counterparts on the

status of the proposed sewer system and to clarify any misconceptions.

Like previous meetings regarding the sewer system, the theme of the evening was "we still don't know."

"My message tonight is we don't have any concrete information," Evans said, an answer that many of the

approximately 25 attendees at the meeting found frustrating.

Evans spoke of the need to wait for the preliminary results of the feasibility study, which will be presented in a few weeks, before any decisions can be made. All three townships have been undergoing the study

since the beginning of this year, which is assessing the practicality and costs of the project.

Among the missing pieces, Evans reiterated that both the cost of the project and the source of the funds to support it are still unknown, though he said a rough estimate of the cost would be

available once the preliminary results come in. He also mentioned several funding options for the potential sewer system, such as a 20- or 40-year bond and grant money, but said funding cannot be discussed until the townships had an accurate projected cost of the project and an official organizational structure.

see SEWER on page 3

## SEWER

continued from front page

Evans was able to share some new developments, mainly that the few people in Allen who might have been involved in the system will not be, because it would cost too much. Additionally, the townships elected to drop the water quality portion of the feasibility study, because it would add significant costs and because there is the "availability of enough good water in the area already," according to Evans.

Evans spent much of the meeting trying to clarify misunderstandings and then answering questions.

Among issues addressed, Evans said he did not know who exactly would be affected by the sewer system, but said not everyone in the townships would be included. He said most lake properties would be expected to hook up to the sewer if it is implemented.

When it came to discussing who would vote on the issue, Evans said he still did not know, but said that it would be voted on "at least by the people that live on the lakes."

Evans also addressed the letters and petitions that have been passed around in protest, but emphasized that without any solid information, people are wasting their time "protesting something that doesn't even exist yet."

Evans assured audience members that future meetings regarding the results of the study would be open to the public and well publicized.

Lots of questions followed Evans' update, displaying significant unrest in the township concerning the quality of the lake water, development of the lake property and the cost of the feasibility study.

Though there is no solid information on the quality of the lake water, Evans argued that area lakes have all deteriorated in the past 25 years and that a sewer system would improve the quality of the water. Evans cited problems with old septic tanks on lake properties that are failing and draining into the lake and pointed to other lakes, such as Coldwater Lake, that became cleaner as a result of a sewer.

Area residents at the meeting expressed their frustration with the lack of concrete evidence the townships had to provide to their constituents and requested a baseline cost comparison to similar lakes in other areas, which Evans said he would try to provide.

Despite the 90 minutes spent discussing the sewer system alone, the meeting left many township residents even more frustrated than before.

"I don't think they've done the research they need to do," resident Mike Hostetter said. "(They don't know about) the water quality, funding or who's affected."

Glenn Frobel of Cambria Township left the meeting with even more questions.

"If they did a study, there will be even more questions after that," he said. "I'm very confused. I'm going to be even more on my toes now."