

Hello,

My name is Michael Shanahan and I am the home owner/tax payer at 91 Redwood Lane in Swan Lake. I am writing to you to express my strong disapproval of the proposed 20 plus million dollar sewer upgrade. If the upgrade is absolutely necessary then let's do the 10 million dollar option. As it currently stands, my understanding is that Sullivan county has among the highest taxes in the state and Liberty township has among, if not the highest property taxes in Sullivan county. I am already paying around \$6,000 annually and that does not even cover snow removal or garbage collection on Redwood Lane. Already we are having to take on the financial burden of compensating for a high non tax paying population and now you're asking us to assume the cost today for a facility which won't even be up and running for years with the assurance that once 70% of potential development is achieved we will reach net zero. First of all, it could realistically be decades before 70% is reached, if ever and I am approaching retirement and I have never known taxes to go down ever so I frankly find it hard to believe your assurance that our taxes will go down once these developments are built. My understanding is that the proposed \$529 annual increase is based on the assessed value of the property being \$60,000 so if my property value is assessed at closer to \$80,000 then my potential increase is more likely to be over \$700 which is on top of an almost \$100 increase this past year. Enough is enough!!! Perhaps you are all familiar with this thing called COVID? Many of us have been unemployed for months and are struggling financially just to hold on to our homes. It is tone deaf of you to be proposing another tax increase and one of this magnitude in these financially uncertain times. This is the kind of increase that can force people out of their homes if, in fact, we could sell our homes. My neighbor just lost a potential buyer for her home because of the already prohibitive property taxes. I would also be curious to know if any of these proposed new developments will be religiously or otherwise exempt from paying taxes. I think we need to put a cap on the number of people who will be putting a strain on the current or upgraded sewage system who are not contributing financially to its upkeep or upgrade.

Thank you,  
Michael Shanahan