

GRATTAN TOWNSHIP BOARD

Special Board Meeting of December 19, 2007

12050 Old Belding Road

Call to Order/Roll Call

Supervisor Frank Force called meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Board Members Present

Supervisor Frank Force , Clerk Jim Fues, Treasurer Sabrina Freeman and Trustee Paul Knoerl

Board Members Absent

Trustee Dennis Heffron

Approval of Agenda

P. Knoerl moved and J. Fues supported to approve the agenda as amended. All Ayes

Accounts Payable

J. Fues moved and S. Freeman supported to approve the accounts payable in amount of \$15,610.93 (#31634 - #31648) All Ayes

New Business

Supervisor Frank Force gave a narrative of history regarding the sewer issues being addressed. The project started in July of 2005. Many sewer issues were not addressed in the current sewer ordinance and the amendments that were made to that ordinance. A draft of the ordinance was reviewed, and became very apparent the ordinance could not be updated until the sewer district was clearly defined on the map of the Township. The maps for the ordinance 96-30 were never completed or adopted and it was not clear which parcels remained in or out of the district. The objective for this updated ordinance was to provide an ordinance that the Township staff could read and understand, and to create a set of maps identifying the sewer district. In the future, this would save the

Township future dollars for it would not be necessary to ask the Township attorneys and engineer's questions regarding sewer issues.

Supervisor Frank Force reported that the late fee rate for quarterly sewer bills is at 5%. Board discussed raising rate for late fees on quarterly sewer bills to 7%. Board agreed to keep late fees at 5%.

Sewer Ordinance

Supervisor F. Force moved and P. Knoerl supported to approve AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE THE USE OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SEWERS AND DRAINS, PRIVATE SEWAGE DISPOSAL, THE INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF BUILDING SEWERS, AND THE DISCHARGE OF WATERS AND WASTES INTO THE GRATTAN SEWER SYSTEM AND THE GRATTAN/VERGENNES SEWER SYSTEM; TO PROVIDE FOR THE CONNECTION TO AND THE FIXING AND COLLECTION OF RATES AND CHARGES FOR THE USE OF THE SEWER SYSTEM, THE ALLOCATION AND USE OF REVENUES DERIVED THEREFROM AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SYSTEM; AND TO PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR ORDINANCE VIOLATIONS. Roll Call: S. Freeman-y, F. Force-y, P. Knoerl-y, J. Fues- Y. 4-y, 0-n

Resolution to Set Sewer Rates

F. Force moved and J. Fues supported to approve the Resolution to set sewer rates and charges for the public sewer system at \$75.00 per quarter. Township Ordinance known as the Grattan Sewer connection, Use and Rate Ordinance (the "Sewer Ordinance") provides that the Township Board shall establish from time to time various Sewer Rates and Charges for use of the Public Sewer System. Roll Call: P. Knoerl-y, J. Fues-y,

F. Force-y, S. Freeman-y. 4-y, 0-n

Sewer Permit Application

F Force moved and P. Knoerl supported to approve the Sewer Permit Application based on the amendments . All Ayes

Application for Sewer Contractor's License

F. Force moved and J. Fues supported to approve the application for sewer contractor's license based on the amendments. All Ayes

Supervisor F. Force noted that two letters will be sent out per advice from Township attorney, one is a request for easement granting and the second letter will be to privately owned grinder pump owners. The letter will clearly state they are responsible for their own grinder pump.

Easement Requirements

The Township is currently composing a list of all easements granted by the public who own grinder pumps.

Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Improvement Overview

Barbara Marczak from Prein & Newhof gave an overview of what the Grattan/Vergennes treatment site consists of and how the wastewater is discharged. The system is now thirty years old and the system is not distributing wastewater correctly. She explained the process of how nutrient removal needs improvement also. Other subjects were discussed regarding capacity, status of permit, filtration, discharge requirements, and other areas regarding the treatment site.

Trustee Dennis Heffron arrived at 2:50 pm .

Barbara also noted that there is too much repair required to fix the existing system.

She went on to explain four other options with cost:

Option (A) Center Pivot System \$543,300

Option (B) Center Pivot System (2) \$591,800

Option (C) Sprinkler Gun System \$817,300

Option (D) Traveler System \$490,500

Based on the cost and the ease of operation, Prein & Newhof would recommend the center pivot system with an agricultural crop. The DEQ encourages perennial grass, but soybeans and corn are acceptable.

Jim Hegarty from Prein & Newhof asked Barbara to explain the Phasing Concept:

She explained the need for the discussion of a workable idea with the DEQ which would be to Phase the project and do the North field first and evaluate its irrigating performance. When the next five-year renewal comes up, background data would be available as to how the system is performing. The South field would be left the way it is and used for backup.

Jim Hegarty stated that they do not know how much water is going out to the irrigation zones currently. He recommended a flow meter be installed. Trustee Dennis Heffron asked about evaporation and it was stated that the method and time of irrigation does have an effect on the amount of water that actually reaches the ground. Trustee Dennis Heffron recommended installing rain gauges to measure the amount of water that actually reaches the ground.

Barbara noted that Prein & Newhof will begin working on collecting necessary information for the first phase of renewal for the current permit.

Wastewater Rate Study

Jim Hegarty, from Prein & Newhof, reviewed topics regarding a draft of the wastewater rate study. Topics that he explained were revenues, expenses, equipment replacement, and capital expansion and rate stabilization fund. He recommended that the board review the draft and gather necessary information to evaluate what amount of rate increase would be needed to cover future costs to operate and maintain the sewer system.

Maria Bajema explained the Asset Inventory spreadsheet regarding the fifty-two pump stations and their equipment in Grattan Township . She also explained the Grattan Sewer District Rate Analysis regarding the future revenues and expenditures. Discussion took place on different opportunities regarding decisions that will need to be made to the quarterly sewer system rates.

Board Member Communications

Notice of referendum of Petition

Clerk J. Fues informed the Board of a notice of petition that pertains to the Zoning Ordinance Amendment adopted on November 19, 2007 .

Meeting Dates

January 7, 2007 Next Regular Board Meeting

January 21, 2007 Optional Board Meeting

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Jim Fues, Township Clerk

Franklin J. Force, Township Supervisor

Recording Secretary,

Monica Burt