

Sewer Committee Approved Minutes

February 20, 2007

Grattan Township Hall

Frank Force called the meeting to order at 6 PM.

In attendance were Frank Force, Alan Rumbaugh, Denise Kropf, Jen Medena, and Dave VerSluis. Terry Conley arrived at 6:10

A motion to approve the agenda was made by A. Rumbaugh and seconded by D. Kropf.
Passed

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2006, meeting was made by D. Kropf and seconded by A. Rumbaugh - Passed

Under old business:

A. Frank informed us the ice storm of 2006 cost the sewer district about \$50,000.
Because he was able to

prove to the insurance company the loss of our generator was because of a lighting strike,
they paid for the

\$18,000 replacement plus much of the labor costs incurred.

D. VerSluis said they learned a great deal from the power outage and how to handle
future situations. Now

having two generators capable of handling three phase power and working with our fire
department for a

source of emergency fuel, he feels they will be able to handle any future problems in
a, much better fashion,

B. All code violations from the state have been taken care of except for the lagoon
situations. Three new

electrical panels are Installed at a cost of about \$20,000, much less than the first bids. Once it is evaluated as

to how they help, future replacements will be planned on additional stations.

The Earth Tech settlement of \$40,000 and \$11,000 fine paid for most, if not all, of the necessary corrections,

C. The mechanical upgrades need to be worked on. This will be installing guide rails and ridge plumbing

hookups in 12 wet wells. The original plan of letting the pumps free with flexible hoses is not working. The

hoses are failing and it takes at least two people to work on the pumps.

The plan is to use the balance In the surplus fund to install these gUide rails and ridge plumbing, which should

be about \$68,000.

D. Maria Bajema is redoing all the sewer maps parcel by parcel. She will use a 500 foot area around the lakes

as a "must have" hookups to the sewer. Once these are finished, a capacity study will be done to see the type

of planning for the future use of the system.

E. At this point the board does not feel spending money on the Sewer Master Plan would be a good use of the

limited funds and put this study on hold.

F. All but one item from the DEQ inspection has been completed,

However, that one is a big one. The 78 acres of "drain fields" needs to be fixed at the Grattan-Vergennes

lagoon site. The township board did not want to spend \$8,500 for a study of how to fix this. D. VerSluis is

going to work with an irrigation company to see what ideas they have for a fix that would be much less than the

\$330,000 estimate that had been thrown around.

New Business

A. Pump Station #10 has been a major problem requiring more service than any other station. it appears the

grinder pumps are too small for the volume and type of effluent they have to handle. If we go to a non clog

pump, we must have a 3" line. The current line starts as a 2" line and ends as a 3" line. .

D. VerSluis is going to see if he can find the engineering drawings of when this line was installed to see how

much of the pipe would need replaced.

He was also going to summarize the call outs for this station so we can see the repair costs vs. the cost of

installing new pumps and piping.

B. Frank discussed having the Sewer Advisory Committee become stronger and rather than just review issues,

actually get into them and have recommendations for the township board.

He would like to explore ways to have us be more effective in PR work with the users and help have issues

become more transparent.

C. Frank brought up the issue of increasing sewer rates and then ducked. It was felt with good PR and

explanations, a \$5 per month increase would be something the users might accept. He would like to start to

establish reserves for projects such as the repairs of the lagoons.

D. VerSluis is going to see if he can get rates from other areas so we can see where we are in the "market

place".

There was also a discussion as to how to best handle the salt discharge from domestic water softeners. It was

felt it better to have them dump into a dry well or something similar in each yard rather than all go into the

lagoons of the sewer system.

A. Rumbaugh is to check with the Kent County Health Department to see what their position is.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35.

Submitted by Alan Rumbaugh