

SEWER NEWS FROM THE SEWER ADMINISTRATOR

FEBRUARY 12, 2009

During a special township board meeting of Feb. 4, 2009, Sierra Consultants Operation and Maintenance Agreement for Wastewater Treatment Facilities with Grattan Township was terminated by special Resolution per Sect. 6.03 of the Agreement, termination without cause, by a 5-0 vote of the township board.

The township is now soliciting bids from other operation and maintenance providers to run the township sewer system after the 90 day termination period which was allowed in the agreement for a transition period between providers. Sierra Consultants will be offered a bid package along with at least three other providers.

MORE SEWER NEWS FROM THE SEWER ADMINISTRATOR

The township sometimes receives requests from sewer users to suspend payments of sewer user fees for one reason or another.

Some of the common reasons are; "Going to remodel and won't be living there for awhile, bought a house as an investment and haven't sold or rented it, I go to Florida for the winter and don't use the sewer, etc." Although many of these reasons appear legitimate, the process for allowing suspension of sewer usage payments is clearly outlined in the Sewer Ordinance.

Following are the rules for suspension of sewer user fees quoted directly from the Ordinance: "Unoccupied Premises. A User charge shall be charged to each Premises which is connected to the Public Sewer System, regardless of occupancy, until such time as the building sewer is disconnected from the service connection." In simpler terms if you want to suspend your user fees you have to dig up your sewer line, disconnect it and backfill the hole. Then when you want to reconnect, you have to dig it up again, reconnect it and backfill.

As unfair as this seems at times, the rules have to cover all contingencies that arise from different people. Plus the fact that there is no simple way to turn the sewer service "On" or "Off" in any other manner.

Anyone that deems to be adversely affected by this rule does have the option of an official appeal process. This process is explained in Sect. 902 and 903 of the Grattan Township Sewer Connection, Use and Rate Ordinance which is available online at the township website or at the township office.

Franklin J. Force

Grattan Township Sewer Administrator