

Meeting: Sewer Advisory Committee

March 26, 2009

7:00 PM

Grattan Township Hall

Minutes

- I. Call to Order 7:00 pm
- II. Roll Call Present: Frank Force, Alan Rumbaugh, Tom Manikowski, Jennifer Medema, Terry Conley. Also in attendance, Township Board Members and township residents, sewer customers.
- III. Approval of Agenda and Minutes. Minutes from March 18, 2009 submitted for approval. Motion by Conley to accept minutes, support by Rumbaugh. Agenda submitted, with additions to New Business after presentations, for SAC, to submit a short list of recommendations to township board. Frank explained he would abstain from voting except in case of a needed tiebreaker. Motion made by Manikowski, with support from Conley for the SAC to submit their two recommendations to the Township Board. Also Manikowski motioned to add stipulation that decision to be based on six month contract for any new O&M provided with long term contract signed afterwards, support by Conley. Two additions to agenda approved.
- IV. New Business
 - A. Bid Presentations to Sewer Advisory Committee (SAC) for Operations and Maintenance of the Grattan Sewer System.
 1. Sierra Consultants – Dave Versluis. Provided charts, email copy.
 1. Bid process reflects downward costs. Main Tech corrective maintenance out of Sierra's scope. Grattan contract is bare bones job, shoe string budget, but would like to do additional things. Call outs and SSO's, call outs, overall budget going up, increasingly due to power outages. Consider Sierra's licensed operator on site, three year improvement, sso's that happen versus sso's that don't happen.
 2. Q&A; explain O&M on graph, provide example of nearly averted overflows, describe three priorities for the Grattan Sewer System.
 2. B & B Wastewater Consultant's Inc. Joe Baxter
 1. B&B is family business, very familiar with water and wastewater systems. Contains a state certified lab, and most work done is house to build, rehab, operate and maintain systems. From Grattan location licensed operator is half hour away, non licensed operator fifteen minutes away.
 2. Q&A. What is process for recordkeeping? MS office reports.

3. Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc.- Kent Trierweiler. Provided summary handout.
 1. Company HQ in Rockford, is familiar with Grattan system, toured treatment site. Explained contract operations, would have John Rydback as contract manager working with project manager Robert Carlstrom. Together they will identify system priorities and arrange weekly tasks in consult with Township sewer administrator. Additional support personnel would be available from HQ and/or other sites to assist with emergencies.
 2. Q&A
4. Ryan's Municipal Services – Steve Ryan
 1. Experience with many municipalities, notably Ada Township and has worked to significantly reduce occurrences of sso's from that system. First priority for Grattan would be a visual inspection of pumps and panels.
 2. Q&A

B. Public Comment

1. Annette Beatty – Did anyone include infiltration and inflow investigations in maintenance bids? Frank explained that would be a function of capital investment not O&M duties.
2. Paul Knoerl – What is the role of Dennis Cole on Sierra's Staff? Marc explained Dennis is a new hire. Who is Sierra's largest client? Grattan.
3. Tom Dilley – What would be response time of O&M personnel during major emergency, ice storm etc?
4. Jim Fues – Asked of bidders are they willing to operate within budget, willing to prioritize.
5. Dan Oberlin – Does the SAC think the system is in better shape than it was three years ago.
6. Denny Heffron – Are bidders familiar with DEQ permit? What about soil sampling, does it really require an engineer to take one?
7. Chris Stuart – Re: AIA, how does Grattan compare to other projects, is equipment and staff shared or dedicated to just Grattan's use?

C. Committee Discussion

1. Motion to Select Committees Choice. Committee conducted a roll call on two bid recommendations to pass on to township board from SAC members. A Motion was made by Tom Manikowski to recommend Sierra Consultants and Infrastructure Alternatives to the township board, support from Terry Conley, all approved, motion passed. Final decision will be made by Township board and all four bidders remain for consideration.
2. A motion to recommend a six month trial period for a new O&M provider was made by Terry Conley and supported by Tom Manikowski, motion passed unanimously.

V. Meeting Adjourned 9:22 pm

Submitted by,
Jennifer D. Medema