

DRAFT- 9-22-09

APPROVED 12-9-09

Meeting: Sewer Advisory Committee

September 22, 2009

6:00 PM

Grattan Township Hall

Minutes

- I. Call to Order – Frank called the meeting to order at 6:10 PM
- II. Roll Call Present: SAC members Frank Force, Alan Rumbaugh, Jennifer Medema Terry Conley. Absent/Late – Tom Manikowski (arrived at 6:10 during public comment). Also in attendance several township residents and sewer customers. John Rydbeck from IA arrived at 6:30pm.
- III. Approval of Agenda – No quorum required when adding items to the agenda for this advisory committee according to Frank. Force motioned to accept the agenda with addition of two discussion items to New Business, (4) Fuller Septic and (5) Members-Sewer Advisory Committee. Rumbaugh and Conley support, agenda items added.
- IV. Approval of Minutes. Minutes from June 16, 2009 submitted for approval. Motion by Conley to accept minutes AS PRESENTED, support by Rumbaugh.
- V. Public Comment – Resident Travis McCracken expressed opposition to any rate increase.
- VI. Unfinished Business – Members received extra handouts for review, job specs, budget sheets, facilities assessment.
 - A. Grattan Vergennes Irrigation Upgrade
 1. Options 1& 2 rejected in the preliminary site studies, with Option 3 plans now being pursued.
 2. Discharge Management Plan (DMP) and Construction Plan – Frank Force and Diane Timmons cannot finish this technical document in-house, will require outside consultation to complete.

3. RFP's (drafted by Paul and Frank) to complete the remainder of the project will be submitted to at least five area firms.
4. The DMP will not be finished by the DEQ's mid October deadline, so Frank is requesting an extension of 120 days.
5. Payment method for the Grattan Vergennes Irrigation Project – Frank reported that the township demographics on income (top 10% of the county median) severely limit the availability of federal (USDA/Rural Development) and state funds/loans/grants that could be used towards improvements to our sewer infrastructure. This discussion centered mainly on either a rate increase or special assessment on sewer users to pay for just the G/V irrigation project. It was unanimous that a special assessment would allow greater flexibility in payment for the sewer customers. Not including engineering costs, Frank puts the estimate for this project upgrade at \$250,000.

VII. New Business

A. Infrastructure Alternatives

1. Retain or Dismiss – Topic of discussion was the affordability of the monthly O&M rates. An increase to the rate structure was not discussed. All SAC members expressed opinion to retain the services of IA for an additional six months. That will give us a full year to assess cost trends and utility performance.
2. Assessment of Facilities – This is a detailed report completed by IA on all sewer system pumps stations and components with costs for corrective actions and repairs.
3. Budget for 2009/10 and 2010/2011 – Projecting a monthly O&M budget of \$17,500.
4. Fuller Septic – Also known as Stonybrook submitted a presentation to the Township Board for collaborating with the Grattan Sewer System for disposal of sewer septage in the G/V lagoons. Discussed were some of the current issues facing the Grattan sewer users, and accommodating an outside source of septage delivered daily in a residential lakeside neighborhood was not an issue members feel compelled to act on.

5. Members – Sewer Advisory Committee. Discussed expanding the committee from five to seven. Frank felt it would be a lawyerly fee to initiate the change in the agreement/ordinance with Vergennes Township. Whether officially or ad-hoc additional representatives on the Sewer Advisory Committee was agreed to be a good thing.

VIII. Board member Communications

A. Next meeting Dec 15, 2009 6PM

B. This year Alan's term expires, application required for anyone interested in serving on Township Committees and Boards.