

DRAFT: 12-21-10
Approved: 1-18-11

Sewer Advisory Committee
December 21, 2010
6 PM
Grattan Township Hall

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Sewer Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:05 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Frank Force, Terry Conley, Alan Rumbaugh, Jen Medema (arrived @ 6:10pm)

Absent: None

Also in attendance: Jim Fues, Diana ~~Diane~~ Timmons, Sabrina Freeman

III. Approval of the Agenda

Committee reviewed the agenda, Tom motioned to accept, and Terry approved agenda.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from November 23, 2010 were reviewed. Tom motioned to accept, Alan support. Minutes accepted.

V. Public Comment

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Grattan Irrigation Field

- 1) Forage Crop Update – Where the Sewer Advisory Committee recently endorsed the DEQ recommendation to incorporate forage crops on sewer lands for increased effluent uptake, the Township board at this time has recommended against the proposition for various reasons. The farmer(s) leasing the sewer lands (2k per year) prefer to grow corn or soy not grasses, the forage crops require at least a year to become established and require a window of sunny days to harvest and dry the crop which may interfere with the irrigation schedule. The township board has also decided to “exhaust the current lease” remaining on board with the current rental agreement for the final two years of a four year contract.
- 2) Thoughts Moving Ahead
 - a. Old Orchard – This parcel is adjacent to sewer lagoons, it would require about 25k to get that parcel cleared of trees and prepped for a new irrigated cropland.
 - b. Add big guns to southern portion of existing fields – This would expand the irrigated acreage into the old migrant housing area that has been cleared.
 - c. Extend irrigation to adjoining crop fields – This would be the southwest corner of Lincoln Lake and Heffron, behind Big Pine Island Lake. A local farmer has offered to share costs for extending a sewer effluent irrigation system to

the farmlands at this site. The committee was not amenable to the idea of moving irrigation closer to homes and the lake.

B. Basic Concept of Sewer Dollars flowing thru Township's System

- 1) Fiscal Years Budget – As expected, budget is over forecast and there is no budget for emergencies or contingencies. Discussed need to get a handle on primary and subcontractor expenses.
- 2) Financial Statements- Discussed statements, fixed costs and how they show up on Peachtree accounting system.
- 3) Open Purchase Orders- Discussed the impact of open purchase orders on the bottom line of the budget.

C. Sewer User Rates and Capital Investment Fund

- 1) The loan for the Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Upgrade was to include a 75k earmark for electrical control panels as indicated in the AOF report. That loan **approval is based on the Construction Plan which** has not yet been ~~finalized~~**approved** by the DEQ. The Capital Improvement quarterly fee of \$25 is being collected for future sludge removal and other AOF priorities. However given the critical need to cover our open purchase orders, the board would like to utilize the C/I fees that have been set aside. Further complicating the issue is that any projects completed will not be eligible for reimbursement from the new loan. It will also reduce our loan amount hopefully but will stretch out our timeline for sludge removal plans and other AOF priorities. Motion by Terry Conley – The Sewer Advisory Committee recommends to the Township Board to move sixty-thousand dollars (60k) from the C/I 594 revenue fund to Secondary Contractor expenses in the 590 category during this fiscal year. Tom Manikowski support. All members in favor, motion approved.
- 2) An annual sewer usage rate increase was mentioned but tabled for discussion until a future meeting. Also discussed was the ~~40k~~ **400K** assessment from **2003**. Audit is required to see what's been applied to that loan to date.

VII. New Business

- A. Pump Station #5** – Discussed the fracture of a T pipe in the valve pit. These pits usually have water in them, which renders them difficult to survey for stress fractures and the like.

VIII. Committee Communications

Meeting adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted by
Jennifer Medema