

DRAFT 7-21-10
APPROVED 10-19-10
Sewer Advisory Committee

July 20, 2010
6 PM
Grattan Township Hall

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Sewer Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:03 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Frank Force, Terry Conley, Alan Rumbaugh, Jen Medema, Tom Manikowski
Absent: None.

Also in attendance, John Rydbeck and Robert Carlstrom from IA, and Big Pine Island Lake resident Andy Sosnowski

III. Approval of the Agenda

Frank added the topic of sludge to C. under Unfinished Business. Committee approved agenda.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Draft minutes from the May SAC meeting were available for review; one correction was made to the spelling of Andy Sosnowski's name. Jen Medema motioned to approve the May minutes as amended, Terry Conley supported. Next the June minutes were reviewed, Terry Conley motioned to approve the June minutes as written, motion seconded by Alan Rumbaugh.

V. Public Comment

None

VI. Old Business

A. Financial Review

The committee reviewed the spreadsheets created by Alan and Frank. Alan created a monthly budget of related sewer income and expenses to help in planning for required upgrades and repairs. Frank provided a single page "snapshot" of the current financial status of the Repair and Replace Sewer Account. We reviewed what's been paid, what's pending, amounts collected and amounts delinquent (nonpayment by sewer customers). We discussed income versus expenses and areas where we may be trending over budget. John Rydbeck brought up the issues with pump stations 15(Ratigan) and 6 (BPI) which are "out of tolerance" and not pumping at capacity levels. These two stations have jumped to the top of the priority list and IA is trying isolate the problems to figure if it's a pump or downline issue. The committee discussed further with John what is required to get these stations fully operational. Motion was made by Terry Conley to commit \$10k from the Repair and Replace Funds towards reworking the electrical panels and pumps for stations 15 (Ratigan) and 6 (BPI), support by Tom Manikowski.

B. Review Loan Method

Terry suggested the Township consult with a bonding attorney as it is required by municipalities before they can bond or borrow funds for projects. They will take a look at the township's status regarding loans and assets. Frank to follow up with attorney.

C. Sludge

An independent review of sludge judging will cost \$1500. The committee questioned if it's necessary right now since there will be no sludge removal for another couple years. The C/I fund was created to pay for both sludge removal and collection system upgrades; we will have to monitor and allocate accordingly to make sure the sludge funds are available when the time comes to dredge.

VII. New Business

A. I/A meeting attendance

Discussed the benefits and costs of having both Robert and John at the SAC and Township board meetings, the sewer customers pay an hourly rate to have them attend the meetings. The committee finds that Robert could attend the SAC meetings with John getting those nights off, and Frank will check with the board to see how they feel about limiting I/A's attendance at board meetings whenever possible.

(Alan Rumbaugh left meeting 7:30pm)

B. Operational Statistics

Reviewed the Waste water treatment facility Operational Statistics created by Tom with input from I/A and Frank. System capacity for additional REU's was noted and requires further discussion as to the implications of overreaching capacity with more homes coming on line. Subject to be added as a future agenda item.

C. Spare Pumps

Discussed what happens to a spare pump when it is left on the shelf. Basically it dies, moisture infiltrates, seals and starters go bad or it may check out OK then fail to perform as required. John feels it's impractical to have a spare pump for every station or to rebuild pumps just to store on the shelf when they have a limited shelf life. Basically the main goal should be to make sure both pumps on all stations are fully operational, and the next best thing is to have a "bypass pump" for emergencies. However a bypass pump is out of our price range.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

Next meeting August 17.