

DRAFT 6-22-10
Apprvd. 7-20-10

Sewer Advisory Committee
June 22, 2010
6 PM
Grattan Township Hall

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Sewer Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:00 pm.

II. Roll Call

Present: Frank Force, Terry Conley, Alan Rumbaugh, Jen Medema

Late arrival: Tom Manikowski (arrived 6:20).

Absent: None.

Also in attendance, John Rydbeck and Robert Carlstrom from IA, Big Pine Island Lake resident Andy Sakowski-Sadowski, Big Crooked Lake resident Scott _____.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Jen Medema motioned to approve agenda as written, Terry Conley support, motion accepted.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes from the May meeting were not in packets, will review at next meeting (July 20)

V. Public Comment

VI. Old Business

A. Sludge Removal

The committee reviewed the estimates submitted by Synagro and Infrastructure Alternatives for sludge removal from the #1 lagoons at both Grattan and Grattan Vergennes treatment sites. Committee and audience discussed the vast differences between the two quotes, for the levels of sludge estimated and price per gallon for removal. It was also noted that each company recommended a different approach for the removal of the sludge. Asked about how they determined sludge levels, Rob Carlstrom from IA explained that he took a row boat onto the lagoons and retrieved core samples of sludge. Samples were taken in grid fashion and plotted on the map. Synagro did not include a map of their 2010 sludge judge measurements, but included in the SAC packets were previous years sludge estimates from Synagro.

Also discussed were concerns with sludge migrating to additional lagoons and their lessened water holding capacity due to infiltrating sludge. John Rydbeck explained about the rate of sludge accumulation in the lagoons, how (paraphrased here) once it reaches a certain point it begins accumulating at a faster rate as the volume of sludge grows. Given that the sludge situation is well monitored, but more research is required to seek more estimates and best methods for extraction. The committee recommended that Frank seek additional sludge estimates from other firms. In the meantime, funds collected for this purpose will continue to grow until the time comes in the next few years when the sludge will have to be extracted from the lagoons.

B. Collection System Upgrade Prioritization

The committee reviewed the updated priority list of tasks (repair / replace) as identified in the Assessment of Facilities report. IA has ranked by priority the components most critically in need of repair or replacement. Alongside this report the committee examined the status of the "Repair and Replace Sewer Account" provided by Frank, we took a look at the actual and anticipated funds from the current and next billing cycles. At this time the committee and audience engaged in lively discussion with regard to the electrical control panels, their costs, recent estimates, engineering specs and other issues related to repair and replacement. The special assessment in the fall will provide funds that will go towards the control panel costs.

To help guide the township board and IA prioritize available funds right now for repair and replacement tasks the Sewer Advisory Committee moved to recommend the following resolution to the Township Board:

A motion by Tom Manikowski to recommend that the Board utilize the Capital/Improvement Fund monies in the following way for the billing cycle ending August 1, 2010.

\$ 103,455 (actual/anticipated) (figures from Frank's R&R Sewer Acct spreadsheet)

-\$ 44,206 (pending expenditures)

-\$ 20,000 (set aside for emerg reserve)

Total \$39,249.

-\$3,925 (set aside for 10%contingency reserves)

Total \$35,324

-\$5,000 (set aside for engineering specs control panel)

Total \$30,324. This total to be the amount available for completing tasks on the priority list as deemed necessary by IA.

Support for recommendation to board by Terry Conley, motion carried.

C. Generators

The old generator was repaired for \$1100, it will serve as backup once new generator is in place. The Meijer generator is onsite, but the trailer has yet to be delivered.

(Terry Conley departed meeting 7:30)

VII. New Business

Discussed land application of biosolids on Seif farm adjacent to Big Crooked Lake. Heavy rains caused significant amounts of applied biosolids to reach the lake, a silt fence and hay bales were placed in the affected area after the rain event. Other concerns were voiced regarding the misidentified field on Synagro's notification letter. Frank will follow up with Mike Worm of the MDNRE as to the responsibilities of Synagro to prevent further runoff into lake and for additional information regarding other sites in the township that are approved for biosolid application.

Email correspondence

John asked for direction on the best way to respond to an anonymous emailer who is repeatedly requesting specific data, some of it in depth and requiring further research on his part. The committee suggested that we have on hand a summary page of basic info (flows in/out, sludge etc) and stats on the WWTP. And to refer any additional questions from the mystery emailer to Frank and the SAC.

VIII. Adjournment
8:25 pm adjourned.