

DRAFT: 05/18/2010

Apprvd. 7-20-10

**Sewer Advisory Committee
May 18, 2010
6 PM
Grattan Township Hall**

Meeting Minutes

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

Absent: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting of the Sewer Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:08 pm.

II. Roll Call

Roll call was taken with all committee members present. Also in attendance were Chad Sosnowski from Prein & Newhoff as well as John Rydbeck and Robert Carlstrom from Infrastructure Alternatives.

III. Approval of the Agenda

Frank added two items to the Agenda. Chad Sosnowski who will explain State Revolving Fund (SRF) application and Tom who has information on the PARCC Side Wastewater treatment plant (North Kent Sewer Authority). Terry Conley motioned to approve agenda as amended, Alan Rumbaugh support, motion accepted.

IV. Approval of the Minutes

Alan Rumbaugh motioned to approve the minutes from February meeting, Terry Conley support, motion accepted.

V. Public Comment

Dale Oberlin, a Rattigan Lake resident, had a couple questions about the 2003 Earth Tech rehab and the leasing of sewer lands for crop plantings.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. State revolving Fund options

Chad Sosnowski offered an assessment of the State Revolving Fund, it's funding structure and grant opportunities available to communities in need of improvements to water distribution and waste water treatment facilities. Projects are prioritized on a point basis with some projects (Green Initiatives) eligible for a 20% grant. Projects that are under a "consent agreement order" from the DNRE get special notice and extra points towards their application to complete their project. But under such an agreement the community is obligated to give up control of the project scope to the DNRE. The application for the State Revolving Fund requires a detailed project plan and typically costs 15-20k to prepare. Once completed the application remains viable from year to year.

B. New and Improved Sewer Advisory Committee

Committee members reviewed Resolution NO. 10-016, that established the Grattan Township Sewer Advisory Committee and Bylaws. Election of Officers followed; Chairman - Frank Force, Vice Chairmen - Tom Manikowski, Secretary - Jen Medema.

C. Loans for Collection System upgrade and G/V Irrigation Upgrade

There are two options available, a *Special Assessment* under which the Township sells municipal bonds or a *Conventional Bank Loan*. Terry commented that bonds were the most common way municipalities can generate funds but suggested we table the discussion until the next meeting so that more information can be gathered before we make the final decision.

D. Power outages/Insurance Claim

The damages from the mystery power outages of the last two months totaled approximately \$12,000. Consumers Powers has denied the claims, but Township Insurance policy has covered costs thus far. \$2000 was retained for deductibles. It was noted surge protectors cost 1-3k per station.

E. Sludge Report

Sludge judging continues on the #1 lagoons at G/V and Grattan. Synagro and infrastructure Alternatives are conducting the assessments. More than one million gallons of sludge each will need to be removed and disposed of at an estimated cost of \$41,000 for Grattan and \$54,000 for G/V. This will be funded in part from the new C/I line item on the quarterly sewer bills. However the committee would like to table this issue until we receive more information from the sludge report before ordering the dredging of the lagoons.

VII. New Business

A. Sewer Generator

The discussion centered on repairing the old generator for 2-3K and/or purchasing a new generator at ~20k. The old generator is nearly obsolete; parts are scarce or no longer available. All committee members favor the purchase of a new generator, one which is rated to run the number 1 lift stations in an emergency.

B. Collection System Upgrade

The committee discussed prioritizing tasks from the Assessment of Facilities Report. From this discussion it was realized that a financial analysis of the various fixed and anticipated costs would help create a clearer picture for prioritizing repairs. Alan volunteered to create a spreadsheet of the sewer funds/budgets, and John will update his priority list for September 2010.

C. PARCC Side

Tom handed out brochures on the North Kent Sewer facility; he toured this state of the art wastewater treatment plant. He suggested that the committee take a tour and become familiar with the technology in place at the plant.

VIII. Adjournment

8:40 pm adjourned.

Submitted by Jen Medema