

**DRAFT: 2/22/2010**

**APPROVED 5-18-10**

**Sewer Advisory Committee  
February 17, 2010  
6 PM  
Grattan Township Hall**

Meeting Minutes

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

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**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call was taken with all committee members present. Township trustee Paul Knoerl and sewer customer Andy Zukowski were also in attendance.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

Terry Conley motioned to approve agenda as written, Alan Rumbaugh support, motion accepted.

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**

Terry Conley motioned to approve the minutes from December meeting, Jen Medema support, motion accepted.

**V. Public Comment**

Lake resident and sewer customer Andy Zukowski commented on costs for materials and labor, suggesting that cheaper costs could be found within some local suppliers. John was present from Infrastructure Alternatives and answered questions.

**VI. Slide Presentation**

Paul presented a slide show of the Grattan Sanitary Sewer System. It provided a comprehensive overview of the history, assets, management, and ongoing improvements to the township owned utility that serves 60% of the township population.

**VII. Unfinished Business**

**A. Sewer User rate Increase**

Frank shared that the Township board intends to put a sewer rate increase into effect with funds raised to be directed to the capital improvement fund. A small yearly percentage increase could be expected. Discussion followed, a consensus was reached that doing nothing is not an option, and that to make the recommended improvements to the sewer system would over time reduce call outs and emergencies making the system more reliable into the future.

**B. Special Assessment - What to include**

The committee was asked to consider the irrigation upgrade in addition to the possibility of using the special assessment to also include dredging of one or more lagoons that are approaching critical levels of sludge. The advisory committee discussed the financial alternatives and choices available for special assessments and to fund future improvements/requirements.

**C. Grattan/Vergennes Irrigation Upgrade Update**

Overall cost is forthcoming, DMP is updated and on scheduled for April 2011 deadline.

**Recommendation to the Township Board**

*The sewer advisory committee, after much discussion regarding the needs of the sewer utility, is recommending the township board consider a 2 step concurrent approach for funding the irrigation upgrade, recommended improvements and building up capital improvement reserves.*

*Step 1 – a special assessment that would include the cost off the GV irrigation upgrade and the 2011 sewer maintenance recommendations from IA. The combined special assessment for step one would be approximately \$500-\$700K (to be determined by final quotes). Step 2 – a temporary line item on the quarterly sewer invoice of \$25 for the purpose of raising funds to provide the necessary capital improvement projects with the sewer system (excluding the GV irrigation upgrade). This temporary line item would appear on the quarterly sewer invoice until sufficient funds have been raised to establish a reserve, but not to exceed a period of 10 years.*

**VII. New Business**

Tom suggested that we make as much information available as possible to the residents via the slide presentation and newsletter, website and cable channel. To make sure everyone is aware of the rate changes in advance of the March 22, 2010 final budget meeting, the township will also prepare a mass mailing to the sewer customers.

**IX. Adjournment**

8:25 pm adjourned.

Submitted by Jen Medema