

**DRAFT: 04/19/2011**  
**APPROVED: 5/17/2011**

**Sewer Advisory Committee**  
**April 19, 2011**  
**6 PM**  
**Grattan Township Hall**

Meeting Minutes

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting of the Sewer Advisory Committee was called to order at 6:15 pm. Frank added to agenda, item C. Old Orchard to Unfinished Business.

**II. Roll Call**

Roll call: Frank Force, Ala Rumbaugh, Jen Medema present. Terry Conley arrived at 6:20pm. Absent: Tom Manikowski. No other attendees were present.

**III. Approval of the Agenda**

Committee reviewed the agenda. A. Rumbaugh motioned to approve agenda as amended, support, motion accepted.

**IV. Approval of the Minutes**

Committee did not have copies of the minutes, tabled until next meeting.

**V. Public Comment**

None

**VI. Unfinished Business**

**A. Sewer Budget**

Frank provided copies of two Sewer O&M budgets, 12months ending 3/31/11 and the 2012 ~~projected~~-APPROVED budget. The committee reviewed and compared the two. Frank noted the decreasing numbers budgeted for 2012 in secondary contractors, and that the "actuals" for this year were back in the "comfortable range". This was expected following the transfer of funds from sludge to O&M that was discussed and approved earlier this year. Questions arose...in 936 amounts \$22,500 for old orchard project? In 2012 budget, Terry observed the allocation of a loan principal \$88,500 in ~~691~~ 591 fund?

**B. Sludge removal budget**

Frank reports that given the financial picture, there will not be enough funds collected to remove any sludge at least until 2016. Medema stated that when that day comes for sludge removal, the Grattan Sanitary Sewer system should not be made to have to compete with Wyoming or Grand Rapids for contracting Grattan Township farmfields that accept biosolids.

**C. Old Orchard**

Discussed the expansion of sprinkler irrigation at the Grattan site, the cost for clearing and prepping the site is estimated at 22k. Funds may be able to come from leftover contingency fees from irrigation upgrade. The acreage is small, Medema asked about establishing the forage crops at this newly developed site. Frank has

looked into it, he stated he cannot find any farmers who want to grow it for any reason.

**VII. New Business**

**A. Irrigation Upgrade**

- a. Cost** – The final loan amount for 15years at 3.56% is \$457,000. Divided by 740 equal users each assessed approximately \$618. Or \$41 a year plus interest. Payments to begin after June.
- b. Completion Date** – Closing on OR ABOUT May 9, questions were asked about payment schedule and penalties for prepayment of principal to bank. Also comments regarding in house accounting keeping track of early payments etc..
- c. Farm lease**- There is strong interest on the part of the township board to allow a farmer to clear land and install underdrains on two ten acre parcels adjacent to the Grattan/Vergennes discharge site. These are not irrigated parcels, his labor would be in exchange for a free lease to farm the sewer lands for an unspecified period of time. Committee members Rumbaugh and Conley expressed support for the idea.

**B. Collection sytem Upgrade**

This is the electrical portion of the upgrade for control panels and mission dialers as indentified in the priorities report from I/A. This project will provide much needed improvement to critical lift stations at all lakes in the sewer system. The project will proceed throughout the year until completed.

**VIII. Committee Communications**

7:15 pm adjourned.

Submitted by Jen Medema