

SEWER BOARD MINUTES

February 18, 2010

7:00 p.m. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Blair.

Roll Call

Present: Blair, Chappell, Reznick, Slucter

Absent: Stiles

Blair mentioned that Stiles will be unable to attend the meeting due to travel.

Also Present: Denise Parisian, Village Manager; Mike Spitler, WWTP Operator; Don Heck, Wolverine Engineers; Betsy Kelly, Recording Secretary.

Treasurer's Report/Bills

Motion by Slucter, second Reznick, to accept the treasurer's report for February 18, 2010 as presented. Motion carried. Motion by Reznick, second Slucter, to approve payment of \$25,864.12 for February 18, 2010 bills. Motion carried.

Minutes

Motion by Reznick, second Chappell, to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2010 regular meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Open to the Public

No comments were received.

Superintendent's Report

Spitler reported on the status of the SCADA system upgrade noting that the tower has been installed and two lift stations should come on line next week with project completion scheduled for mid-March.

Old Business

1. Spitler stated that research has revealed the Center for Disease Control (CDC) does not recommend Hepatitis shots for WWTP employees and he therefore does not intend to incorporate this requirement in the safety policies. Spitler also noted that a draft of the safety procedures and policies should be available for the March meeting.
2. Reznick reported on the stabilization of the pipe in the Grand River noting that Don Heck was in attendance for questions. Heck proposed placing four cubic yards of two-inch stones in a one-inch thickness around the pipe in a controlled manner for a rough cost of \$4,000.00. Heck will provide a specific proposal for the next meeting.
3. Spitler provided a preliminary draft facilities plan, for members to review, which would allow additional septic haulers to discharge at the WWTP. He explained that work on a proposed rate for this purpose is progressing and a calculation should be available for the next meeting.
4. Blair introduced the energy analysis at the WWTP for discussion. Spitler noted that the space heaters employed at the lift stations are set at the lowest setting possible to keep the equipment from freezing. Jim Hein Jr. suggested looking into 220 volt options for heaters and Spitler noted that the lift stations would need additional electric work for that type of equipment. Board members directed Spitler to obtain estimates on the cost of upgraded heaters as well as installation costs. Spitler explained that he is in the process of setting up a meeting between himself, Steve Hughes and Jim Hein Jr. to discuss the energy issues at the plant. Blair provided an explanation of the billing rates from Consumers Energy and noted that the power factor charge is the significant variable for the WWTP electric service. Blair continued that the December billing reflected a factor of .85 and that if this number goes below .8 additional charges will be assessed and if it exceeds .9 discounts could be applied. Hein stated that this number has been steadily decreasing since May of 2009 and suggested an investigation to determine the decrease in efficiency. Discussion followed regarding on-peak and off-peak hours and maximum demand spikes.
5. Blair and Parisian reported that both the Windsor Township Board and Dimondale Village Council approved the 2010-11 budget and rate increase.

New Business

1. Parisian introduced Ray Tuttle, 6161 Brooks River Dr., to represent a request for consideration of allowing Brooks River Landing access to the public sewer system. Mr. Tuttle explained that the subdivision is investigating options to repair or replace the inefficient technology currently employed by the residents for wastewater disposal before the next system failure. He noted that there are currently fifteen homes being served and that a permanent fix of connection to the public system would be desirable if the cost is tolerable. Blair expressed concern that the study generated by Wolverine Engineers may not accurately reflect the cost of switching the homes to the public system. Reznick noted that there is currently no process established for expansion of the system and reiterated his position that any request for service should come to the Sewer Board immediately for analysis. Discussion followed regarding the establishment of a process for transferring capacity for expansion of the system through the Township; the time frame for the property owners; the process for sewer service provided through the Village; and the role of the Sewer Board in the review of all potential expansions. The Board members directed Spitler to work with Don Heck, Wolverine Engineers, regarding technical aspects of the proposed expansion.
2. Blair suggested that the members review the Utilities Agreement for discussion at the next meeting.
3. Chappell requested that an additional "Open to the Public" section be added at the end of the meeting so that the Board could receive comments on the business conducted, noting that this request was made to him by a resident. Discussion followed regarding having two public comment sessions, one at the beginning and one at the end; moving the public session to the end of the meeting; and researching how other boards address open to the public opportunities. The members agreed to consider this request and report back next month.
4. Reznick requested a clarification about the next step in researching the options for the residents of Brooks River Landing and questioned whether the members of the Sewer Board should have copies of the study from Wolverine Engineers. Discussion followed regarding the need for the Sewer Board to have information up front and the legal obligation of the Board.

Motion by Reznick second Chappell, to adjourn. Motion carried at 8:32 p.m.