

**LELAND TOWNSHIP SEWER COMMISSION**  
**Thursday, May 2, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.**  
**Leland Township Office**  
**489 W. Main Street, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653**  
**MINUTES**

**PRESENT:** Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Chair Jim Redmond, Steve Scales

**ABSENT:** Frank Migda

**GUESTS:** Steve Patmore, Mitch Gawrysiak, Bill Lievense, Kathy Dawkins, Clint Mitchell, Susan Och

**CALL TO ORDER** – Mr. Redmond called meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

**DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST** - None

**APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES**

**ACTION:** Garthe moved to approve the minutes of April 4, 2024 as presented; supported by Scales. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bill Lievense – He cited his work in waste water management and the environment. He has talked with an expert, Wickam, about the odor problem. Wickam offered a solution and Lievense would like Wickam to be invited to a meeting to present his solution. The cost of the product is \$5000 per application. Wickam would be interested in during trial testing in Leland.

Lievense reported that the situation at Terrace Lane has improved. He was concerned that he had called 3 times and his calls were not returned. Patmore responded to his complaint about the phone calls. Communications should go through Patmore. Patmore is not interested in a trial at this time. The data shows that we do not have a significant odor problem currently. Patmore would like to talk with an expert that does not have a product to sell. Redman suggested having an engineer analyze the data and then have a meeting with an expert.

Steve Scales - He is interested in a cost analysis and the caustic nature of the calcium nitrate.

Steve Patmore – He cited what has been done previously and the costs. The technology that Lievense is presenting has been used successfully in septic tanks but not in an entire system. The treatment needs time to sit in a septic tank to work. The sewer system does not have the time element for it to work.

**REPORTS**

1. Treasurer (reports on file in Leland Township Office)

Ms. Garthe reported on income and expenses in the Sewer Operating and Improvement funds. It was a partial billing month. A hook-up fee came in. Reports were distributed to the Commission members.

2. Sewer Administrator and Operating Report, Steve Patmore/Mitch Gawrysiak

Monthly reports are on file in the Leland Office.

The report was distributed to Commission members.

The new personnel set-up is going very well. Patmore feels the cost savings will be significant.

Effluent and influent flows are good. The lagoon is at 9.1. The good data can be attributed to good maintenance. An aerator motor burned out, probably because of a power issue at the plant. An electrician will be contacted to add protection in the circuit so it doesn't happen again. We have one replacement motor left. A controller went out on Duck Lake Road. The cost was about \$2000 and the new one has a warranty.

Other repairs and maintenance were discussed. (see report)

We are using phones for communication. It is thought that a radio system would be less expensive in the long run.

Asset management software (Silversmith) is coming. There will be training.

Cable fiber is coming through town. Patmore is working with them. One new house was hooked up last month.

Patmore was given a section of the Master Plan for review.

Gawrysiak gave a report of his activities for the month.

Scales asked for numbers throughout the years. He wants to understand the impact on the system. Patmore will get the reports to him.

#### **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1. Update on Hydrogen Sulfide Removal Project – Sewer Administrator

EGLE wanted a revised data sheet of the calcium nitrate. We've been cleared to continue using it. We are looking for an independent consultant.

Patmore has received notice for testing for microplastics in the sludge. The levels were low the last time it was checked.

#### **COMMISSIONER COMMENT**

Scales – He has talked with Northport about their sewer system. He would like to get benchmark data about their fees and our fees. Patmore responded that Gosling/Czubak has done that and they have looked at it.

Patmore – He looked over the House Bill on short-term rentals (STR). The bill includes excise taxes. There is concern about the number of people using a rental house at one time and the strain it puts on the sewer system. This has been discussed previously. It is recognized that STR's are not being used for a good part of the year. Tourism is only getting bigger and it is putting more pressure on the infrastructure.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Susan Och – She asked about a tour of the sewer plant. Patmore has to find out about liability through the insurance and get the plant spruced up.

**NEXT MEETING:** Thursday, June 6, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**ACTION:** Garthe moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:59 a.m.; supported by Scales. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk