

LELAND TOWNSHIP SEWER COMMISSION
Thursday, June 6, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.
Leland Township Office
489 W. Main Street, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
Regular Meeting MINUTES

QUORUM PRESENT

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

ABSENT: Frank Migda, Carolyn Telgard (was unable to attend)

GUESTS: Steve Patmore, Mitch Gawrysiak, Bill Lievense, Mr. and Mrs. Mikowski.

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Redmond called the meeting to order at 10:02 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/WORKSHOP MINUTES

May 2, 2024, regular meeting -

ACTION: Garthe moved to approve the minutes of May 2, 2024 as presented; supported by Scales. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Lievense – He will be sending the State septic code regulation to Steve Patmore. He sees a lot of issues with the 5-year septic system inspection plan. He is also concerned about septic waste disposal in the county. He wanted to let the Commission know that he is hydroseeding his property tomorrow. Previously the grading of his property has allowed silt to accumulate by the lift station and it had to be removed. He will be making sure the hydroseeding goes well and does not cause problems with the lift station.

REPORTS

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

Ms. Garthe reported on income and expenses in the Sewer Operating and Improvement funds. \$55,419.00 came in. There is currently \$47,620 in the Operating fund and \$254,919 in the Sewer Improvement fund. She noted a couple of large bills that came in. It has been normal business as usual.

There was a question about delinquent payments. Patmore explained. After an amount of time without payment, the bill goes to the county. The county pays the amount to

the Township and adds the amount to the person's taxes. There are 553 accounts and about 25 are delinquent.

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

Monthly reports are on file in the Leland Office.

The lagoon is at a very good level of 9.8 feet. The monitor wells are down to 0.74. The effluent coming out of the plant is lower. There have been some step pump call-outs this last month.

They have been keeping the electrical panels going. The panels are 30 years old and replacement may be more cost effective than continuing to repair them.

The road grading is done. Gawrysiak has been cleaning the clarifier regularly and that seems to be helping. It takes a day to clean it. Cleaning of the biofilters is also being done regularly. There hasn't been a plant call-out since he has been doing these cleanings.

3. Update on Upcoming Projects – Steve Patmore

They will be replacing a septic tank at St. Mary's School.

They will be putting a riser on a septic tank at Leland Lodge.

A vent will be installed at the Harbor lift station. Scales suggested that the odor may be coming from the equipment being used. Patmore stated that it will smell a bit anyway and may be coming from the boats. The tank was pumped out two years ago. The pumping is billed to the Harbor. Boat owners pay the Harbor for pumping out their boats. The phase monitor relay was not working. It was found to not be connected. A battery back-up would cost \$1200. Patmore would like to review it before buying one. There is a broken outdoor light that needs to be replaced. Other projects are stated in the report.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Budget Amendment Recommendations – Sewer Administrator

A discussion about various topics took place.

Odor control continues to be an issue. EGLE gives the formal approval of the additive.

The phone system was discussed. The phones are expensive. Patmore cited that Suttons Bay uses a radio system that would be less expensive. Patmore wants to look into this as it may be less expensive for Leland.

Patmore distributed a map for the sewer district area.

Gawrysiak needs a vehicle to transport himself and supplies between the plant and the lagoon. There was discussion about buying a golf cart.

Some budget adjustments are needed. The step pump will be more than anticipated. A golf cart is a good idea and a used one would cost about \$3,000 - \$5,000.

Scales suggested we may be able to tap into another's open procurement to get the needed equipment for a lesser amount.

Scales reviewed Patmore's capacity report. He suggested that capacity should be monitored. Patmore stated that in a ten-year study there is not a lot of fluctuation. We do not monitor individual properties. Patmore would be able to look at rental property usage.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Redmond commented that everything looks very good.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bill Lievense – He reported that the odor has dropped dramatically at his property. The charcoal filter is working. He also mentioned that Senator John Demoose could be contacted if they are having trouble with a permit.

Steve Mikowski – He cited that there was a snowstorm several years ago that caused the cell system to break down for 4 days. A lot of cell usage (as in the summer) can disrupt cell availability. He believes the sewer system is fragile. He is concerned that effluent gets pushed out of the plant into the lagoon before it is ready. He also stated that the Township needs to be careful about its existing sewer capacity. He also would like to see a graph of a 2-year chart of flows in the sewer report.

Gawrysiak commented that the lagoon is aerated and effluent is not pushed out before it is treated.

Scales had further questions about the maximum that can go through the system in a day and seasonal capacity.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, August 1 , 2024, 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT: the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin

Date Approved: _____

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk