

LELAND TOWNSHIP SEWER COMMISSION
Thursday, August 1, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.
Leland Township Office
489 W. Main Street, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
Regular Meeting MINUTES

AMENDED

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

ABSENT: Frank Migda

GUESTS: Steve Patmore, Mitch Gawrysiak, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Mikowski, Susan Och

CALL TO ORDER – Redmond called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Agenda was reviewed and approved by consensus.

DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST – Redmond stated that he is working for Fishtown Preservation.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING/WORKSHOP MINUTES

ACTION: Garthe moved to approve the minutes of June 4, 2024 as presented; supported by Scales. Motion carried. (4,0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski - He asked about the number of members on the Commission.

REPORTS

1. Treasurer (reports on file in Leland Township Office)
Garthe reported on income and expenses in the Sewer Operating and Improvement funds. It was not a sewer billing month and there were no unusual bills.
2. Sewer Administrator and Operating Report, Steve Patmore/Mitch Gawrysiak
The written report will be submitted soon. Gawrysiak did the Operating report. There was a septic tank cave-in on ~~Broad~~ Brook Street on 6/26/24. Patmore explained the work that was done. Everything went well.
St. Mary's had a problem with roots.
Bills will be coming in for repairs around the St. Mary's repair project.
Mitch did a lot of the restoration work.
There was a force main leaking on 340 Main Street.

There were electrical system problems on 3148 N. Manitou Trail. The step chamber needs to be replaced. It is on schedule to be replaced. We've never has a step chamber fail before.

Types of alarm systems were discussed. We will be getting a new step chamber and a new control panel.

There was a call-out at the Harbor. The tank was pumped 2 months ago. There were a lot of solids in tank. Patmore commented on the increase of people in Leland and how waste is managed. The need for pumping fluctuates; there isn't a consistency so that a need for pumping can be predicted. We do know that the system is overloaded in the summer. Gawrysiak will be checking it every two weeks.

Other minor call-outs were discussed. Patmore discussed flows.

The phosphorous level has gone up. It is the busiest time of the year.

The hydrogen sulfide level has gone up. The odor outside the lift stations is better.

A letter was received from the State permitting the calcium nitrate application. The State is asking for data every week. They are concerned about the nitrogen levels going up downstream. There was discussion about how and where calcium nitrate is applied. Sewer bills went out this week.

NJ's is looking to building an addition. Patmore is working on that

Patmore is concerned about people building and parking over septic tanks. Patmore will investigate our liability. Common perception is that the Township owns the tanks.

There are 500 tanks. We need the location of about 5% of them.

3. Update on Upcoming Projects – Steve Patmore

Control panels for step pumps are being looked at.

They are installing phase failure relays.

A surge protector is needed for the main control panel.

A drain field evaluation will be done.

A vehicle is needed for work around the plant. Purchasing a golf cart needs to be discussed.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS - None

COMMISSIONER COMMENT

Steve Scales – He distributed an article about privatizing sewer services. He also discussed the cost of phones each month. The Commission would like to look into cost options.

Steve Patmore – They are not ready yet for a full open house, but members of the Commission can visit anytime.

Carolyn Telgard – She asked about a location map of the tanks in the Township. Generally, a map is produced at the inspection of a new building.

She commented that her house is due for a pump. They are now pumping on an as-needed basis. She is in favor of public education on septic tank cleaning. ~~She asked if we are subsidizing STR's.~~

PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Mikowski – He commented on the failure of installing meters on residences. He finds the variability of the Harbor hard to understand. That needs to be looked into. He asked about osmotic systems and how much they add to the flow. He believes part of the problem is that lots are on wells and there is no incentive to keep back water flow.

Susan Och – She previously introduced Silverstone which is a system for mapping and keeping track of assets, etc.

Steve Mikowski – He stated that the Sewer Ordinance calls for issues to be resolved by a Review Board. The Review Board is the full Township Board. The Sewer Review Board should meet periodically.

Susan Och - The Sewer Ordinance is on the website. The draft Master Plan is also on the website as well as a map of the sewer district.

Jim Redmond – We need to look at our mission statement.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, September 5, 2024, 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Scales moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:13 a.m.; supported by Garthe. Motion carried. (4,0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk