

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 20, 2005 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

The Four Township Water Resource Committee met at 11:30 a.m. for luncheon and meeting prior to the Gull Lake Sewer Meeting. The luncheon was enjoyed by all who attended.

Authority Meeting

1:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Chairman, Dean Blanchard called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m. Commissioners present were Tom Guthrie, Jeff Bither, Dean Blanchard and Roger Turner. None were absent. Also present were Rich Pierson, Tom Wheat and Nancy Smith. Turner gave us a update on Dick Barnum's health. Dick is hoping to be back with us in a couple of months.

REVIEW AND SET AGENDA: Pierson noted that election of officers had not be placed on the agenda. A motion was made by Bither and seconded by Guthrie to add election of officers under item 7-c and approve the agenda as amended. **Motion carried, all ayes,**

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2004 REGULAR BOARD MEETING: Bither noted three minor word corrections to be made to the minutes and then made the motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Guthrie. **Motion carried, all ayes.**

HEAR THOSE PRESENT: None present to be heard.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Sparks Sahli
Memorandum sent to Ken Sparks for his review of the situation with Mr. & Mrs. Sahli.
(See Old Business).

Wallace Gull Lake Bible Conference
A letter to Mr. Wallace explaining the way we are calculating the bills for the Conference at the present time.

Wallace Middle School Sewer
Letter to inform Mr. Wallace of our review of the possible extension of main line sewer through the Conference property under the proposed new road. It was decided that a better route for sewer is along the easement that MSU has for Wintergreen Lake flow.

Gregersen

Markin Glen Park

Letter explaining user bill for Markin Glen Sewer usage/Cooper Township. A campground with 37 sites was opened last summer and we were not aware of that.

Lennon

Island restoration

A letter to Mr. Lennon expressing our commitment to restoring his island "private property" in the spring.

Dobbins

Gravity Sewer to DeDoes

Letter explaining possible gravity sewer to Mulholland's and DeDoe's if easement could be acquired across the Dobbins property.

Boyle

Gravity Sewer to DeDoes

Letter requesting easement across Boyle property in order to provide gravity sewer to DeDoes.

Dahnke

Island Sewer Connection

Letter asking Mr. Dahnke's plans to connect to the public sewer. Island sewer connection is mandatory.

Meintz

Indirect Sewer Fee

Letter stating Board's direction on Ms. Meintz complaint and the fact that we can not control what the sellers, realtors and title office disclose. Engelwood Development.

Rensch

Island encroachment #2

Letter explaining encroachment on Island Property and request for easement for a small triangle of property as shown on map.

Munn

\$1,950 Connection Fee

Letter stating our position on capital costs and user fees as charged.

Beysiegel

Island Connection

Letter stating our regrets on the confusion that existed at the time our contractor attempted to connect their Island home to the public sewer. This will be taken care of as soon as the weather allows.

Walbridge

Settlement of Sewer Connection

Letter of final settlement and payment for shared costs of work done at 2884 Burlington Drive.

Flowers/Merchant

Cooper Meter Settlement

Letter stating our review of Cooper meter failure and what we are proposing to rectify situation in way of payment to City of Kalamazoo and that they in turn would credit to Parchments bill. Settlement amount to be \$5,775.00. Motion by Guthrie, seconded by Turner to pay \$5,775.00. **Motion carried, all ayes.**

Pfizer

October invoice for farms

Packet of material explaining 1st Pfizer sewer invoice. The Board reviewed the prior methodology for commercial accounts using water meters, equated to 200 gal/day/unit (250 gal/day/unit divisor x 1.3 factor = 200 gal/day/unit +/-). They then reviewed the 1/1/05 ordinance change and reviewed draft #1 & #2 of letters to Bob Randall. Blanchard spoke of the importance of consistency. Pierson noted how over the last five years, our “flat rate” charge to a single family non-metered home was equal to or less then the rate charged by the City of Kalamazoo to a non-metered residential home, however, due to a number of factors, Pfizer’s cost will be higher then when they were pumping to Comstock. Blanchard felt that Pfizer’s concern was basically to get the proper figures into their next years budget. Motion by Bither, seconded by Guthrie, to send shorter version letter (#2) with October invoice at \$20/month using 200 gal/day as divisor. **Motion carried, all ayes.**

Crest Development

Mountain View

Letter stating concern about construction crew at Mountain View.

PROJECT UPDATE

a. Gull Island:

: Cost Spreadsheet – The spreadsheet of costs and newest Prien & Newoff bill were reviewed and it was clarified that overage on engineering was because of Aerocon Photogrammetric bill which was for flight of island for engineering purposes.

: Encroachment Update – Rensch and Bauss are where the two encroachments have taken place. After some decision of who may potentially be at fault, a motion was made by Bither and seconded by Turner, to require the contractor to rectify the encroachment and to connect the Beysiegel property and fill septic tank. The Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority will pay up to \$1000.00 toward this effort. **Motion carried, all ayes.**

b. Mountain View:

: Crest Development – Following discussion on the letter to Steve Coleman, the Board directed Pierson to follow up, and if necessary, send a copy of the letter to Cindy Ortega, Coleman’s attorney. Prein & Newhof to keep a close eye on the crew installing pipe.

c. Others:

: Hamilton Farms-nothing new except that developer is working to get an easement to hook to public water on Gull Road through Boettcher,s property.

: Coopers Landing- Gull Lake Sewer just received a number of new permits for connection to public sewer.

: Bay Arbor: Pierson asked if Gildea had all his permits in order, there seems to be a lot of tree cutting going on. Bither indicated Gildea was clearing only that this point. Bither will remind Gildea of engineering that needs to be approved by this office before building starts.

: Sherman Lake: Nothing new at present except that Y-Camp last August stated that they would likely support a project now if it should come to the point of petitions being carried again.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Village of Richland request- The letter from the Village of Richland requesting “membership” was reviewed. Pierson stated the Articles of Incorporation as filed with the State required that all 4 township boards ratify any change in incorporation including voting commission members. After discussion, a motion was made by Bither and seconded by Guthrie that a letter extending a special invitation to February meeting and a copy of the Articles highlighting the procedures required for membership be sent to the Village. **Motion carried, all ayes.**
- b. Sahli draft complaint- At 1:30 p.m. the Board had a 20 minute discussion (via phone) with Ken Sparks, who pointed out the Authority’s strengths and weaknesses of the Sahli complaint. Sparks wanted the Board to be aware of costs and possible outcomes. A motion was made by Turner to move ahead with suit. Motion was seconded by Bither. **Motion carried, all ayes.**
- c. Election of Officers – Guthrie made a motion that a unanimous ballot be cast to retain the current Board of Officers for 2005 until changed. Motion was seconded by Turner. **Motion carried, all ayes.** Officers- Chairperson: Blanchard
Vice Chairperson: Bither
Sec/Treas: Turner

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Venner- Easements are signed and at Country for recording.
- b. Pfizer billing-Covered prior under correspondence.

- c. Connection Fee issues – review: Pierson will have this issue ready for discussion at the next Authority meeting, time permitting.
- d. Augusta Manholes: After monitoring manholes and reviewing metering done by the Village of Augusta, Pierson had calculated that Gull Lake Sewer Authority may potentially owe the Village as much as \$1,300/year for clean water infiltrating into their sewer. Prices for repairs to leaking manholes are being gathered and we will do those repairs. Augusta had not shared in the cost involved for repairing the manholes and main pipe along M-96 that was partially due to their high H₂S levels. Any payment to Village of Augusta because of infiltration will be discussed at a later date.
- e. Village Trees: Pierson had not yet written letter to Village stating that if there is ever a need to dig up any of trees to maintain our lines, we will not replant trees and any extra cost involved because of trees will be the Villages expense.

FINANCIAL REVIEW/PAY BILLS:

A motion was made by Turner and seconded by Bither to file the financial report as presented, approve the standard bills paid and approve the Prien & Newnof bills as presented, including Gull Island invoice over \$52,000 budget. **Motion carried, all ayes.**

CLOSING COMMENTS:

Pierson noted that the Preliminary Budget will be presented at the February meeting.

Turner stated that he will not be in attendance for the February as he will be on vacation . He wanted to be present if any action is taken on the Village of Richland request.

Guthrie reflected his great regard for areas that have had the foresite to build sewer systems. He stated that in his mind they benefit the entire region (quality of life). Turner commented that was one reason that Delton is now looking at elevating their water tank to give better fire protection to entire area.

Blanchard said that as there is more pressure on land-a utility in the ground can certainly increase the quality of development.

Bither stated that everything was pretty quiet in Ross Township at present, although there are several areas being looked for development.

Blanchard noted that the Netz Basketball Complex is now open and that as spring approaches there could be a major explosion of development in as many as five different spots.

Turner said that he noted that Pfizer employment is higher now than six months ago. He also had read that Pfizer plans to tear down the old research tower in Kalamazoo along with several other structures.

ADJOURN MEETING: The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. by Chairman Blanchard. The next meeting of The Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority will be February 17, 2005 at 1 p.m.

Submitted for Approval

Roger Turner-Acting Sec/Treas.