

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2021 10:30 AM
Twp. Hall Town Hall Style
No Meeting Tuesday, September 6, 2021 (before the Regular Board Meeting)

Special Meeting: Tuscarora Twp. Sewer Sub Committee
August 3, 2021

Call to Order: 6:00 pm at the Tuscarora Twp. Hall

Roll Call: Bob Kramer (Committee Chairman), Janet Vance (Secretary), Mike Ridley (Late Arrival)

Agenda:

UPDATE: Sewer Ordinance

UPDATE: Earmark Applications to U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

UPDATE: USDA Applications

DISCUSSION: Next steps and letters to owners of multiple lots coordinated with the Supervisor and Assessor

Possible next meeting: Saturday Sept. 4, 2021 10:30 am and guest speaker

Citizens Comments

Sub -Committee Comments

Motion to Adjourn

Motion to accept/amend the minutes of July 3, 2021 meeting:

Janet made the motion to accept, Bob seconded Motion passed

Motion to accept/amend the agenda:

Janet made the motion to accept, Bob seconded Motion passed

Update: Sewer Ordinance

In an effort to have flexibility for the business district, it was proposed that the township look into having temporary leasing of REU's. The Bond Counsel advised NOT to have temporary leasing, but the lawyers are reviewing the situation because it may be possible for the DDA to purchase REU's, and then lease them on a very limited basis.

Update: Earmark Applications to U.S. Senate and House of Representatives

Congressman Bergman sponsored a \$14.8m earmark for the district, but the House Sub-Committee and the full Appropriations Committee only agreed to \$3.5m for all requests. The next step will be going to the full House floor, and we are waiting to see what is determined.

If the proposed district is split (at Mack Ave.) the north district would probably be the area to receive the earmark, if approved, because this district is the more expensive of the two. This would cut the costs by approximately 53% to about \$14,000 – 14,500. We would then apply for additional funding through USDA/RD for the South District.

Mr. Blake Smith (USDA/RD) took a "windshield tour" of the proposed district. This was to identify unbuildable lots. Only 1 discrepancy was found.

Senator Peters sponsored a \$2m earmark, and Senator Stabenow sponsored a \$14.8m earmark. These are in the early stages of committees and we are under the impression these earmarks are a long shot. Keep in mind, these earmarks cannot be "stacked", "but we are still in the game"! Additional funding would be possible if these opportunities do not pan out, such as USDA/RD and Michigan State Tribal Assistance Grant Program (STAG).

Ana Schwab and her law firm, is working PRO-BONO to help frame and shepherd the grant/earmark application process through the House and Senate. These particular grants/earmarks would be through the EPA.

Update: USDA Applications:

There is no money in the USDA at this time. They are in the process of “re-pooling” their funds in September. The USDA recommended that the proposed district be split at Mack Ave. This would help the North district to receive a grant upwards of 45%. Mack Ave. South would have to apply by end of August for USDA/RD grant.

Discussion: Next steps & letters to owners of multiple lots coordinated with Supervisor and Assessor

Lot joining – the process of combining properties that have contiguous points, (the lots touch each other), even if the lots may be on opposite sides of the street. This would prevent some property owners from being assessed for each lot. If in the future the owners may want to split the lots and sell them off individually, it would make it more expensive because the owners would have to provide a “sewer connection head” for the separated lot to make it buildable and the split lot would be assessed at that time. If the lots are joining, but in different plats, special arrangements will have to be made.

There will have to be a cut-off date for joining the lots, to make it possible for the engineers and Bond Counsel to determine how many lots will be assessed in the district(s). Technically the cut-off date will be in the same fiscal year. After the cut-off date, there will be no lot combining allowed.

An up to date contact list of all district(s) property owners will be necessary. This will be vital for communication between the township and the property owners. Even though we will continue to provide all information on the township website and Facebook page, we will be looking into a newsletter for those who do not have the capability of using the internet options.

Discussion: Next meeting

Janet made a motion to have the next meeting a “town hall style” and schedule it the Saturday before Labor Day. This would be an attempt to accommodate the most people in the area, and it would duplicate the meeting we had during the Fourth of July weekend. (September 4th Time- 10:30 am.) Motion carried.

Citizens Comments:

Q -“Would it be possible for the township to post a maintenance schedule for the grinder pumps?”

A- The township voted to own the grinder pumps for efficiency of maintenance. We will work with Mead & Hunt to establish a grinder pump maintenance schedule, and have it posted on the website or have it available upon request.

Sub-Committee Comments:

Bob- Announced that Congressman Bergman will be here 2 pm, Friday, August 6th. He will have a “windshield tour” of the proposed districts so he can personally see the need and speak to the residents concerning their issues. We will be back at the Township hall at 3 pm, and at 3:30 pm attend a Business Round Table Discussion at Howe’s Marina.

Janet- Voiced concerns that FOIA requests may be charged unreasonably, and that is a direct contradiction to our efforts to maintain transparency. This could create the impression that the township is discouraging public inquires.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Vance, Trustee
Sewer Sub-Committee Secretary