

NEXT MEETING, Phase 1 Sewer Public Hearing, Tuesday May 10, 2022, 6:00 pm

**Special Meeting
Tuscarora Twp. Sewer Sub-Committee
April 5, 2022**

Call To Order: 6:00 pm

Roll Call: Bob Kramer (Committee Chairman), Janet Vance (Committee Secretary)

Motion to Accept the 03/01/22 Minutes as written: Kramer / Vance seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to Approve the Agenda with Additions: Vance / Kramer seconded. Motion passed.

AGENDA:

1. Phase 1 Update & EGLE Strategic Water Quality Initiatives – Grants for Substantial Public Health Risk Projects
2. Phase 2 Update
3. EPA Congressional Earmark Update
4. FY 2023 & Board Requests for future Earmarks/Grants
5. Schedule next meeting
6. Citizens Comments
7. Sub-Committee Comments
8. Motion to Adjourn

Phase 1 Update & EGLE Strategic Water Quality Initiatives – Grants for Substantial Public Health Risk Projects:

Phase 1 has reached a 64.5% favorability consensus with the returned petitions. This is based on “land mass”, as per State of Michigan requirements. The returned “YES” petitions also represent approximately 60% of the property owners. Not all of the petitions have been returned, and more are expected. The Committee will recommend to the Township Board to move ahead to the next step, and officially establish the special assessment district. This recommendation will also include having the engineer proceed with the necessary surveys. If the Board agrees to move forward, every property owner will receive official notice of the public hearing on May 10, 2022.

The EGLE Strategic Water Quality Initiative has not yet approved our request for an additional \$1.8 - 2m (maximum) request from the State of Michigan. If awarded, this would help with unexpected inflation costs, as well as possible sewer plant upgrades and possible private property owner’s septic tank removal and/or hook up costs. The grant approval does look promising, however, we should hear back on the status of our application within a couple of weeks.

Phase 2 Update:

Petitions have been sent out, and the Citizen Committee organizing the initiative has received approximately 30% favorable response. Many petitions are still out.

Kramer spoke to USDA-RD to try and determine a time line and establish the offer of grants and loans that would be available for Phase 2. There may be a possibility of requesting an additional grant from EGLE, as Phase 2 is a completely separate project. That is yet to be determined.

EPA Congressional Earmark Update (Phase 1):

Kramer is in contact with the EPA and Congressman Bergman's office to coordinate guidance requirements concerning the \$3.5m Earmark. We should know within 60 days what the protocols will be, but we have been told that since we have most of the necessary requirements completed, we should be able to move forward rather quickly once the official guidelines are established.

The \$3.5m earmark should not reduce the 45% grant the USDA-RD has obligated, or prevent any USDA-RD loans. Low-income considerations will be available, and the community has received a "distressed community" status from Michigan EGLE, and this will be helpful in future grant requests.

FY 2023 & Board Requests for future Earmarks/Grants:

Anna Schwab (Advisor) will be seeking guidance for additional Federal Earmarks. Rural Development projects may be available. It is possible we may qualify for a maximum grant/earmark of \$1.75m for sewer plant expansion.

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Citizen Comments:

Q: Who would be responsible if a sewage backup would occur due to a faulty check valve?

A: Kramer said he would confer with our legal counsel for an answer.

We will invite the project engineer to attend a meeting in the near future.

Q: How long have the Phase 2 petitions been circulating?

A: Approximately 3 weeks. It is still early in the process.

Q: How is the funding looking for Phase 2?

A: The congressional earmark of \$3.5m = 61% of the project costs and remainder USDA-RD loans

+ possible Michigan EGLE STAG Grant (if approved) of \$1.8 – 2m.

No Sub-Committee comments
Meeting adjourned 6:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Vance
Tuscarora Township Trustee / Sewer Sub-Committee Secretary