

Sewer Sub-Committee Report
Tuesday, September 6, 2022
Tuscarora Township Hall, 5:30 pm

Call to Order - 5:30 pm

Members Present - Bob Kramer (Committee Chairman), Janet Vance (Committee Secretary)

Aaron Nordman (project engineer) gave a presentation to the public concerning Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the new sewer projects. He described what to expect during construction and answered many questions from the public.

Phase 1 is North of Mack Avenue to Hemlock, including Prospect and Columbus Beach Association.

Phase 2 is Mack Avenue South to Turgeon River, including Sturgeon Island.

Some of the Questions asked during and after the presentation were:

Q. If they have a water feature, stream, or trees on the property, will it be disturbed during construction?

A. The contractors will either try to by-pass around the stream, or de-water it, but it will be restored after construction. The contractors will try to avoid trees whenever possible.

Q. There is a storm drain on Pike Street - how do we notify you of such issues to make sure the contractors are aware?

A. You can bring it to our attention at these public meetings, or e-mail exchange

Q. Does the grinder pumps have check valves (Safety valves that prevent backup into the homes)?

A. Yes. They have 2 check valves and well water is completely separate and is not at risk.

Q. Can the Township recommend a particular contractor for home hook-ups?

A. The Township will give a list of local contractors; however we will not recommend a particular business.

Q. What is the average cost of hooking up the homes?

A. The cost will vary depending on each property's situation. The Township will only provide sewer line access at the road, and not to the house. Placement of existing septic line, length of pipe to the road, vegetation, driveways, etc. will all play into the cost of the homeowner's charges.

Q. How will we connect?

A. The homeowner will have to abandon the existing septic tank and the pipe from the house to the septic will be the same pipe to the sewer line.

Q. Is there a firm "up front" cost of the sewer assessment to the property owner?

A. No. Not until the Township goes out for bids, and only then will we know exactly what the assessment costs will be. There has been a 10% contingency built into the estimates, and it looks like inflation has probably used that, but there is a \$1.8m grant from the Michigan State Revolving Fund for Phase 1 that will be used to help with any extra costs due to inflation.

Q. Do we need a licensed plumber to hook up?

A. No. Some people have done it themselves, but a permit and inspection is required from the county. If you have a contractor do it for you, the contractor will most generally apply for the permit for you.

Q. There was a question concerning Gravity system vs. Pressure System.

A. The engineer said there will be a combination of both gravity and pressure systems used in our area, depending on the circumstances. A gravity system is less expensive, however using only gravity system will require extensive de-watering, and that will increase the costs. Using a combination of both systems will insure optimum effectiveness at the lowest cost possible.

Q. Where is Phase 2 in the current planning stage?

A. We are trying to combine plant construction of the two Phases to be back-to-back to allow for economy of scale.

Q. Can the Township organize "economy of scale" for the homeowner's doing their hook-ups?

A. No, however individual neighbors or neighborhoods may organize their efforts when considering their contractor, and negotiate with the contractor for somewhat of an "economy of scale".

Q. What has the engineer decided on how he will do Olds Island?

A. There will be drilling under the river, and then it will be pumped back to Constance.

Q. How close to the septic will be the grinder pump?

A. It will be placed as close to the home output as possible.

Q. After the sewers are done, how long will the homeowner have to hook into the system?

A. By local ordinance, the property owner has 1 year to hook in.

Q. Will the Grinder pumps be installed by the Township?

A. Yes. The Township will retain ownership of all grinder pumps and lift stations to insure proper maintenance.

Q. Will we have to hire an electrician to hook up the grinder pump?

A. Not necessarily. The electric box for the Grinder pump will need 2 slots in your breaker box, and it has a motor that is 15 amps/220 volt.

Q. Can we completely shut off the electricity during the winter even though we have a Grinder pump?

A. Yes, if you do not share the pump with a neighbor.

Q. Do we need to winterize the Grinder pump?

A. It is not necessary, but that is up to the homeowner.

If there any additional questions, please contact Bob Kramer (trustee1@tuscaroratwp.com) or Janet Vance (trustee2@tuscaroratwp.com)

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Vance Secretary of the Sewer Sub-Committee