

LELAND TOWNSHIP BOARD BUDGET MEETING

SEWER COMMISSION WORKSHOP

February 19, 2021– 10:00 a.m.

(Leland Township will be holding all meetings remotely under the COVID19 Executive order issued to limit person to person transmission of the virus until such order is lifted. Directions to participate in the meeting via Zoom were included in the posting of the agenda.)

MINUTES

PRESENT: Supervisor Susan Och, Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Steve Patmore, Mariann Kirch, Clint Mitchell, Clerk Lisa Brookfield

ABSENT: 0

CALL TO ORDER: Ms. Och called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

GUESTS: 0

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

DISCUSSION OF SEWER COMMISSION BUDGET

Projects, Improvement fund

Mr. Patmore reviewed the Project List and spoke to the necessity of getting those projects completed. The project list and the proposed budget was previously distributed to the Board members and is on file at the Leland Township office. They will continue work on the hydrogen sulfide study, which is a carryover from last year. Their big project will be removing solids from the lagoon this spring. The influent manhole will also be rehabilitated. The Chandler Street manhole needs rehabilitation and televising. The water screen is a carryover from last year. Step system upgrades are needed. Every year they work on 3-4 step systems. All the step systems are about 30 years old. They are planning on a reconstruction of the dosing station. The dosing station is working on the original equipment. They will be updating the capacity and rate study. Asset management software will need to be purchased to keep track of repairs and predict future needs. They need to move the junction boxes to outside the chamber because it is a safety issue. The total plan is estimated to cost \$210,000 which includes the bio-solid removal of the lagoon estimated to cost \$100,000. The Sewer Commission brings in \$182,000. This is a deficit, but the Commission has not used all of their funds previously. Having an account balance has been helpful for emergency situations such as the river crossing project.

The amount of the fund balance to keep on hand for emergencies was discussed. Mr. Patmore suggested that the rate study will help to determine an amount to keep in reserve. He used the river crossing emergency project as an example: they had to use all of the reserve fund balance and increase rates.

Mr. Patmore suggested that they save \$10,000 every year for the solid removal in the lagoon (every 10 years) since that costs \$100,000 or more.

Mr. Patmore reported that there is a lot of interest in new residents wanting to hook up to the system. Hook ups cost \$6,000 apiece. \$6,000 gives you the right to connect, not the labor to connect.

Lagoon pumping bids

Two bids were received. The Sewer Commission is recommending the bid from Bio-Tech Agronomics, Inc. which is for \$93,683. IAI would have to remove the aerators and be there when it is pumped, adding an extra cost. EGLE would have a fee as well. The benefits of using Bio-Tech are that it keeps the plant in operation and leaves the lagoon in a better biological recovery state. Additionally, the process proposed will be less obtrusive and less likely to damage the liner. They can start sooner than May and we can stop the process when we reach our dollar budget amount. (They charge by the gallons pumped). They would leave about 6 inches of sludge and could do the job in 2-3 days. The company takes care of the spoils. The spoils are injected into farm fields for corn for livestock. Bio-Tech comes highly recommended.

Mr. Patmore would like an approval ASAP so they can be put on the list. It will be put on the February 25, 2021 Board meeting agenda.

Operations fund

The Commission is not anticipating any rate changes. They will be the same as last year. Salaries and raises will have a 2.5% increase (cost of living). Mr. Patmore explained line item expenses. The proposed budget has a deficit. With the fund balance it is pretty close. Mr. Patmore suggested that they should collect more for the operations. Costs have gone up a lot, especially the pumping of tanks.

Mr. Patmore commented that a lot of progress has been made on the system.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: Ms. Brookfield moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m.; supported by Ms. Kirch.

Voice Roll Call (not necessarily in the order called at the meeting)

Shirley Garthe	Yes
Jim Redmond	Yes
Frank Migda	Yes
Robert Roberts	Yes

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Susan Och, Leland Township Supervisor

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk