

LELAND TOWNSHIP SEWER COMMISSION
Friday, December 1, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.
Leland Township Office
489 W. Main Street, Lake Leelanau, MI 49653
MINUTES

PRESENT: Treasurer Shirley Garthe, Chair Jim Redmond

QUORUM NOT PRESENT

ABSENT: Frank Migda

GUESTS: Steve Patmore, Mitch Gawrysiak, Bob Polanic, Susan Och, Kathy Dawkins

CALL TO ORDER – Mr. Redmond called the workshop meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA – Participants agreed with agenda.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES – Quorum not present to approve minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REPORTS

1. Treasurer (report on file in Leland Township Office)

There was \$80,558 income in November. There were some high bills paid in November that were cited by Ms. Garthe.

Sewer Administrator, Monthly report and update on current projects.

A report was distributed to Commission members. Flows were normal. The lagoon is still a bit high, but it has dropped a foot. The target for phosphorous levels is 0.5. It is measured by what the monitor wells say, not the discharge. We are currently at a level of 0.8 or 0.9. Our permit fee has gone up from \$3,600 to \$7,500. Mr. Patmore was in favor of purchasing a software program for asset management. The cost is about \$6,000 with the purchase of tablets as an extra cost. The program could be used with other departments as well.

2. Operation Reports – Infrastructure Alternatives Inc.

A report was distributed to Commission members. Mitch Gawrysiak discussed call outs and significant events for the month. (see report)

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

1. Infrastructure Alternatives, Inc. (IAI) Sewer Operations Contract

Bob Polanic presented IAI's offered contract for next year which was a significant increase. The cost would go from approximately \$108,000 to \$178,000 with emergency calls as an extra expense. He cited the reasons for the increase. As a business, IAI has been breaking even. He suggested that Leland Township may want to hire Mitch Gawrysiak outright.

Steve Patmore presented options. We could continue with IAI at the higher rate, do the work in-house and hiring Mitch Gawrysiak, or find another operations company. Mitch is interested in working for Leland Township full time.

Steve explained the three options. The Board members gave their thoughts on each option. There was agreement that doing the work in house and hiring Mitch was the best option.

There was continued discussion about what would be needed in the transition. If Leland Township decides to terminate services, IAI would like it to take place by December 22, 2023. However, that would be unlikely considering the process the Township would have to do to make this happen. Costs, replacement of a truck and other transition details would have to be discussed at a Board meeting and approved.

This option will be presented at the December 7, 2023 workshop meeting.

2. Sewer Commission Meeting Schedule for 2024

Steve Patmore suggested that the regular monthly meeting be held on another day other than Friday. It was decided to hold meetings on Thursdays and the next meeting will be on January 4, 2024.

3. Preliminary Sewer Budgeting Schedule for 2024-2025 Fiscal

Transition details will have to be figured out prior to budget meetings. It is anticipated that we might need more than one budget meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMENT - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 4, 2024

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned a 11:33 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cindy Kacin, Recording Secretary

Date Approved: _____

Jim Redmond, Chair

Lisa Brookfield, Township Clerk