

Sewer and Water Committee Meeting Minutes 04/19/2018

Where: Township Office – 47240 Green Acres Road, Houghton, MI 49931

When: 3:02 P.M.

Who Present: Bill Bingham, Peggy Anderson and Bruce Petersen (Supervisor)

Public Present: Chris Holmes (UPEA)

Discussion Points:

- Chris Holmes discussed the Green Acres Road joint sewer project. He will be getting the Supervisor new signature sheets to sign for USDA – RD submittal. Initially the application will be sent in on paper, it will then receive comments from USDA – RD, modified and then submitted on e-certification. Thought that May first would be the date that the formal written submittal to USDA – RD might occur. Hopefully, the Michigan USDA – RD will be able to get some August “pull-back” money to fund the project. Was told to go survey project this fall in hopes of building in summer/fall of 2019 and finish in 2020. Will have to get the Cities approval for the sewer treatment coming from this new project.
- Eric Waara, Houghton City Manager, had a meeting yesterday with Flo-Dar meters. The Twp. should meet with Eric to see if the non-functioning meter sewer meter will need to be replaced/repared. The City has been sending the Twp. estimated billings for the sewer treatment charges the past few months.
- The sewer backup cleanup charges for 46694 Main St. were discussed next. The homeowner dropped off a copy of the bill and one printed image. The consensus of the Committee was that the Twp. has little or no control over what residents flush or place in our sewer system that can block the mainlines. The Twp. just recently spent over \$15,000.00 to repair and replace sewer lift station grinder pumps damaged by a small piece of fiberglass placed in the sewer system. A recommendation will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees at the May Board meeting not to pay this sewage cleanup bill.
- The \$565.85 over-due water bill for 47935 was discussed next. It was the consensus of the Committee that the resident had left her water running, in hopes of staving off another freeze up condition or had some sort of faulty plumbing problem. This caused an excessive amount of water to flow through her system thus causing an elevated water/sewer billing. She claims her meter is “old” and reads more consumption than really occurred – in reality older meters read less consumption due to increased bearing wear/friction. In 2017 during the coldest months she also had a huge spike in her water consumption. The Committee will recommend dropping the late fees (2) and just have her pay the \$523.57 owed.

- Lastly, the Committee would like to see the water consumption histories of the few new automated meters that were installed with permission from the homeowners by the DPW staff. They would also like to recommend that the TWP. move forward with the purchase and installation of the new digital, automated water meters.

Public Comment: There were no public comments – none present.

Adjournment: First – Peggy and 2nd Bill - Adjourned at 4:08 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bruce Petersen
Township Supervisor