

Michael Peiffer – commented that he has an extensive background in wastewater and water treatment. He knows the infrastructure and operational needs. Peiffer commented that he was honored to be asked to be on this board. Peiffer also commented that it has been a good learning experience and is pleased to see what the Water Board (Water Utility Advisory Board) has come up with and to move forward with the Water Board and those in attendance at this evening’s meeting.

Greg Purcell- Chairman of the Water Board, commented that he submitted the report dated June 14th at the request of the township supervisor. The report summarizes what the (Water) Board has done, what it has accomplished, and recommendations that it has sent on to the Township Board. Purcell mentioned that action by the township board hasn’t been taken on many of the items (recommendations) at this point. G. Purcell offered going through the report with the Township Board. G. Purcell thanked all those working with him on the Water Board at no cost to the township. Purcell also mentioned that Michigan Rural Water Association’s rate study has been done for the township at no cost. “The Township has NEVER done a water rate study since the conception of the utility,” noted Purcell. “It may not all be good news, but at least you know where you stand in regard to the most of the aspects, financial and infrastructure-wise in regards to the utility.

Rich Beukema commented that a year ago he was just a customer on the water line and has learned a lot in the past year thanks to Larry Knowles, Greg, Mike and the others.... We’re behind the eight ball and have some catching up to do.

G. Purcell commented that the township board created the Water Board with the requirement that three of the five members of this board be users of the water utility system- so they would have some “skin in the game and be paying out of their own pockets.”

Shane VandenBerg commented that he wasn’t sure what he could say because he didn’t want to get recalled again. VandenBerg didn’t want to “jeopardize anything going on here.” S. VandenBerg commented that he has some documents to give out after the meeting if anyone would like to talk to him.

Michael Boysen referred to the prior night’s meeting in which an overview was given of the reliability study and commented that it was a perfect opportunity to dive in tonight and really look at some of the items on the study, because “if not now, when? It doesn’t mean that we have to come to any conclusions, but it seems like it would be a good idea to do the heavy lifting a little bit. It seems like that is why we are here.”

Shane VandenBerg commented that he thought it just was an informational meeting tonight.

M. Boysen commented that the board has a tendency to kick things down the road. “...Last night’s presentation was pretty clear... So we might as well do a deep dive and look at all of those things.”

Further discussion took place regarding having more information before looking more in depth in to the water utility system. Items mentioned: projected growth, bringing in an engineering firm, comparables and the uniqueness of our water system, and studying the information currently available.

Englerth asked the board members to look through the report (from Michigan Rural Water) looking at some numbers/rates, looking at one (1), two (2), three (3) and five (5) years ahead. And the next step would be to put this information together and get it to Fleis and VandenBrink.

Time frames for getting the information to Fleis & VandenBrink and working with the information were discussed. Also mentioned by Englerth was the comment, "Are we going to continue to have the 200 users pay for the infrastructure...is that fair and equitable?" S. VandenBerg commented that he personally talked to another planner and said that it was unreasonable.

Boysen mentioned that communicating to the public was key. Forms of communication were noted. Boysen noted it was important to get information to the public in a way that the public can understand it.

Purcell noted the work L. Knowles put in communicating information (via a powerpoint presentation) to the public regarding the sewer system, and this could be done for the water system.

Jansma commented on bonds, interest rate(s) and paying off of debts related to the water system.

Purcell referred to the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) and a large project involving the water system. Purcell noted the Rural Water Development Fund as a loan source at a low interest rate.

Another discussion item was ductile iron. Jansma noted a legal settlement requiring ductile iron to match current material used in the water system. Purcell mentioned Fleis & VandenBrink's recommendation of ductile iron.

Further discussion involved having Fleis & VandenBerg coming back to talk about specs and their recommendations for water system use in the future. G. Purcell commented on previously giving financing information to the Board. Hook up fees of \$3,600 per household were noted for all that hook up to the system. Fire hydrant rental was mentioned. Purcell noted use of the system for fire protection. Purcell questioned whether a portion of the cost should come from another source. Englerth mentioned the possibility, or not, of commercial growth along the M-179 corridor.

Boysen, regarding the loop, commented that it seemed to him that it had not been really resolved as to whether it was needed or not, adding that he thought it should be revisited.

G. Purcell referred to the 2012 Reliability study having it in there (loop recommendation).

Regarding future meetings, Englerth mentioned meeting once a month for a goal and wrapping it up in the next 90 days. S. VandenBerg commented on making it 120 days. Englerth commented again, "90 days" and having A. Jansma look at some funding pieces. Englerth commented he will get with Fleis & VandenBrink and we will set up another meeting with them (getting them the info to review beforehand). Purcell also commented on having John Monsees from the MRWA (Michigan Rural Water Assoc.) in attendance at this future meeting as well. Monsees could walk thru the Preliminary Draft of Water Rate Study.

Todd Delmar asked where the specs fell into play. Boysen commented that he believed it would be involved in the meeting with Fleis & VandenBrink as well. Delamar also asked if the Water Contract should be involved. S. VandenBerg commented, "That's going to be an item for the (Township) Board to take care of."

Englerth commented, "The first shocker was the 20% increase. Now in my world, that's a lot."

VandenBerg interjected, "You said we weren't going to talk about this."

As a result of tonight's discussion, the following "To Do" list was developed:

1. **Engineer review of information of rate study and discussion of specs.**
2. **Comparables** – reviewing systems/rates of comparable size. VandenBerg commenting on having Fleis and VandenBrink giving accurate comps.
3. **Read report and study information** (Board members & Water Utility Advisory Board).
4. **Communication** – to the public regarding the water system. Purcell commented on having a clear message defined prior to crafting communication. Boysen commented that the public understands analogies...example given of repairing one's own home.
5. **Fair & Equitable**
6. **Looking into Funding-** A. Jansma was requested by M. Englerth to look at funding pieces. Purcell offered assistance to Jansma regarding exploring the Michigan bond.
7. VandenBerg added that it has to be addressed, **"Does the community have a responsibility for the future infrastructure?"**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Larry Knowles commented "...I heard you talk about the informational meeting...and I actually heard that we would like to invite specifically the customers of the water utility. I think it's a fantastic idea. I would also like to ask you to invite specifically the people that are outside of the water utility if it's going to involve their money... It wasn't talked about how you are going to finance this, but I think if you do, I'd like you to consider that and I would also consider the fact that it's almost Labor Day and a lot of your customers go away. A lot of customers aren't here but they're still taxpayers...water system.

S. VandenBerg commented "Larry, that is why I wanted to go with the 120 /150..."

L. Knowles commented "I think we should be prepared in my view, but I don't really care, we should be prepared to do this after Memorial Day, and I'm talking about the informational stuff."

Englerth commented "I think the difference Larry Whether you go to the bank and borrow money or use township funds, ultimately the township gets reimbursed...."

L. Knowles commented, "Ok, because I don't know how it's happening. Because right now I understand that the township is paying for the fire hydrants. So I don't know what you're going to do..."

M. Englerth commented, "Neither do we."

L. Knowles commented, "That's why I said, IF the township is going to pay for them, I think you ought to involve them."

Alice Jansma commented “That’s a good point because I’m not on the water system. You’re not on the water system, and I’ve heard people say ‘Well, I don’t want to pay for the water system, I live ten miles away.’ I think they need to know that they benefit from it, and I don’t think it’s a big secret that 254 people are benefiting. Everybody is.”

Bill Medendorp, of Vista Point, commented “Let me ask you a question. How come some of the places like Parker Road (Drive) that a lot of them got their own wells yet. Where they should be a customer that would help pay for ... Section 19, you say it’s polluted or it had problems, and I’m saying is Section 19 there’s people down that road tells me they don’t have hook up to water. Why are you not getting those customers?”

Englerth commented, “As the DEQ and that end of the government dictated where that plume was, it is not reasonable the plume would go where...the Misak landfill or close to it. Because we never identified where the contamination came. It isn’t going to Robbins Bay and pop back up and I’m not the expert on that, but the experts are the ones that mapped it. If you look at the Wellhead Protection Plan, and what they feel is the plume going to risk to the municipal well... it would even be questionable.”

B. Medendorp commented “But aren’t you looking for new customers to help pay the bills to your water supply problem? Customers, new customers to pay the bills so you can maintain your water tower and stuff. 250 ain’t going to pay all the bills.”

Julie Fox, YS Resident and owner of Curly Cone, commented that she gets six (6) water bills.

G. Purcell commented regarding a water system going in, “If you had your own well and you had the house, you weren’t required to do it. But if you ever knocked down a house or made modifications to it, then you would have to do it at that time.”

B. Medendorp asked, “But you are talking about customers, future customers. Did you try to go to Allegan County and get some them people on board?”

ME commented, “Actually, at one time, the subdivision behind the old Daisy Mae’s wanted to tie to the water system. We told them ‘No’.”

ADJOURNMENT:

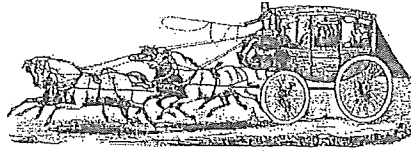
Motion by Englerth with support from Jansma to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. Approved by all. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary 7.24.18

Date: Approved Aug. 9, 2018

Approved : _____
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk



Yankee Springs Township

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269-795-9091 / FAX 269-795-2388

SPECIAL MEETING
Board of Trustees With
Yankee Springs Water Advisory Board
July 24, 2018
7:00 pm

Location of Meeting: Yankee Springs Township Hall

AGENDA:

1. Call meeting to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment

5. Purpose of Meeting:

**Open Discussion Dialog with Water Advisory Board
As Discussed at the July 10th, 2018 Board Meeting**

6. Public Comment
7. Board Comment
8. Adjournment

TO: YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP BOARD
FROM: GREG PURCELL – CHAIRMAN OF YANKEE SPRINGS WATER UTILITY
ADVISORY BOARD
RE: REPORT REQUESTED BY SUPERVISOR ENGLERTH
DATE: JUNE 19, 2018

attach to minutes

*of 7.24-2018 "Special Meeting
with Yankee Springs Water
advisory Board" /Tel*

*attachment
to minutes of 7.24.18*

Report from the Yankee Springs Water Utility Advisory Board
June 14, 2018

The Yankee Springs Water Utility Advisory Board (hereinafter referred to as the Water Board) was created by the Township Board via Resolution #7-02-17. Since the first meeting August 1, 2017, the Board has met on a consistent monthly basis to review activities of the Water Utility and make recommendations to the Township Board on a variety of topics. A copy of the minutes from each Water Board meeting are attached, although the Township Board has been receiving the minutes monthly (with the exception of the first few months which were sent in one batch). (See Attachment I).

Below is a summary of the recommendations presented to the Township from the Water Utility Advisory Board.

Reliability Study

At December 19, 2017 meeting the Water Board recommended that the Township Board accept Fleis & VandenBrink's Reliability Study proposal. At the January 11, 2018 Township meeting the Board tabled the Reliability Study proposal and rescheduled the topic for a special meeting February 8, 2018 (prior to regular meeting). After some discussion at the special February 8th meeting between the Township Board and Fleis & VandenBrink, the Board accepted the proposal.

NOTE: The DEQ has subsequently informed the Utility that the Reliability Study can be postponed until 12/31/2020.

Updating Municode

At the March 22, 2018 meeting, the Water Board requested that the Township Board provide the signed resolution passed July 13, 2006 establishing the new connection fees (direct, indirect, tapping fees) and quarterly user rates.

Shalinda Development

On October 17, 2017 the Water Board made a recommendation with regard to the Shalinda Development based on input and guidance from Fleis & VandenBrink and the Yankee Springs Fire Chief. (See Attachment II). The recommendation submitted included:

- Adding an additional fire hydrant.
- Using an 8" water line.
- Using ductile iron to remain consistent with the existing water lines.
- A 20 foot utility easement on lot 10.

- Looping the water system.

At the November 9, 2017 Township meeting the Board motioned to settle the issue of financing the loop through a meeting between the developer, the developer's attorney, the developer's engineer, a representative from the Water Board, the Township's attorney, the Township's engineer, and the GLASWA Director. The meeting to discuss payment for the loop took place November 28, 2017. The meeting did not result in any definite agreement of payment.

At the December 19, 2017 meeting the Water Board established a letter recommending to split the cost of looping the water line on the basis of benefit – 1/3 Developer cost; 1/3 Utility cost; and 1/3 Township cost. This recommendation letter was submitted to the Township Board at the December 20, 2017 Township meeting. (See Attachment III). At the January 17, 2017 Township meeting, the Board passed a resolution designating that the developer's portion of the loop will be funded through the development's water connection fees (\$3,600 per unit with 24 units expected).

Nitrates

After the nitrate issue was mentioned at the August 1, 2017 meeting, the Board scheduled a special meeting for October 5, 2017 with Carol Balkon and Regina Young, Barry Eaton District Health Department, Willard Case, homeowner with high nitrate levels, and Jeff Ulin, Cobb Lake Association, to discuss their experiences with nitrates in the area. The topic was discussed further at the November 21, 2017 meeting with Chad Kraai, Kraai Well Drilling. The topic was revisited a third time at the April 26, 2017 meeting with Carol Balkon, Regina Young, and Chad Kraai all in attendance once again. The Water Board determined that a systematic approach to encouraging residents to have their wells tested would be in the best interest of the public. Pending Township Board approval of costs, Alice Jansma and Greg Purcell volunteered to put together a "flier" for residents that explains the process of testing your water. The Water Board minutes from the April 26th meeting were on the May 10, 2017 Township Board meeting agenda but there was no discussion of this issue at the meeting.

Water Main Specifications

The Water Board worked with Fleis & VandenBrink since the November 21, 2017 meeting to develop a set up standard specifications for the water system. After multiple revisions, the Water Board made a recommendation at the March 22, 2018 meeting to submit the specifications to the Township Board for approval and codification. Alice Jansma gave the proposed specifications to the Township

Board March 26, 2018 to be discussed at the April 12, 2018 Township meeting. The item was tabled at the April 12, 2018 meeting for a TBA date.

Water Services Contract (Yankee Springs Township & GLASWA)

At the September 12, 2017 meeting the Water Board asked GLASWA to review the current contract. The Water Board believes a “multi-year” and more detailed contract would be the most beneficial for the water system.

At the March 22, 2018 meeting the Water Board reviewed and recommended approval of the proposed five (5) year Water Services Contract between GLASWA and the Yankee Springs Township Water System. Alice Jansma gave the proposed contract to the Township Board March 26, 2018 to be discussed at the April 12, 2018 Township meeting. The item was tabled at the April 12, 2018 meeting for a TBA date.

MRWA Training

At the May 31, 2018 Water Board meeting the Michigan Rural Water Association conducted a 3 hour training session for the Board members. The training provided an excellent framework for Board members to understand the myriad issues facing water utilities in Michigan, including a “Self-Assessment Analysis.”

Rate Study

The Water Board was very interested in conducting a “rate study”, and the MRWA indicated that they would be able to conduct such a study for us within the next two months – at no cost other than the GLASWA time to provide the necessary data. The Water Board requested the study move forward, and informed the Township Board of the pending study at the Saturday, June 2, 2018 Township Board meeting. The rate study will commence in the near future and will be submitted to the Township Board once completed and reviewed by the Water Board.

Normal Repairs

The GLASWA Director informed the Water Board of some upcoming work that was determined to be part of the normal maintenance of the Water Utility to include – Cathodic protection in the elevated tank, replacement of two HM doors and frames at the well house, and contacting Spring to repair some damage resulting from the removal of antennas by Sprint. The Water Board also recommended ensuring that only the Township and GLASWA had keys to locks accessing the water tower.

The Water Board reviewed this report and approved it pending the additions from the May 31, 2018 meeting which have now been added.

It should be further noted that the GLASWA Director has been informed that the Wellhead Protection Grant must be signed by this Friday, June 15, 2018, or it will be past the deadline. Wellhead protection is an important responsibility that the Township has to maintain safe drinking water, and the Water Utility Board has supported this project in the past.

Attachments: Yankee Springs Water Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from August 1, 2017 to draft minutes from May 31, 2018.