

**MINUTES
ALPINE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2005**

05-21 CALL TO ORDER AND APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The Alpine Township Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Monday, February 28, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine Township Hall, 5255 Alpine Avenue, Comstock Park, MI. 49321. Board Members present were Supervisor Marta Brechting, Treasurer Jan Brechting, Clerk Jean Wahlfield, and Trustees Jim May, Sharon Steffens, and Ted Wallace. Trustee Ron Cordes was absent. Also present were Township Engineers Tom Newhof, Mark Prein, and Bob VanderMale. The required public noticing for this meeting has taken place.

A motion was offered by Steffens, with support from May, to approve the agenda as presented and the motion carried 6-0.

05-22 PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Brunger, 4647 Fruit Ridge, requested information on the next publication date for the Harvester newsletter and the updating of the Township's website. Supervisor Brechting responded that she is currently working on updating the website which should be done within the next few days and that she will have the Harvester newsletter ready to go to print at the end of the week.

Dick Sedlecky, 295 Lantern NW, provided several comments on his displeasure and concerns with the proposed NKSA wastewater treatment plan. He stated that the plant will be expensive to build as well as run noting his concerns about future maintenance costs.

**05-21 DISCUSSION AND REVIEW OF INFORMATION
PROPOSED NKSA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLAN**

Supervisor Brechting stated that she had forwarded a series of questions regarding the proposed treatment plant to the Engineer Mark Prein. She directed Prein to review his response letter dated 02/25/05 which has been distributed to Board members.

Prein began by provided for new Board members a brief chronology of the events leading up to the NKSA's investigation of building their own wastewater treatment plant utilizing the MBR technology. He noted that the membrane bids have been received by the Authority which accounts for approximately 1/4 of the cost of the plant which is now known. In addition, he explained that the Township Board will need to address a related side issue of the Fruit Ridge sewer line costs for which the Township will be responsible for paying. Engineer VanderMale will provide this information.

Prein discussed the items in the Supervisors letter by first addressing the future growth and capacity questions for the proposed 6 mgd plant by handing out and explaining the impact table. He noted that the internal workings of the plant (pipe sizing, etc.) have already been engineered and sized for a future larger capacity but the plant will initially start up as a 6 mgd plant. He provided information regarding the operation and costs of similar plants briefly providing information on the plant in Traverse City. Prein noted

that all the required facilities to run the plant have been included in the cost estimate. The septage receiving station and maintenance building have been removed from the plan at this point and are not a vital component of the project. Authority members may consider the septage receiving station at a point in the future as regulations regarding septic waste disposal change and this may become a way to generate additional revenue in the future. Additional information was distributed and discussed regarding connection fees, costs estimate comparisons, flow percentages, BOD loading, and the REU's. The Treasurer also provided rate figures for the Board to review which included connection fees under both scenarios.

Prein stated that future growth and availability have been built into the \$49 million cost estimate for the treatment plant. Traditionally, Prein and Newhoff has been conservative in the figures and estimates that they have provided for the Township and the NKSA which has consistently been a benefit.

Board members discussed concerns and comments some of which included the \$3 million contingency amount built into the plant costs, the future timing and costs associated with increasing plant capacity by 2 mgd, the future maintenance, operation and personnel costs, the size of the Township's bond obligation, the potential to promote future growth, and the impact that the City of Rockford will have on the project if they decide against participating in the construction of the plant.

Township Engineer Bob VanderMale provided information regarding the existing sewer line which extends down Four Mile Road west to Fruit Ridge Avenue including the 4-Mile lift station as well as the Alpine Meadows Mobile Home Park in his letter dated 02/15/05. Grand Rapids will be installing a new lift station at 3-Mile and Remembrance Road thru which the Alpine sewage flows. Alpine will be required to participate and those costs associated with this \$13.6 million improvement. The Township costs are estimated at approximately \$3.4 million which includes a proportional share for zone-gating as well as an added minimum 1% over the current bond rate in accordance with the current Grand Rapids contract expiring in the year 2008. He noted that if the project is delayed and the Township signs with Grand Rapids, the new contact calls for a 6% minimum interest rate over the current bond rate.

VanderMale provide another option which would be to not participate in the Grand Rapids improvement and to re-direct the 4-Mile line back to the east at an estimated cost of \$2.99 million. He explained several factors which would have an impact on the estimated dollar amount. In either case, the Township will need to plan to allocate funds for this project which is anticipated to begin in the very near future.

Township Board members further discussed the NKSA wastewater treatment plant and the Four-Mile project with May suggesting that NKSA item be decided first before the 4-Mile Road sewer issue. The consensus was that NKSA costs numbers need to be investigated further in order to provide more detailed information before a final decision could be made regarding the plant. The next meeting of the NKSA board will be held on March 3rd to formally review the membrane bids. The Supervisor will follow up and provide an update on this meeting for Board members.

05-22 PUBLIC COMMENT AND ADJOURNMENT

Fritz Wahlfield, 730 Marlene Street, provided historical information regarding past negotiations the City of Grand Rapids had with other municipalities such as the City of Wyoming. He noted that he will provide copies of this information for Township Board members to review.

Phil Brunger, 4647 Fruit Ridge, provided comments about the current lift station located at Fruit Ridge and Four Mile Road.

William Schweitzer, 7744 Baumhoff NW, explained his experiences as a Township Board member who was directly involved in past sewer contract negotiations with the City of Grand Rapids. Based on these experiences and his understanding of the current contract offered by Grand Rapids, he is leery of Board signing the new 30-year contract. He noted that NKSA members will not have much representation on the Grand Rapids sewer board. Schweitzer also commented that the membrane system proposed by the NKSA is better than widely used settling tanks. He noted that Grand Rapids sewer over-flows into the Grand River is a problem that everyone who is a part of the Grand Rapids system will pay to repair with the potential for DEQ fines a factor to also consider.

With no further comments provided by the public or Board members and with no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Wahlfield, Clerk

Marta Brechting, Supervisor