

RUSSELL TWP FIRE-RESCUE STATION

SEPTEMBER 20, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman James Dickinson. Trustee Kristina Port and Fiscal Officer Gerri Heck were present. Mr. Mueller was travelling out of the country.

Mr. Dickinson announced that Melissa Palmer was recording the minutes. Mr. Dickinson welcomed guests and residents to the meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Mr. Dickinson introduced Gus Saikaly, Director of the Geauga County Department of Water Resources, Jerry Morgan, Assistant Sanitary Engineer, and Chip Hess of Hess Engineering.

Mr. Hess described each of five options that he developed for the waste water sewer project. Each of the five sketches and the five corresponding cost estimates are submitted as attachments to these minutes.

After discussion of the various options Mr. Dickinson explained that the Township Administration Building has a waste water problem. Mr. Hess had been hired by the Township to study possible solutions for the Township. Mr. Dickinson suggested that the homeowners may choose to join the Township in a waste water project. Mr. Dickinson's goal for this meeting was to give residents information on what the Trustees are thinking of doing. He requested feedback from the residents as to whether or not they were interested in participating in the project.

Gus Saikaly described the factors involved in allocating the costs of the project. He said that front footage and usage units were likely factors taken into account when determining the costs of the sewers to each landowner. Tap in fees based on the usage units would also have to be paid. Mr. Saikaly explained that as the old BP Station lot, now owned by the Township, does not have a building and would not benefit from the project, its frontage would be subtracted from the front footage calculation. One usage unit is equivalent to one residential house usage. An estimate for a tap in fee is based on approximately \$6,000.00 per usage unit.

Mr. Saikaly explained that this project could be privately funded or could be performed by the Township or the County. If it is a County project the costs could be put on assessments over a period of many years. However, he said that having the County perform the work would be much more expensive than a privately funded project.

Option 3 was the sketch most favored in the discussion. It has the least amount of pipe in the ground and has the fewest number of road crossings. Mr. Hess indicated that this option is what planners had in mind years ago. One unknown issue in Option 3 is the cost of moving or working around ODOT traffic signalization hardware at the northwest corner of State Routes 87 and 306. This corner is very congested.

Mr. Saikaly explained that if the ODOT hardware near the Town Hall is a problem then the pipe should be flipped to the

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south side of Route 87.

It was discussed that Option 3 can also be extended north to serve the Circle K, the residential lot, and the Post Office. For the northerly landowners on Route 306, Gus Saikaly suggested that the most straightforward solution is to extend a sewer line north in the right of way on the east side of Route 306. An easement would be needed if these landowners tie in to the sewer from their rear yards. A twenty foot wide easement is necessary to access the sewer line and to accommodate vehicles and future repair workers. In addition to an easement being required, Mr. Morgan said that if all sanitary for these north landowners is in the rear of their properties and they plan to connect to the Route 87 sewer line then the proposed manhole on Route 87 should be moved to the east.

Mr. Saikaly explained that residents cannot combine into one lateral. Each landowner needs one lateral connection to the pipe.

Mr. Dickinson described his knowledge of Mr. Mueller's waste water plan preferences. He explained that Mr. Mueller desired a force main system on Township property for control and cost purposes.

Mr. Dickinson asked if there was a chance for the sewer to be extended east on Route 87. Mr. Hess indicated that the sewer could go east for one or two more properties and that pumping could work. Kristina Port stated that the capacity of the Russell Lane Treatment Plant would control how far east the sewer could go. Mr. Hess agreed and stated that the service area for the treatment plant ends east of the Administration Building.

Mr. Saikaly and Mr. Morgan indicated a preference for Option 3. They find a force main and pump station problematic. A gravity system is preferable to them. And, they prefer only one crossing of a state highway.

Mr. Gallagher, Maintenance Superintendent, said Option 3 is the best option. He said that it eliminates the Township's problems.

Jim Dickinson expressed an interest in setting deadlines so as to ensure that this project moves forward. Mr. Saikaly needs to know if this is going to be a County job, a Township job, or a privately funded project. Mr. Hess suggested that this could be a privately funded job with do cost recovery. Mr. Saikaly agreed that cost recovery would be the cheapest. He said low interest loans may be available if the project is publicly funded. He estimated that it would cost an additional 20% to have the County do the project.

Ms. Port said she does not want the Township to become a public utility. And, she said that the smallest and least expensive options are not in the best interest of the Township.

Ms. Gerri Heck, Fiscal Officer, said that there is some money

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set aside for this project because she knew it was coming.

Mr. Hess needs to survey the north side of Route 87 and other land owners' lots. Drawings must be prepared before ODOT can be consulted on the signalization hardware and Route 306 crossing issues.

Mr. Saikaly estimated that as a County project, after Resolutions and public hearings, the bidding process could happen in the spring of 2009. Mr. Hess estimated that as a private project the process could take as little as three months and construction could begin in late winter or early spring.

Mr. Dickinson, after hearing interest from the residents in participating in a project, suggested that Option 3 seems to be the favored option. He asked if the Township should hire Mr. Hess to do the engineering study. Mr. Saikaly suggested that the Township's engineering and design expenses be reimbursed by subtracting it out of the Township's portion of the project costs.

Mr. Dickinson suggested that a private company be formed by the landowners north of Route 87. The company would finance the project engineering and construction costs. Then Russell Township would tie in. Mr. Saikaly noted that the project would be turned over to Geauga County upon completion.

Upon the motion by Ms. Port and seconded by Mr. Dickinson the meeting was adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James Dickinson, Chairman

Melissa Palmer, Secretary to
Board of Trustees