

Sherman Lake Sewer Connection Meeting Take-Aways 1/14/2022

1. Power Point materials to be placed on GLSWA's website for reference.
 - a. Additional communication will be provided.
 - b. Letters will need to be sent to those not present.
2. Financing options will be divided into 2 categories.
 - a. Tie-In connection fee to be financed through GLSWA over 5 years. Rate to be set by GLSWA board.
 - b. Voluntary SAD set for 20-year payback on the time and materials for physical connection. Ross Township, through GLSWA to own entire line from road to house. The Township will establish the SAD for the project including only those individuals who accept to be included. The process will involve the same hearing procedures we have used in the past for SADs.
3. Cost savings for homeowner can and will occur through two ways.
 - a. Participation in the voluntary SAD will ensure bulk purchase rate for material with a negotiated installation rate set with contractor(s).
 - b. Landscape restoration can be completed by homeowner (estimated savings is \$200-\$400).
4. Survey for participation in voluntary SAD does not formally set in motion an agreement to participate. Cost estimates will be given for all homes. This does not limit the homeowner from seeking out their own estimate for installation. However, that estimate must include the required equipment provided through GLSWA for the pressure sewer system.
5. Clarifying the method to implement the mandatory connection was used to provide financing options for all who wish to participate. The mandate allows for funding options through the voluntary SAD.
6. Financing through the voluntary SAD places the obligation on the property for 20 years. That obligation transfers to new ownership if the home is sold.
7. Participation in the voluntary SAD does not limit the homeowner's discretion to pay in full upon connection. Paying off the assessed cost to connect can be done at any point after connection.
8. The 15-year rate structure with its graduated scale, was based on the original 15-year bond for payback. This was the impetus behind the 15-year "plan" for connection.
9. The mandatory ordinance connection will become effective March 1, 2022, when formal announcement by publication of sewer availability for Sherman Lake residents is made. At that point the mandatory 18-month connection requirement begins.
10. Timing of the mandatory hook up requirement, considering the impact of COVID on society, was questioned. Discussion on when is a good time to connect took place. Many opinions exist. None are necessarily right nor wrong. However, for those needing financing assistance, the only path to that assistance comes through a mandatory connection requirement backed by the ordinance.
11. Vacant property falls under the current ordinance requirement to connect a new structure to sewer. The county health department will not issue septic permits for a building construction site that has available public sewer.

12. Those homeowners not participating in the voluntary SAD will be on their own without the benefits of bulk buying and negotiated installation. Compliance for connecting remains within 18 months after the formal notification is given by the township.
13. Grant notification, should the Lake Association put forth the effort, will come 6-9 months after submission. This may affect the completion date of the project. Decision to move forward with grant writing will become known during the January 20, 2022, Lake Association meeting.
14. State law provides the public health requirement to hook up. it provides the reason why 15 years has been well more than enough time to voluntarily hook up. It states as follows:

MCL 333.12752 Public sanitary sewer systems; declaration of necessity.

Public sanitary sewer systems are essential to the health, safety, and welfare of the people of the state. Septic tank disposal systems are subject to failure due to soil conditions or other reasons. **Failure or potential failure of septic tank disposal systems** poses a threat to the public health, safety, and welfare; presents a potential for ill health, transmission of disease, mortality, and economic blight; and **constitutes a threat to the quality of surface and subsurface waters** of this state. **The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest which is declared as a matter of legislative determination.**

Statics from the meeting:

- 24 homes were represented.
- 22 homes signed up to schedule a site visit for a cost estimate.
- 20 homes answered "Yes" they were in favor of participating in the voluntary SAD.
- 0 homes answered "No" they would not participate in the voluntary SAD.
- 2 homes did not provide an answer.

Moving forward, the Authority will continue to make itself available to each resident with questions. This gives us the opportunity to schedule a site visit to provide an estimated cost.

Currently 1/3 of the unconnected properties have been reached and estimates have been given, or appointments secured on the calendar.

Use of the Lake Association to communicate the need for cost estimate and intent to participate in the voluntary SAD is an additional method for communication. Letters will also go out in February seeking intent to participate along with site visit request for cost estimate.