

NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Workshop Meeting

April 18, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order by Chairman Harkins

Chairman Harkins called the workshop meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Proof of publication was available for public inspection.

Attendance

Chairman Rob Harkins
Chairman, Diane Shellenhamer
Supervisor, Dave Kirkpatrick
Supervisor, Clair Wintermyer
Township Manager, Tony Miller
Public Works Director, Scott Getgen
Township Comptroller, Jane Deamer

New Business

Potential Sewer Sale Discussion of potential uses of sale revenue

Deborah McKiernan Resident, 15 S Ben Hogan Drive shared her dislike of the idea of selling the sewer. She suggested we proceed slowly.

David Yost Resident, 1055 Yocumtown Road would like to know why we are considering selling the sewer. Chairman Harkins says the main reason is to limit liability down the road regarding any disasters that could happen. He asked if we had money in the bank and went on to read over previous budgets. He also wanted to know if anyone had talked to other townships whose sewer was sold. Supervisor Wintermyer went on to say he has talked to numerous people, some happy some not. Chairman Harkins explained the money we have in the bank is not enough for a catastrophe. The Board of Supervisors went on to explain this process started last year and explained the steps. Chairman Harkins said this is at least the third public meeting to discuss the sale of the sewer. Manager Miller explained when these meetings in the Newspaper were advertised. The Board of Supervisors went on to talk about where the money would go if the sewer were sold.

Jane Harman, 205 Hemlock Lane, Resident said that we have 4 or 5 bidders that are interested in the sewer. The Board of Supervisors say we have three bidders. Jane Harman went on to speak about residents contacting her on social media because of the scare of rate increased. Jane Harman reiterated that all utilities are going up. Selling the sewer will not help the residents. Jane does not understand the basis of selling the sewer. Jane Harman feels taxes will go up if the sewer is sold.

The Board of Supervisors went on to comment with residents in the audience who did not come to the podium, including Jane Harman, and others unrecognized residents. Supervisor Wintermyer suggested a public meeting with all residents with lots of advertising. Supervisor Kirkpatrick suggested renting the NBTFD Hall for the meeting.

Mario Eckert Resident, 815 York Road, Mr. Eckert is opposed selling the sewer plant. He believes the sewer plant generates revenue for the Township. He does not think it is fair to the residents if the

Township loses control of the sewer. He believes the residents' voices need to be heard. Residents need to voice their opinion. Mr. Eckert went on to say he does not agree with the way we post our agenda that it does not give residents enough time to prepare to come to our meetings the following week.

Chairman Harkins went on to say he does not understand how people could think we are keeping the Potential Sewer Sale a secret. This has been being discussed for more than a year.

Numerous comments between residents including Mario Eckert and Jane Harman and multiple other unrecognized residents, who did not come to the podium and Board of Supervisors discussing advertisement options.

Chairman Harkins and Vice Chairman Shellenhamer explained to an unrecognized resident that we have not reached a decision to sell. We do not have all the information we need to make that decision.

Multiple unrecognized residents asked Chairman Harkins and the Board of Supervisors if they are connected to the sewer. An unrecognized resident asked what we would do with some of the money if the sewer he sold. Chairman Harkins talked about a new park. Chairman Harkins explained we are not exploring the sale of the sewer just to get money to spend.

Supervisor Kirkpatrick explained what he would like to see happen if the sewer is sold.

Chairman Harkins says that selling the sewer has nothing to do with the building of the Multi Use Emergency Services Building. We are not considering selling the sewer to pay for the loans on the new Multi Use Building. Chairman Harkins reiterated that the sell of the sewer is just for future liability. It's not about the money. Unrecognized residents ask if there is insurance on the sewer? Chairman Harkins commenting to an unrecognized resident that the Sewer plant does not generate enough revenue to keep taxes low.

Supervisor Wintermyer explained what would happen if a catastrophe did happen. He explained there are lots of "IF's."

Chairman Harkins replied to an unrecognized resident that we have not talked to other municipalities about the potential sale.

Unrecognized resident and Supervisor Wintermyer asked if Brent would be willing to speak about the sale of the sewer. Supervisor Kirkpatrick went on to speak about how we could advertise the proposed meeting with the residents.

Chairman Harkins and Supervisor Wintermyer went on to explain to an unrecognized resident that once the bids come in on the sewer, we are in no rush to decide. It could be a year or more. Supervisor Kirkpatrick commented that the potential sale is not a done deal. Chairman Harkins confirmed we can walk away from this with no more costs to the Township but what has been paid.

Supervisor Wintermyer exclaims we have not had a public meeting on the sewer sale.

Supervisor Kirkpatrick says let's have a meeting and move on.

Resolution 2023-11, LSA grant for Storm Water Projects

Discussion : Manager Miller explained the following three grants are time sensitive

Motion: By Supervisor Kirkpatrick to adopt 2023-11 LSA grant, Seconded by Vice Chairman Shellenhamer, Carried Unanimously

Discussion : Manager Miller explained the Storm Sewer from Valley Green Road to Hemlock. We previously tried to

Money from FEMA but were not successful. .

Resolution 2023-12. Dolan Park Phase 2 GTR grant

Discussion: Manager Miller 218k was granted for renovation to the ball field. This is for the rest of the park. Including parking, lighting, and playground equipment.

Motion: By Supervisor Kirkpatrick to approve Resolution 2023-12 Dolan Park Phase 2 GTR Grant, seconded by Vice Chairman Shellenhamer carried unanimously.

Resolution 2023-13 RACP Fund usage

Discussion: Manager Miller received two million from the initial resolution. This resolution requires use to show where the money is

Motion: By Supervisor Kirkpatrick to approve Resolution 2023-13 RACP fund usage, seconded by Vice Chairman Shellenhamer, carried unanimously.

Adjournment

By Supervisor Kirkpatrick to adjourn, seconded by Vice Chairman Shellenhamer

Respectfully Submitted,

Tony Miller, Secretary