

CUMMING TOWNSHIP  
Special Meeting

July 21, 2022

The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call: All board members – present. Others present were: Dareld Schick; Denise Kirsch; Tino Franciosi; Patti Rolfe; Ray Grant; Ray Eastridge; James & Norma Morris; Vonnie & Randy Schmitt; Craig & Deb Maison; Carl Graf; Bob Blohm; Frank Kujawa; Lesley Murchie; Jodi Zimmer; Debbie & Jason Newton; Kevin Goforth; Bob Hoover; Duane Pelfrey; Matt & Jill Pollard; Pat Robinson; Rose Quackenbush; Charlie & Corinne Maher; Howard LaCosse; Matt Miller.

Ron stated the purpose of the Special Meeting was to get the property owners of the sewer district together to discuss repairs and upkeep; rates; the ordinance; and to have discussion on the possibility of using some ARPA funds for the sewer system. Ron also stated a decision will be made at the next regular board meeting, August 4, 2022.

Adam Flory, the township attorney, introduced himself; he is a municipal attorney with the law firm of Smith Bovill. Mr. Flory gave his credentials and experience.

Howard LaCosse presented copies of proposals for:

1). Clean & Scan, using cameras to check 4,000 ft of the sewer system, for a cost of \$10,000. Dareld Schick stated there is 1,975 ft from McDonald's to the pump station. Howard stated the gravity main was also included in the proposal. Dareld Schick questioned if there are any other valves besides at the pump station. Howard LaCosse stated yes, at the Lagoon. Dareld stated he checked with City Sewer from Carrolton if there are any problems with the sewer system a vacuum (sewer) truck would need to be used; their bid was \$23,000 for the vacuum and \$21,000 for the camera. Discussion was held regarding if there was excess water in the sewer system. Howard stated yes, and there is a sink hole at Duane's Iron Anchor. There were questions about the creation of the sewer system. Ron gave information regarding where the Cumming Township sewer district begins and ends. He also stated that the City needed a place for a Lagoon and bought property from Dareld Schick. Dareld Schick stated Cumming Township owns 13% of the Lagoon. Dareld Schick also stated that the Gifford property had lagoons that were tagged inadequate so the process to create the sewer system began. A question was asked if the township could pay for the maintenance and repair of the sewer system. Adam Flory stated the maintenance and repair of the sewer system could not be spread to all township property owners. He also stated a special assessment will benefit the sewer district. Dareld Schick stated when the grant was created to build the lagoons, the City of Rose City did not have enough people to connect, so Cumming Township bought in to the lagoon.

2). Kerr Pump & Supply: A). Sewer System Inspection at the cost of \$950. Jan questioned if this company took the place of Hydro Dynamics. Howard LaCosse stated yes, it is. He also stated if a new pump and new control panel will be purchased, along with other repairs and maintenance, he recommended not to have the inspection done. Discussion was held regarding the last valve issue, which cost \$6,100; this was done because of the high electric bills; the system was checked, and the valve was replaced.

B). Kerr Pump & Supply: new pump at the cost of \$9,179

C). Kerr Pump & Supply: new control panel at the cost of \$23,485.

Howard will gather prices for a new valve. Reid questioned what the chances to go in with the City of Rose City to purchase equipment. Howard stated the township would need to talk with

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the city. Reid questioned if the property owners with vacant land should share in the cost of maintenance and repairs. Discussion was held regarding the sewer connections and disconnecting to the sewer system. Jan stated the City of Rose City makes the decision to disconnect from the sewer system. Howard LaCosse stated the pumps are inefficient, they are not putting out what they should. Dareld Schick questioned if the sewers users should be billed a percentage or per unit. Adam Flory stated the Headlee Amendment limits the raising of property taxes. He also stated that all properties of the sewer district can be charged, due to the ability to hook into the sewer system and the benefit of raising the value of the properties; this includes vacant property. He also stated that the sewer assessment does not need to be billed equally but there needs to be a reason why it is not equal; can bill only properties that are currently hooked into the system. Discussion was held. Adam Flory stated allocation cost will include 330 ft back from M33, square footage of buildings can also be included. Dareld Schick stated when the sewer system was installed the costs were as follows: 1/3 to build, 1/3 cost to operate, and 1/3 cost for maintenance. Ron stated there was a good discussion in setting up for repairs and upkeep.

Adam Flory stated a special assessment can be set up, there will be a public hearing, all property owners will be notified; prior to the first public hearing, determination what repairs/improvements will be included, and the costs associated with the repairs/improvements. The township can lengthen out the sewer assessment. Next the assessment roll will be confirmed. A second hearing will be held. A third hearing will be held to approve the roll. Dareld Schick stated he would like to get all the sewer users together to discuss costs. Discussion was held regarding the maintenance fees, from the City of Rose City. Ron stated the best thing to do is set up a special assessment for the sewer district. He also stated that Mr. Flory has an idea what we are looking for.

Following are questions asked:

Matt Miller: questioned if a property owner decides to withdraw from the sewer system, do they have to pay. He also questioned what the benefit is if the system is junk. Adam Flory stated the City of Rose City must cease property owners from the sewer district. He also stated that it is up to the township, if they go ahead with an assessment the ceased property owner can be assessed.

Dareld Schick stated the money in the Sewer II Fund can be a starting place.

Matt Miller questioned if a new pump is bought, can the current controls work and what is the cost to install a new control. Howard LaCosse stated the control panel is wearing out; he will gather estimates to install a new control panel.

Denise Kirsch questioned if a new pump is installed, will it blow all the lines. She also questioned using any ARPA funds. Ron stated it is up to the board how much ARPA funds to spend on the sewer system. He also stated that the sewer system needs help but will not use all the ARPA funds on the sewer system.

Ron stated the board will not do anything until we hear from the sewer users, then we will set up another meeting. He also stated we will not spend any township money, from other funds, in this project; ARPA funds will be used for a portion. Adam Flory will check to see if there is a grant available for this project.

Kevin Goforth questioned if there will be attorney fees and where will they be paid from. Adam

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Flory stated yes, there will be fees; before a special assessment is formed, payment will come from the General Fund, after a special assessment is formed, the attorney fees will be added to the assessment. He also stated an attorney should be used in this project.

Ron gave a thank you for everyone attending the meeting.

Jan made a motion, seconded by Ron, to adjourn at 7:57pm

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk