

CUMMING TOWNSHIP
Special Meeting

January 11, 2023

The Special Meeting was called to order at 1:58pm. Board Members present: Ron, Jan, Reid. Absent: Shari and Fred. Fred could not attend by ZOOM due to the internet outage. Others Present: Leo Dion (RCAP); Jeremy Brookins, RC Mayor; Jan Thompson; Howard LaCosse, RC DPW; Delinn Keetch; Pat Robinson; Matt Polzin; Cindy Rosebrugh, RC Clerk; Duane Pelfrey; Molly O'Connor.

Ron stated the purpose of the Special Meeting was to discuss beginning a sewer survey, before applying to a RD Grant for repairs and maintenance.

Ron introduced Leo Dion, from RCAP (Rural Community Assistance Program). Leo stated he was contacted by the Township, through Troy Shank, RD. Leo questioned when was the last time the sewer rates were increased; Cindy Rosebrugh stated the rates are determined by the City and they were last increased in 1986. She also stated the City owns the majority of the lagoon system. Ron gave a brief history of the Township sewer system: there were a few businesses that had a lagoon but was not in compliance with the DEQ. Before that the City needed a new lagoon system so they approached the Township for a new lagoon. The agreement was to annex approximately 20 acres, bought from a Township resident. The City's entire sewer system went into the new lagoon. The Township owns 13 1/2 % of the lagoon.

Discussion was held regarding the City's new system was built in 1986, in 1997 a Wastewater Contract was signed between the City and the Township, and in 1998 the Mandatory Rate Ordinance was signed for the Township sewer system.

The City bills out to the Township (RC sets the sewer rates), which is a flat rate and adds a maintenance fee that is broken down by the Township and the Township bills the Township sewer users. Jan stated all the monies collected go the City. Discussion was held regarding the Plaza property that had five (5) businesses, dropped to three (3) and will be back up to four (4) businesses. Connection fees were discussed. Leo Dion suggested maybe increasing a connection fee to business that demolish buildings, then re-build on the same site.

Howard LaCosse stated Township repairs need to be done, that's why we are looking at a RD Grant. Reid stated a repair and maintenance fund needs to be done, need to determine how to charges for this fund. Leo Dion stated REU's are used to determine the sewer costs, REU's should also be built into maintenance fees to the users.

Leo Dion stated he will try to look at all operations and maintenance costs; he will need a list of expenses: Control Panel, Pump, Scoping. Discussion was held regarding the lines need to be cleaned and scoped before repairs; Reid questioned if the cleaning and scoping could be paid by the grant; Leo stated no. Discussion was also held regarding how long the Township sewer lines ran; Howard LaCosse stated approximately 1/2 mile, a couple thousand feet of force main.

Duane Pelfrey questioned if the force main was plugged, would the City know; Howard LaCosse stated yes. Reid questioned if there was a check valve; Howard LaCosse stated no, a flow gater. He also stated that it is monitored by flow to check for issues.

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Cindy Rosebrugh stated the City sewer system is ok, but they are helping the Township get funds and they are looking at future maintenance. Discussion was held regarding dredging the lagoon; Cindy Rosebrugh stated it is dredged every three (3) years; the last time was 2017. Leo Dion stated he will need a list of RC maintenance and how far out they need to be done with repairs. He also stated that it is good that neither the Township nor the City has any debt.

Discussion was held regarding ordinances. Leo Dion stated he has sample ordinances that increase maintenance percentages per year, this could increase the fees at a slow rate for a period of time. Discussion was held regarding RC applying for the RD Grant, with the Township.

Leo Dion stated there are other grants available; SRF Grants through EGLE should be looked at. He stated the Intent is due by the fall. Leo Dion also stated that one (1) engineer needs to be hired for both municipalities.

Molly O'Connor questioned if vacant property owners pay maintenance fees. Reid stated that the attorney stated it should be billed based on front footage. Leo Dion stated that preventative maintenance is absolutely needed. Duane Pelfrey questioned the cost for pipe lining; Howard LaCosse stated he would need to check on this. Discussion was held.

Leo Dion gave his background: he has been involved in planning and economic development; he is a licensed water operator.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm

_____, Clerk