

Special Meeting
St. Clair Township

DATE: July 15, 2010

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Clair Township
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Buchanan, Supervisor
Mary Carroll, Clerk
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Dave Barnes, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Greg Bridgman, Trustee
Robert Knee, Assessor

STAFF PRESENT: Dave Robbins, Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen
Wilton Hataway
Leon Byrd
Bill Rettig
Keith Sturgis

Roll Call:

The special meeting of the St. Clair Township Board was called to order by Supervisor, Tim Buchanan with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. All present except for Highway Commissioner, Mark Burk.

Minutes of Special Board Meeting on June 29, 2010:

Motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the minutes and seconded by Trustee Barnes. Trustee Trentman said he would like the minutes changed to reflect the wording on Page 2 with regard to the sentence referencing the lighting at Loop Creek Park. Trustee Schobert said he withdrew his motion to approve the minutes, and instead made a motion to approve the June 29, 2010 minutes with correction on Page 2. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote, All in favor

Public Comment:

Supervisor Buchanan asked for any public comment. Mr. Wilton Hataway suggested researching different ways to send out the sewer bills as a way to save costs. Supervisor Buchanan said he would look into this. Mr. Hataway also asked how Swansea was charging their customers for sewer services, and if the Township customer fees will be the same as Swansea? Supervisor Buchanan explained that the fees are set independently, but we believe the Township fees will be less than Swansea. Supervisor Buchanan also reiterated that the main reasons for the increase are because of 1) The new Swansea plant; and 2) Operating costs are going up, and we have been using the Township reserves to sewer rates low. However, we can't continue to do this.

Leon Byrd also addressed the Board. He said he and his wife are new to the area. He asked how the EPA determined the new plant was needed? Supervisor Buchanan said it is actually just an

upgrade and not a whole new plant, and it was based on the usage. Mr. Byrd wanted to know how it was approved. Supervisor Buchanan said that Swansea designed and built the plant without the Township's input, and that no agreement was ever made.

Bill Rettig said he heard Supervisor Buchanan say the Township is serviced by three plants, Swansea, Belleville and the Township's own plant. He asked if only the customers who are serviced by Swansea's plant are getting raised? Supervisor Buchanan said that all Township users would get a rate increase because we are one sewer system. Supervisor Buchanan added that the Township's sewer plant has also been mandated to make a major upgrade. He has not heard anything regarding the Belleville plant yet.

Business Items - Discussion of Sewer Rate Increases and Seek Public Input

Supervisor Buchanan introduced Dave Rodden to the Board. Dave is an engineer from HMG Engineering, and is the consultant who prepared the document, St. Clair Township Wastewater Rate Evaluation. Everyone at the meeting received a copy of the evaluation. Supervisor Buchanan summarized each page of the document. Particular attention was given to the pages that detailed the different options available and how they would affect the different types of sewer users. He then asked everyone to direct their attention to the marker board to explain how the sewer rates are currently charged and how the increase will affect the residents.

The board was asked to review the different options that were being proposed and make comments. After the board, the public was also invited to give their view. There was lots of good input and discussion from both the Board and the meeting attendees around which option to use.

Supervisor Buchanan thanked everyone for their participation, and invited them back for the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, July 20th, when the Board will be voting on the sewer increase.

Trustee Barnes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk