



Capital Improvements Committee

January 19, 2021

MEETING SUMMARY

A special meeting of Capital Improvement Committee of Oshtemo Township was held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 1:00 PM. Due to Executive Order of the Governor to implement social distancing during the COVID-19 public health crisis, the meeting was conducted as a virtual meeting via Zoom. Persons in virtual attendance included Clare Buszka, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, Marc Elliott, Dick Hertzell, Bernie Mein, Josh Owens, James Porter, Ryan Russell, Dick Skalski, Tom Wheat, and Mark Worden.

1. Call to Order. The January 19th, 2021 regular meeting of the Capital Improvements Committee of Oshtemo Township was called to order at approximately 1:00 PM by Libby Heiny-Cogswell.
2. Meeting Summary. Members reviewed a summary of the special CIC meeting held November 17, 2020. Upon motion of Mein and second by Hertzell, the CIC meeting summary was approved.
3. Roadway PAR. The Road Commission of Kalamazoo County notice of available matching PAR dollars for 2021 was distributed to CIC members in advance of the meeting. The rollover amount available to Oshtemo is \$315,800. A signification portion of this was intended to be applied to the sewer extensions. Staff displayed the RCKC passer ratings from last year (i.e. the 2020 project-related improvements have not been yet mapped). Staff displayed the neighborhood roads and other areas with planned utility extensions. Following further discussion and CIC contributed guidance, Worden stated he would have his staff develop a revised 2021 proposed CIP project list. The list will focus on expending the offered roadway maintenance PAR dollars in needed areas, other than roadways where utility extensions are planned. It remains the sewer capital plan to construct the sewer projects (to include reconstructed roads) where the USDA has offered sewer-project financing. In response to members questions, it was noted the phase 1 project is designed, and state sewer permits to construct have been issued. Phase 2 is still in design phase and expected to be completed this winter.
4. Sewer Surcharge Adjustment. Staff distributed a sample of the post cards that were distributed in January to the billing address of all public sewer service customers in order to notify them of the new sewer surcharge.
5. Mandatory Sewer Connection Program. Of the "300" properties where existing sewer service is available those who had not completed their connections (137 count) were notified by mail last week that the Covid-19 suspension of enforcement has ended, and that service connections are to be completed during 2021. An example of the letter was provided to CIC members. All those remaining will have more than a two year notice to connect to the public sewer.
6. Consider Alternative Funding Options for Sewer Extension. Staff presented to members a rough, preliminary draft of alternative funding strategies and a broadly generic cost comparison to residents and properties to be connected to sewers. Members discussed the information provided and encouraged staff to continue their work with financial consultants and others. The CIC collectively supported this work towards finding an alternative way forward to proceed with the planned public sewer extensions. It was specifically noted that these efforts are both timely and

critically important to preserve the Township's opportunity to take advantage of currently offered federally-subsidized interest rates through the USDA's rural development program.

7. Member Comments & Information Items. No notable items were brought forward.
8. Next Meeting. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Oshtemo Township Capital Improvements Committee (CIC) will be held on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 1:00 PM.