



Capital Improvements Committee

April 23, 2013

MEETING SUMMARY

A meeting of the Capital Improvements Committee of Oshtemo Township was held on Tuesday, April 23, 2013 at 1:00 P.M. in the north meeting room of Oshtemo Township, 7275 West Main St., Kalamazoo, MI. Persons in attendance included Dave Bushouse, Nancy Culp, Libby Heiny-Cogswell, James Porter, Tim Mallet, Tom Wheat and Marc Elliott.

1. Meeting Summary. A summary of the February 19th meeting was unavailable for review.
2. Administration of Water & Wastewater Services. Members were provided a brief update on items related to sewer and water services.
 - a. *Water Main Flushing Schedule*. Members were provided a schedule from the City for the spring flushing of public water mains. It was noted that the schedule was made available at the front desk as well as being posted on the Township web site.
 - b. *Stadium Drive Sanitary Sewer Cleaning*. Members were provided a copy of a notice from the City of Kalamazoo indicating that they would be performing “routine” sewer cleaning in Stadium Drive. Both Mr. Elliott and Mr. Wheat noted that this was their first knowledge of sanitary sewer cleaning within areas outside the City—other than service calls for discovered blockages. Whether regular, scheduled cleaning and inspection was being adequately completed by the City within franchised service areas has never been fully established through the ongoing contract discussions.
 - c. *Other Comments*. None
3. Street Lights in KL Avenue. Upon prior inquiry of Mr. Bushouse, Nancy noted during the meeting that she was working on this item and would be responding to Dave’s interest in increasing the number of street lights along KL Avenue, west of Drake Road.
4. Construction Projects. Members were briefed on the progress of several water and wastewater service extensions initiated in 2013.
 - a. *Kalamazoo Christian Schools*. Tom reported that all sanitary sewer pipe and manholes have been installed. Testing has not yet been completed.
 - b. *Sky King Meadows 2*. Tom reported that all sanitary pipe is in the ground and has been air tested. Mandrel testing has not been scheduled. It was also noted that the Excavation Contractor had an uncontrolled release of sediment-laded storm water that migrated downstream and flooded an existing structure. The disturbed soils contributed to the generation of excessive runoff. Oshtemo representatives visited the site and determined the issue was principally a private dispute between the home owner and the developer/contractor. In addition to poor sediment control, Marc’s observation was that the storm appeared to have been especially intense and the constructed elevation of the

basement walk-out (adjacent to a localized low-spot) was less than ideal for preventing water intrusion.

- c. *KL Ave Hydrant Installation*. The Board is scheduled to consider at its April 23rd meeting the award of this work, plus authorization of payment to the City of Kalamazoo of a service contract to complete the “hot-taps” of the existing water main which is required to install new valves. The contractor will install the hydrants below the new valves. The City will be relying on the contractor’s crew to expose the water main sufficiently for the City crews to complete the live tap.
- d. *North Drake Road Improvements (2014)*. The Kalamazoo County Road Commission and the City of Kalamazoo have programmed improvements on Drake Road between W. Main and H Avenue for 2014. City jurisdiction extends from West Main to Grand Prairie Rd., while KCRC jurisdiction extends north of Grand Prairie within the boundary-line jurisdictions of both Oshtemo and Kalamazoo Townships. Staff informed members that the existing sanitary sewer was installed without the extension of service leads to Oshtemo’s side. It was noted that Tom has been asked to review the proposed extent of roadway work and determine whether installation of sewer leads concurrent or in advance of the roadway project was warranted. It was also noted that Supervisor Heiny-Cogswell and planning staff were actively exploring the potential to include sidewalk or trailway improvements as part of the proposed KCRC roadway work.
5. 10th St Sanitary Sewer Project. Tom informed committee members that with new senior staff at the City of Kalamazoo and other considerations, the City is taking a detailed look at the city’s pump station specifications to assure their specifications reference the manufacturers’ available products (i.e. models currently being manufactured), etc. Members briefly discussed a construction schedule, but no consensus was brought forward to proceed expeditiously. Rather, several members preferred to focus on moving towards a Township policy to mandate sanitary sewer connections (Item 6).
6. Next Steps – Sanitary Sewer Strategic Study. A copy of the October 2011 Sanitary Sewer Strategic Plan Study was included in the Committee’s meeting packet. Members discussed the findings and the 2011 committee consensus. Importantly, the study found that the Township was perpetuating a disservice to its citizen by not mandating sewer service connections. Members revisited the consensus opinion that the Township should consider allowing a 15-year grace period for existing septic systems. This seemed to be a fair compromise that would allow residents to recoup a presumed 15-year septic system life-expectancy before being mandated to connect. Members were informed that a portion of the recent retreat of the Township Board touched upon the issue of needing to extend public sanitary sewer into built subdivisions that are currently on septic. Trustee Bushouse advocated also looking at policies for infrastructure financing being used by the City Portage. It was decided the Committee would continue with this topic at the next meeting, with the intent of preparing a future presentation to the full board; possibly at the Board’s June meeting.
7. Other Items. The upcoming court date of May 8th was noted in reference to the contested Truck Route.
8. Member Comments. None