

SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH, 2013 3PM

KALAMAZOO LAKE SEWER WATER AUTHORITY, 6449 OLD ALLEGAN RD, SAUGATUCK, MI 49453

Wester called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Members Present: Supervisor Bill Wester, Clerk Brad Rudich, Treasurer Lori Babinski, Trustee Jonathan Phillips and Trustee Roy McIlwaine.

Members Absent: None.

Also Present: Acting Township Manager Aaron Sheridan, Zoning Administrator Al Ellingsen

Public Comment: None

Discussion of South Maple Street Repair Agreement

Wester opened up the discussion to the board on this matter. Sheridan presented his understanding and options on the Maple Street Repair. It requires a 50% match with the City of Saugatuck on the complete reconstruction of Maple Street. It is tradition that the Township covers half of Maple Street as it is the only public access for Township residents and all of Heron Bay. The folks in this area pay a significant amount of taxable value to the road fund, (2 mils) and Sheridan feels this is the easiest and most efficient approach to get the road fixed, and to fix it right so there is not a threat of a washout with a significant rain again. There is an added bonus of a FEMA contribution, although it is not as large as he (Sheridan) had anticipated, as it does not cover the water main replacement or sewer replacement extension of any kind. That is the main disagreement between Kirk (Kirk Harrier, City of Saugatuck City Manager) and Sheridan. Sheridan feels this should not be handled as a Special Assessment District. Sheridan also does not feel the township should have to pay for the city water main, as it is not a usual type of request (City to request Township funds to buy their water main). The township has never asked the city to purchase a water main for them and in turn doesn't feel the city should ask the Township to replace this water main. Sheridan believes the city will not stop the Maple Street road reconstruction and the city council will proceed with project if Township refuses to pay for the city water main. Township is not being asked to pay for the sewer repair. Sheridan went on to say if board approves paying for the water main, money would come out of the water project fund, it will not pay off the bond debt, Township would incur interest and there will be a problem in the budget. Wester commented that he felt a special assessment district may make sense. The funds to repair the road would come directly from land owners enjoying the road repair, or we (city & township) could do nothing, take FEMA money to rebuild hill and let it wash out again. There are only 4 city lots that are affected by this road, and the remaining lots are all Township residents (approx 15-20). Wester felt the city was giving us a fair deal by offering to pay 50% as they could request an 80/20 split. Wester also stated this project does not have to be decided on today – it could be put off until spring. Rudich does not agree with a S.A.D (Special Assessment District) because it is a more complicated process and is more expensive. McIlwaine agrees with Rudich that if we have the road millage to fix, as opposed to spending more to treat as a S.A.D., then we ought to fix it. Wester asked Kirk about the water main cost. Kirk stated the sanitation sewer is not a big issue, although the water main is. This project is not a priority project for the city. Kirk is trying to help Township residents and urging the city council to rush this project so it can get fixed by winter. He disagrees with Sheridan about the council proceeding without the water main cost being approved. If the water main payment is not approved by the Township board, the city will not continue with this project. Kirk agreed that this is not typical, but it how the city will start handling shared roads now and in the future. The cost of splitting the water main is approximately \$20,000. The cost without the water main is \$100,000. The total cost to fix the entire road (and water line and sewer) will be \$120,000 for the township. Sheridan stated that to pay for this project, \$100,000 would come out of the road fund, the \$20,000 cannot.

The \$20,000 may be able to come out of the water project fund. Wester asked Sheridan to find a creative way to find the \$20,000 and pay for it, considering the city is lending the Township the money interest free, we need to find a way to get along and get this street fixed. Wester also brought up the safety of the residents in the case of a fire, and this will now provide fire hydrants instead of having a tanker trunk come out and put out fires. This also helps justifying the spending to help our residents. Wester has asked Sheridan to find the money to make this happen. Sheridan and Kirk will meet prior to the next township board meeting to present a revised agreement. (Board meets again 10/2/13)

Discussion on job descriptions of Zoning Administrator, Planner and Code Enforcement Office for Saugatuck Township. Sheridan brought up his concerns about this job. He feels the job description for the zoning administration entails a full time job and not a part time paying \$12,000-\$13,000/year. The township paid over \$17,000 to the city planner Mark Sisson just last year alone. The reason the township has a contracted planner is because there is a limit to Ellingsens education as an administrator and the planner deals with more complex zoning issues. Sheridan also stated his concerns with the current Zoning Administration (Ellingsen) not fulfilling his duties on the job. The board believes either the job description needs to be updated, or the township needs to hire someone that fits the description. Wester has asked Sheridan and Ellingsen to work this out on their own. Ellingsen and Sheridan are scheduled to meet later this week to resolve issues.

Wester adjourned meeting at 3:52p

Bradley Rudich
Clerk