

**LAKETOWN TOWNSHIP
Board of Supervisors
Laketown Township Hall**

**201 SEWER TASK FORCE MEETING
October 25, 2023 @ 6:00pm**

NOTES FROM MEETING

1. Introductions of those present

Board Chair Mike Klingelhutz, Board Vice-chair Cathy Nielsen, Board Supervisor Pete Parris, Clerk/Treasurer Leanne Kunze, Public Works Technician James Schilling, Robert Wright, Randy Lee, Colan VanEyll, Dan Roth, Austin Patton

2. Review Mission Statement and Objectives

Klingelhutz reviewed the task force's mission statement and objectives from 2020 (attached)

3. Use of ARPA funds for lift station repairs

Parris and Schilling provided an overview of work that has been done on the 201 system using ARPA funds (attached)

4. Sewer Ordinance amendment adopted

Nielsen provided an overview of 201 Sewer ordinance updates since 2020 (attached)

5. Grant funds awarded for 201 Sewer Feasibility Study

Nielsen reported on grant funds awarded to Laketown Township for the Feasibility Study/Facility Plan: \$7,500 from Carver County CDA granted in 2022; \$7,500 from Carver County CDA granted via City of Chaska in 2022; up to \$33,000 from MPCA granted in 2022 specific to the sewer systems surrounding Pierson Lake; and \$7,500 from Carver County CDA granted this year (2023)

6. Review Facility Plan and Board Direction

Parris provided an overview of Bolton & Menk's final Facility Plan, pointing out the detailed recommendations, cost estimates, timeline, and funding needed for this project to proceed. (attached)

7. Discuss Funding Needs and Progress

- Parris provided active requests for investment and letters of support in motion.
- Carver County Board of Commissioners has already passed a resolution in support of Laketown Township's bonding request for \$11m investment in this \$21.366m project. Similar resolutions in under consideration by the Cities of Chaska, Waconia, and Victoria as they each have interest in this infrastructure being improved prior to any orderly annexation of areas connected to the 201 sewer system.
- Other funding requests include \$2-4m from the federal government and \$500,000 to \$1m from Carver County with the 208 households connected to the 201 system looking at an assessment between \$30-40k
- Shared legal counsel advice that each property connected to the 201 system be assessed the same based on longstanding past practice versus attempting to break project into subprojects by neighborhood. Legal advice suggests a reasonable assessment would be under \$45k, and the township board goal is to get it down to \$30k.
- Klingelhutz explained the 429 process (for approving a special assessment) involving notice, public hearing, reasonableness of assessment, and appeal process.

8. Feedback / Questions / Comments

Klingelhutz requested feedback from resident members of the task force. The following was noted:

- It is important to calculate and compare the increased costs and risk for 20 years if left "as-is" with patchwork as compared to the same period of time with smart investment to improve system to current standards while we have an opportunity for funding assistance that allows for a reasonable assessment to be paid over 10 years with lower utility rates (currently \$275/mo compared to \$60/mo for those already upgraded and connected).
- Piecemeal improvement is not an option.
- Agree with the need to keep the assessment reasonable, and \$30k is reasonable considering private mound system is currently around \$25k and most parcels do not have this option.
- Concern what timeframe each connected community may be looking at for annexation and wondering what requirements the various cities would impose in relation to connecting to city sewer/water/curb/gutter/streets and the cost involved.
- All in agreement status quo is not an option
- Approximately 1/3 of households in the township are connected to the 201 sewer system
- Suggestion to go out for bid broken down by area so the project can be completed during the same period of time (example of the Schmittville area likely requiring 3.5 months and pointing out the significant inconveniences of residents while their streets are dug up; wanting to have these projects be priority and timely)
- Wondering what each city thinks about (and potential cost savings) prepping their future service while streets are dug up.
- All present wish to remain in the township as long as possible. None want to be annexed.
- Example of Rolling Meadows neighborhood choosing to upgrade from 201 to direct line to met sewer back in the 1990s and they got assessed between \$21-23k depending on area of neighborhood for the sewer improvements and asphalt streets (resident request) and they pay \$60/quarter for sewer utility.
- Example of a Chanhassen neighborhood transitioning from a 201 system to direct met sewer line – may be a worth checking on

9. Set Agenda / Date / Time for Next Meeting

Next meeting tentatively set for 6:00pm on Wednesday, January 24, 2024, at the township hall.
Copy of these notes to be sent to Task Force members.

10. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 7:20p

Approved 11-13-2023

Mike Klingelhutz Chair

Deborah King Clerk