

Special Meeting

Minutes

September 13, 2018

The Special Meeting of the Lee Township Board was called to order at 6:30 pm at the Lee Township Hall located at 877 56th Street, Pullman, Michigan.

In attendance: Trustee Galdikas. Supervisor Owen and Clerk King. Absent: Treasurer Lowery and Trustee Black.

Special Guest in attendance were Heidi Bryant from Best Labs, Todd Odell from Pullman School, Matt Baird from the Allegan County Environment Health/Health Department.

Purpose of the meeting was to discuss the municipal water supply currently used by the 10 township residents, 3 business and the system used by the Pullman Elementary. The systems are separate but during some time in the past were connected for the purpose of back up to each other. In the recent issue that took place with the failing of the wells, there connection was discovered and a decision will need to be taken by the township to either take ownership of the system currently operated by the Bloomingdale Schools or separate the systems and operate only the township's system for the few residents that are currently on the system.

The discussion took place regarding what type of systems. Each system consist of 2 wells and a distribution system that are defined by the Safe Drinking Water Act as being a Type II community water supply which is described as a community water supply that serves at least twenty five or more people per day at least sixty days out of the year. The township's system is transient system and the system operated by Pullman Elementary' s is a non-transient supply, i.e. it serves the same twenty five or more people per day at least six month per year. Non-transient supplies have stricter sampling and operating requirements.

The meeting was held to determine if our township should operate separate and continue as the previously thought they were or join the two together and the township would be owner of the two.

Trustee Galdikas questioned Baird if the systems might be connected in more than one spot requiring the township to make more changes to either join or separate. Heidi Bryant from Best Labs indicated that there is no connected areas other than the location in the boiler room. Todd Odell from Pullman Elementary stated that the valve is currently turned off and has remained that way most of the time.

Supervisor Owen asked for more clarification regarding the difference between Type II non-transient and Type II transient and if we combine the two would it change the status to Type I. Matt Baird was able to clarify the system types and indicated that once you reach same 15 residents it becomes a Type I and would be more like the larger city systems. These systems are reviewed more often and more test are done on samples.

Trustee Galdikas wondered if the township would have to change their system or could it remain the same. Baird stated that the systems could remain the same.

Some of the cost associated with the testing is: Type II testing which is 4 test per year costs about \$400.00. A Type II Non-Transient would have an increased cost because Lead and metals are tested.

It was stated if the township made the change the number of samples would increase because of the testing for coppers would need to be done every six months a total of \$600.00 per year. Bryant from Best Labs stated that the township could do this testing on their own to check the results.

Citizen Kotas asked if the systems were combined could this allow for additional hookups. Baird stated that there could not be more hookups because we are currently at maximum capacity. It would require a Type I would require engineering and several wells at a great expense.

Heidi Bryant confirmed that a Type I system requires reporting, notification on water, supplies and a great cost involved. It also requires to have emergency plans for failures and plumbers and contractors to maintain the system.

Supervisor Owen wondered about the cost for testing which Bryant stated an estimated \$1,200.00 but there could be more testing required if there are older homes on the system.

Trustee Galdikas stated to the board that if we go ahead with combining the systems the township needs to be prepared for additional cost.

A concern was presented by Todd Odell regarding if it was determined that more testing was needed in the homes in the area, would this cause additional cost to the school? Baird indicated that any issues that might cause more testing would be the responsibility of the owner.

Trustee Galdikas asked for how the currently testing is done with the wells. Baird explained that the water samples are taken from the bladder tank.

The Health Department had sent a letter requesting that this decision be made by August 31st on what the township was going to do. So a decision must be made to separate or combine the systems. A question was presented that if there were ever an emergency could the systems be connected to back up the faulty system? It was stated that a "quick connect" could be done on a temporary basis and the cost would be minimal.

Supervisor Owen stated that the cost that is associated with the recent repairs done to the systems was about \$3,000.00 to the township with the school's cost would be about \$5,100.00. It appears that there are more repairs to be done which will be an additional cost which could be an additional \$6000.00. Owen stated that the contractor is waiting for confirmation from the township to go ahead with the final repair. This repair will not interrupt the water for those that are on the system.

The board members will need to talk with the school in order to make a decision on if the systems should be combine or not, but a decision needs to be made as soon as possible about disconnecting the system per the recommendation from the Health Department.

A motion was made by Galdikas and seconded by Owen that the township understands the letter provided by the Health Department that the systems need to be separated requiring an immediate response. Roll call vote was taken: Yes – Galdikas, Owen and King. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Jacquelyn King, Clerk