

## **Elk Rapids Township Summary of Special Sewer Informational Meeting, January 15, 2019**

The regular meeting of the Elk Rapids Township Board was held at the Elk Rapids Government Center located at 315 Bridge St. Elk Rapids. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Amos at 5:30 pm. This meeting was recorded.

**Present:** Supervisor Dorance Amos, Clerk Shelley Boisvert, Treasurer Mike Szymanski, Trustee Aaron Isenhardt **Absent:** Trustee Richard Hults

**Also Present:** B. Derman, M. Zimmerman, L. Nix, A. Nordman, B. Muma and 60 members in the audience.

1. Meeting Called to Order/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Introduction – Dorance
3. Project Summary – Aaron Nordman, Performance Engineering
4. Legal Perspective – Matt Zimmerman: Varnum Law
5. Cost Overview – Shelley
6. Question and Answers: Submitted on cards:
  - **6350 Winters Trail** – 1) What water studies were done in the Winters trail area? **A.** None at this time. 2) How is cost assessed? **A.** Shared cost of customers, placed on tax bill. 3) What if you have 1 developed lot and 1 undeveloped lot? **A.** Both would be assessed if the 1 undeveloped lot is a buildable site. 4) Does this improvement involve fire hydrants? **A.** No this is a sewer project, no public water. 5) Impact to property value? **A.** This should improve the property value. 6) Who is responsible for repairs to roads and driveways? **A.** Those costs would be included in the construction project.
  - **6895 E. Harbor Dr.** - What was the scope/or results of the initial survey in Inwood Harbor?
  - **6440 E. Harbor Dr.** – 1) Who started this discussion? **A.** We don't have names but the Township thought it would be good to ask the question of Township property owners. 2) Why was the meeting held now instead of the spring when more resident are here? **A.** This is going to be the first of several meetings on this subject. Notices were sent to all property owners with contact information for the Township if they had questions or input.
  - At the present time is there a petition for a sewer? **A.** Not at this time.
  - Do all on N. Bayshore have to agree to the sewer system to have it installed? **A.** A majority of property owners in a proposed sewer district would start the proceedings toward public hearings and special assessments.

## 7. Public Comment/Maximum 3 minutes per person:

- M. Schroeder: Knows of no septic systems that are failing, and he believes the water is clean.
- G. Croftchik: Who pays for the pipe run out to the main line? **A.** Cost of connection and running the pipe on the private property is the home owners cost.
- W. Spencer: 1) What about the conservancy property? **A.** That hasn't been decided yet. The project could be split into a north and south section or the main could run right down N. Bayshore. 2) If it runs down N. Bayshore, would that cost be split among the other users? **A.** Probably.
- J. Braun-8121 N. Bayshore: 1) If his septic system is below the road level would he need to get a pump. **A.** Not necessarily. Sewer is usually installed about 6 feet deep. 2) The sewer treatment plant has been making a lot of noise over the last 2 years. Fix that problem before you add load to the plant to make that worse. **A.** Adding users would add flow to the plant but it wouldn't change any of the processes.
- L. Draper- 6343 E. Harbor Dr: Stop spending money until you know if there is any interest in this project.
- M. Konvinski-6888 E. Harbor Dr: Wants his neighbors to look into the pressure sewer system. There are pumps that malfunction and costs involved.
- C. Pryde-8024 N. Bayshore Dr: Thank you for doing this. Have any cost been incurred yet? He would like to see this moved forward. What is the process after this? **A.** No direct plan yet but there will be more meetings. There will be no decisions made tonight.
- M. Styles-6793 E. Harbor Dr: He remembers that \$4000 was approved for a survey. **A.** That is correct.
- D. Soaper-6946 E. Harbor Dr: Have there been any studies done on the water to see how much stuff is going into it? Could some of the stuff be overflow from Birch Lake, or from fertilizers? **A.**
- R. Mann- 6772 W. Harbor Dr: 1) There appears to be 3 separate costs involved in this project. Connection costs to the home owner, Special assessment, and then the monthly sewer bill. 2) Is there a time frame that people would have to make that connection? **A.** Yes, there would be a time frame for connection. Maple Harbor had a year to connect to avoid a benefit charge.
- S. Styles-6793 E. Harbor Dr: 1) Where is Maple Harbor? 2) Mr. Zimmerman stated that there may be a potential to connect when your septic failed, or if you had new construction, or possibly when residents were interested. Is that a possibility? **A.** With our previous sewer project property owners were given a year to hook before a benefit charge took effect. That is a \$4,000 cost. 3) What is the process from here to get a definitive answer from the people to see if they are for or against the project? **A.** Zimmerman stated that the Board has the option to ask for an informal vote, but there is never a formal vote at the polls involved. If the Board decides to finance the collection system by a sale of bonds then there is a series of meetings and public hearings to establish a special assessment district and an assessment roll and then an opportunity for the property owners to file protest petitions. If more than 50% of land owners in the roll oppose it then the Township cannot proceed with the project. But, ideally, a petition of property owners that would be in favor of the project would give the Board a good direction in which way to go. If there are no petitions and people would like to send an email or letter telling the Township their thoughts or wishes in writing we could count those.

- C. Charbeneau- 6888 E. Harbor Dr: Can we start a petition against this? A. That is backwards but that would relay to the Board the information they would need.
- M. Chaisson: 8777 N. Bayshore: Asked for a show of hands from the people that are here at the meeting who is in favor of the project and who is against it. More hands were raised against the project.

No more public comment and no further discussion from the Board.

Meeting Adjourned: 6:50 PM

Audio of this informational meeting is on our website: [elkrapids.com](http://elkrapids.com)