

Special Meeting of the Burt Township Board

Community Center
Grand Marais, Michigan
January 31, 2006 7:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Lee Durrwachter, Lori Savage, Jim Seibert, Lois Leavenworth, Gordon Kniss

Board Members Absent/Excused: None

Public Attendance: Eleven (11) Citizens.

Public Comment: Opened at 7:01. No Comments. Closed 7:02.

Approval of the Agenda: **Motion** by Seibert and seconded to approve the agenda with the addition of item 6c – MEDC Contract Award. 5 – ayes. Motion Carried.

Current Business:

6a – Proposed Municipal Sewer System Update – Mike Pond, STS Consulting, Inc.

Deadline for the Sewer system survey sent to all water customers is today. Results from surveys received at the Township Office will be tallied and reported on at the next regular township board meeting.

Mike Pond, STS Consultants, talked about funding for a sewer system. He said that he and Durrwachter during their recent visit to Lansing, they met with possible funding sources – Rural Development (USDA) has low interest loans for up to 40 years, the State Revolving Loan fund has low interest loans available for communities up to 20 years in duration, and the Clean Michigan Initiative (CMI) has grant money available to communities. Mike Pond said that even if the Township Board voted to start the sewer project today, it would be 2 – 4 years before work could be started. Based on resident income information from the US Census Bureau, a minimum monthly payment per household for a new sewer system would be \$34 per month. If Burt Township makes improvements to the water system at the same time, the water payment would increase to that amount also. Janice Moss, Burt Township resident, said that she is on a fixed income and can't afford to pay up to \$72 per month for sewer and water. Dorothy Morrison, Burt Township resident, said she also feels it is too expensive. Mike Pond said that the increase in sewer and water rates would occur at the beginning of the project to help fund it. If the project were to be approved by the Board today, rates could increase within the next year. Janice Moss also asked how many people would be hooked to the sewer system and Lee Durrwachter said that there would probably be about 300 customers. The more customers, the less expensive the project becomes.

Pam Hicks, representing North Shore Lodge, said that North Shore Lodge is planning to update cabins and put in a new septic system. Pam asked how long it would be before North Shore Lodge is denied a permit to put in a new septic system because of their location and the potential pollution to the lake. Mike Pond explained that there is no indication that septic systems in Burt Township will be denied. At this point, there is no mandate to put in a municipal sewer system. If in the future, periodic water tests indicate an unacceptable level of nitrates in the water in Burt Township, the health department may require that emergency changes be made.

The next step is to review the surveys and determine if the community is interested in a municipal sewer system. If the community is not interested, then there is no reason to proceed at this time.

6b – Demonstration of Digital Mapping System

Demonstration postponed.

6c – MEDC Contract Award

Motion by Seibert and seconded to award the contract for the new well project to Gerou Excavating of Munising at a price of \$259,192.78. Roll call vote was taken: Seibert – aye; Kniss – aye; Savage – aye; Leavenworth – aye; Durrwachter – aye. Motion carried.

Mike Pond to draw up contract. Durrwachter to have Township Attorney review contract before signing.

Adjournment: Motion by Leavenworth and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Lori Savage

Lori Savage, Township Clerk

Date Approved: _____, 2006

Lee Durrwachter, Township Supervisor

These minutes are proposed until approved by the board and signed by the Township Supervisor.