

**YANKEE SPRINGS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Special Board Meeting –Water System
Informational

Tuesday, July 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Yankee Springs Township Hall
284 North Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan 49333

MINUTES

FINAL MINUTES
Approved Aug. 13, 2015
As presented

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Mark Englerth.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Roll Call: Englerth, Rottschafer, Campbell.

Absent: Jerkatis, Lippert (with notice)

Staff Present: Greg Purcell, Alice Jansma, Mary Cook, Rich Beukema.

Visitors: 3 (not including staff present).

CALL TO ORDER

**PLEDGE
ROLL CALL**

Purpose of Meeting:

To bring the board and community up to date on the water system. M. Englerth **introduced John Holland, Circuit Rider, Michigan Rural Water Association.**

MRWA is an association of member cities. Every state has its own rural water group. John Holland listed funding sources. His position is to help all systems under 10,000 people with on-site technical expertise. Mark Englerth asked J. Holland to do an assessment. J. Holland also gave his previous employment background to those in attendance. He has slightly less than 25 years experience in water or waste water plants.

Purpose of Meeting:

John Holland of MRWA Michigan Rural Water Association- reviewed the assessment (attached to minutes). Sources for his assessment were: the reliability study required every five years, the sanitary survey provided by the DEQ, well logs, and onsite inspection.

Wells: Capacity was discussed and the possible need/(or not a need) for a new well was discussed.

Arsenic Removal Plant (ARP):

- **Filters:** J. Holland commented on having filters checked in maybe a year or two. Since they were installed at the same time, J. Holland commented that maybe just taking one out of service would be best for now. This filter information will help with the Capital Improvement Plan.
- **Building and Grounds:** Debris clearance in gutters was mentioned. A top rail is needed on fencing. Alarm placement (for backwash tank) was discussed. Old wells may be test wells. If abandoned, the wells should be properly plugged to protect the aquifer.
- **Capacity:** 200 gpm (gallons per minute). If the system is expanded, Holland commented that the capacity should probably be increased.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
OF VISITORS**

Water Tower:

- **Cleaning** – should be power washed - ASAP. “People think because the water tower is dirty, the water is dirty” added Holland. Holland added that public perception is important.
- **Inspection** – J. Holland recommended inspection ASAP. Last inspection was 2006. Englerth commented that the inspection has been scheduled in the next month or two.
- **Painting**- the tower was last painted in 2003. An inspection is needed to determine longevity of the paint.
- **J. Holland** commented that the system was run pretty well, but there is always room for improvement with everything.
- **Power**- It was noted that the generator at the fire station will be dispatched to the water tower if necessary. Holland commented on considering getting a household generator with an automatic start on it. Sustainability was discussed in the event of a disaster/weather event.

Administration

Water Meters/Asset Management: It was noted by Holland that the next reliability study for the Township is due 2017. MRWA can assist in creating an asset management plan.

Fire Protection:

- **Capacity**- the system has sufficient storage for residential fires. The capacity is limited in commercial fires and extremely limited in industrial and institution fires and the fire department needs to be made aware of that- per Holland.
- **Flows**- Holland noted an issue with getting the flow up into Pine Meadows Drive. Looping would be the best fix for this according to Holland.
- **Hydrants:** the 2012 reliability study recommended the addition of 14 hydrants. Estimated cost of the installation of 14 hydrants was \$45,000. Holland felt this was a good number/cost.
- **Fire Fighter Training**- opening and closing hydrants is very important per Holland. Pumping out hydrants during the winter was noted as important as well.

Distribution system: Valves and Hydrants, Nitrates and Possible Future Expansions were discussed. Englerth commented, “If there was a contaminated aquifer, would there be funds or grants available to assist with this type of struggle?” J. Holland commented that he believed that assistance would be available and a contact would be Resource and Recovery Division of the DEQ. Nitrate discussion came up. Geoff Moffat commented, “...There is tons of empirical evidence to demonstrate the nitrates in the ground water around here are very prominently from agricultural application.” G. Moffat mentioned that Middleville is dealing with this same issue.

In regards to expansion of the water system, two subdivisions were mentioned: one behind McDonald’s and one near Little Payne Lake.

Public Comment:

Englerth: Where do we go from here? Holland commented that gutters need to be cleaned out, alarm moved, fence repaired and then start on an asset management or CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) for our system and possibly look at rates.

Campbell: asked about the board's responsibility in this matter. Englerth commented on day to day activity being the water system's responsibility and items that should be the township's responsibility.

Englerth commented on working with the DNR as well as grant writing. A wellhead grant was mentioned. Holland felt that a wellhead grant may be a priority.

Holland commented that the beginning of next year should be the time to get the conversation with Fleis & VandenBrink started regarding the reliability study (for 2017).

Englerth commented on the history of rate changes or (lack of) and now we are running on rates that are ten to fifteen years old.

Holland – commented fire hydrants will run out and the tower will have to be painted.

Greg Purcell- Purcell was wondering on whose responsibility it is for the CIP and asset management and immediate action items.

Holland- commented that the CIP should fall on the board (responsibility-wise).

Englerth commented that the sewer system inherited the water system (built by the DEQ). Englerth also commented on prior to the Great Recession, the township had a building boom and the subdivision (behind McDonald's) had a well moratorium and other events followed. The water system was enlarged with a water tower. Englerth commented on the DEQ voicing the need for a \$650K to \$700K arsenic removal plant. Then the economy crashed before getting into the arsenic removal plant (\$650K-700K). Englerth commented that he wants everybody on the board to understand that there's a responsibility on how the township is going to deal with it and how it will be managed. Englerth feels that a good working knowledge of the system is needed. Englerth felt that tonight's meeting was the first step of many.

Purcell mentioned the image of the water tower having a reflection on the township. Purcell also mentioned the sewage back up a year ago in his neighborhood. Purcell commented on having one body, group or organization that is responsible.

Moffat - commented that it will be the board's responsibility to oversee the reliability report of 2017 even if Fleis and VandenBrink does the report. Moffat also commented that it is very important not to pay lip service to this next reliability report. 'It will be detailed and rigorous, and it can't be "wiggled" out of,' added Moffat.

Holland inquired whether there is a purchasing policy for GLASWA. Holland summarized the purchasing procedure he was involved in when he was the Superintendent of the city of Claire.

Englerth commented that he didn't have a written purchasing policy, in his possession at this time. He commented briefly on what is the common practice at this point.

Campbell inquired if there is a scheduled maintenance log for all of these items that we could work with. Holland mentioned that there is a company that does this service and every year receives a flat rate and when it is a time to paint or clean the water tower or provide some service, they will do it. Campbell inquired as to “who” contacts this service company.

Englerth commented that he felt the meeting succeeded on what was to be accomplished tonight. He felt that the meeting’s purpose was to get everybody’s arms around the situation a little better and take the first couple steps by working on some of the immediate items mentioned, i.e. cleaning the inside of the water tower, and warning lights. Englerth also thanked John Holland for coming to tonight’s meeting.

Holland commented that if they (MRWA) does a rate study, they will make a recommendation, but ultimate authority is with the Board and whether the Board wants to take the recommendation.

Mary Cook, former Trustee – commented that there have been increases on water rates. When the arsenic removal system was put in, there was a loan (2% interest) for Drinking Water Revolving Fund (similar to the township’s special assessment fund). There wasn’t a grant, but it did get it done as cheaply as possible. The original system was done by the DEQ as no cost to the township.

Englerth – commented that goals were never reached because of the Great Recession, so now there is existing users for future development down the way.

Roger Rottschafer- informed John Holland that the other two trustees were not present at this meeting due to family medical issues (John Jerkatis’ wife in ICU) and Jan Lippert had a scheduled vacation.

Rottschafer also commented that a meeting has been scheduled for August 6th at the Wayland Township Hall, for a discussion with the City Council of Wayland, Wayland Township Board and Yankee Springs Township Board. Dr. Lynn Harvey will be speaking and leading the meeting giving the layout of what has to be done to put a fire authority together. Also, on August 13th – at the Regular Board meeting- Rottschafer will make a motion to rescind the motion of April 21, 2015 which was to hand over the fire service, fire equipment and building to Thornapple Township. Rottschafer referred to that particular meeting and his reasoning at that time for putting the motion out there on April 21st. Rottschafer also mentioned that he and M. Englerth have met with the DNR fire service for this area to look at the DNR leasing part of the fire station and possibly moving their equipment into the building (office and four shorter stalls). Rottschafer commented that both steps will enhance the usage of the facility. Rottschafer mentioned that his comment wasn’t on the agenda, but he was just informing the people tonight of what is coming up.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Rottschafer with support from Campbell to adjourn at 8:24 p.m. All ayes.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:
Deb Mousseau
Recording Secretary 7/25/15

Approved Aug. 13, 2015
jcl draft distributed 7-28-15
Janice C. Lippert, Township Clerk

ADJOURNMENT

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