

St. Clair Township Board Meeting
107 Service Street, Swansea
Executive Session August 25, 2015

Approved: October 27, 2015 Released: _____

At 7:33p.m. during the monthly township meeting Trustee Sturgis made a motion to go into Executive Session because of probable litigation under 2(c)11 of the OMA. Supervisor Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. No – Wells. Motion passed.

At 7:35p.m. Supervisor Barnes called the executive session to order.

Roll call found the following board members present: Supervisor Dave Barnes, Trustees Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, Keith Sturgis, and Greg Hipskind.

Clerk Brenda Reed; Attorney Terry Bruckert, BG&L; and Engineer Brian Buckheit, HGM Engineers, Inc. were also present.

Attorney Bruckert explained it is necessary to state the basis for probable litigation when executive session is called for that reason. He stated the attorney for the village of Swansea has told him if the lawsuit concerning sewer billing is not settled right away the village will be bringing the township into the lawsuit as a necessary party.

Supervisor Barnes reviewed that the board had discussed submitting a proposal to the village of Swansea regarding renegotiating the current Sewer Agreement in the case the village would be interested in that option. Supervisor Barnes, Attorney Bruckert, and Engineer Buckheit met to discuss the proposal. Trustee Hipskind was kept in the loop with regard to that meeting.

Brian Buckheit provided a memo to the board that summarized a possible proposal for changing the current sewer agreement with Swansea. Mr. Buckheit explained the starting point for this proposal is the agreement in place now. He explained how he arrived at the numbers on the proposal and answered questions from the board. He calculated the average revenue Swansea would get from township customers at current rates based on average water consumption then subtracted the cost of their billing clerk. That amount, \$31.19, would be offered as a flat rate per month per township customer to Swansea and the township would resume billing the 3,133 customers. The amount of \$31.19 for usage of 570 cu. ft. is equivalent to a 17.5% increase over Swansea's base rates (1.175 multiplier).

If the proposal was accepted the 3,133 customers would be billed at the township's usage rate by the township and the transport fee would not be charged to those customers as it is figured into the rate structure.

Tap-in fees, contract length, and amounts paid in the past to Swansea for maintenance were discussed as possible points to negotiate if necessary.

When the issue of considering the amount in the line item Swansea Sewer Account was mentioned the board was reminded a new permit from the EPA is due next year and it is very likely spending on infrastructure will be required. The board was also reminded the amounts in that fund are from all Township resident sewer users not just those serviced by the Swansea plant.

At 8:01p.m. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to adjourn Executive Session and return to the regular meeting. Trustee Hipskind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

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