



959 Paris Avenue Circle North, Minnesota 55082
651/436-4773 · <http://www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com>

February 22, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Present: Chairman Dan Kylo, Supervisor Dave Schultz, Supervisor Marian Appelt, Carrie Seifert, Clerk; Jennifer Samec, Deputy Clerk; Marsha Olson, Treasurer; Viet-Hanh Winchell, Township Attorney; Ryan Stempski, Township Engineer

Call to Order

Chairman Kylo called the special meeting of the West Lakeland Board of Supervisors together at 7:00 PM. Ms. Winchell, township attorney, explained the statutory authority for a remote meeting under Minnesota State Statute 13.02.1. Ms. Siefert, township clerk, did a roll call of the supervisors, noting Chairman Kylo, Supervisor Appelt, and Supervisor Kylo are in attendance.

3M Water Quality Settlement Plan

Mr. Stempski provided an update of actions since the last special meeting. He noted that the settlement committee continues to look at the POETS (Point of Entry Treatment System) as well as a municipal water proposal. Both are still options.

The co-trustees have been asked to consider the POETS system on an equal basis with the municipal water system. There are currently 550 POETS systems installed, and 1200 water connections proposed, with the justification based on the expansion predicted from particle tracking. If a POETS solution is chosen, the township is asking for the expansion from particle tracking to be considered. In addition, the township has asked that the cost of maintenance and administration stay with the state under this option, as it currently resides. The township has also asked the co-trustees to consider the impact of water usage due to irrigation, livestock, and other outdoor uses.

With the municipal water system, Mr. Stempski noted that we are looking at more in depth at this proposal because it is a new system, we have no history with and know the least about. From an engineering perspective, a single source system can be tested and controlled and is a good solution for contamination as widespread as this.

At the last meeting, the township was waiting for information from the state to proceed with internal analysis. The state has added fire flow, including gates and hydrants, into the municipal water system option. The state is still requiring that wells be capped when connecting to the municipal water supply. Mr. Stempski noted that there is an in-depth study on how the PFAS is moving in connection to the 1007 Valley Branch Watershed Project that will not be concluded for one to two years. The township has asked that the decision to seal the wells be delayed until the completion of that study. The township has also asked that the water accessibility charges tied to each connection made be considered a reimbursable expense. Water irrigation of such large lots is unique in this area, and the state has been asked to consider that use in the determining the capacity of the water system proposed. This increased the estimate for the size of pipes to service each home, and the volume of water used per household. The current proposal, with 20 years of operating and maintenance cost, has a total estimated cost of \$180,951,000. The timeframe for the decision on the recommended proposal has been moved back to June.

Stantec, the consultants hired by the township to review the state proposal, have received the information, and have recommended some updates. Their review should be completed shortly, with the results then provided to Ehlers and Associates for the financial modeling. This should be available for review mid-March.



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Public Comments

Chairman Kylo opened the meeting for public discussion.

Katherine Kennedy, 2156 Paris Ave, asked if the system is needed, noting that the state has reduced the health index associated with this contamination. She suggested a legal challenge to the municipal water system. Mr. Stempski noted that a decision has not yet been made, and the water rate study will better clarify how residents are impacted. Supervisor Appelt noted that the township has a responsibility to consider all options and how to serve the community. The option for a resident to not hook up to the municipal system has not been taken off the table.

Debbie Knutson, 15197 19th St C N, is in favor of the municipal water system. It is clear there is contamination in the water and there needs to be a solution. It would be great to be able to keep the wells for irrigation but need to respond to the health concerns.

Jill Idrizow, 1019 Overlook Tr, prefers the POETS system as the installed filter has resolved the issue for the home. She believes the POETS system would be more cost effective over time. Chairman Kylo noted that if a resident has a state installed water treatment system and opted not to connect to the municipal water system if offered, the cost of maintenance would be turned over to the resident. Part of the township review is to develop and compare these relative costs over time. Mr. Stempski noted that the analysis of costs is moving forward, with a conservative estimate behind the analysis. He noted that across the metro area, additional costs are being identified as the analysis moves forward.

David Truchot, 15203 Painter's Lane, asked about the timeframe of installation. Mr. Stempski noted the timeframe has not yet been established, and it may take 5 to 7 years to have water delivered to each home.

Lloyd Vasilakes, 14725 28th St N, asked if a comparison of costs and benefits between the POETS option and the municipal water system could be made available. Chairman Kylo noted that is why the consultants were engaged, verifying the estimates done by the state and comparing each system equally.

Steven Norenberg, 795 Midwest Trail N, asked if the cost estimated of \$180 million is correct. Mr. Norenberg also asked if a survey would be taken of the residents. Mr. Stempski noted that the cost is correct and noted the cost includes 20 years of operational and maintenance costs. Supervisor Appelt noted that a survey is premature until more information about the costs is understood and can be made available as part of that survey. Chairman Kylo noted a survey will be conducted, but no time frame is yet available.

Kacie Salada, 1125 Paris Ave N, believes many residents will choose not to connect, making the municipal water system a less viable solution. She asked if there is a known minimum number of connections needed to make the system viable. Chairman Kylo noted this may be part of the Ehler's analysis.

Paul Edgerton, 2795 Oakgreen Ave N, is concerns about the chlorine and other chemicals in the municipal water. He would like the cost of filtering out these chemicals and adding minerals to make the water equivalent also be considered in the cost analysis.

Bob LaBrosse, 13150 22nd St, asked if the municipal water system could be plumbed to the home and not connect. Chairman Kylo noted that the homeowner will need to decide to connect or not connect as the system is offered. If not connecting, pipes will not be run from the street.

Terry Spawn, 2125 Oriole Ave N, prefers the POETS system, and noted his filter was changed for the first time in six years, with no issues. Changing the filter every year may be more than is necessary.



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He would also like to be able to keep wells for irrigation and noted that separating the system would be easy. Mr. Stempski noted that the proposal to change filters annually reflects the high cost to coordinate for testing and follow up.

Chairman Kylo reiterated that a decision has not yet been made by the co-trustees. The emphasis of study on the municipal water system is because the township is trying to understand it.

Stephanie DeShaw, 12480 24th St N, asked the board to confirm they will do a survey of the residents. Chairman Kylo noted the township will do a survey.

Mr. Brian Riddle, 1060 Norell Ave, asked why the state was requiring the wells be capped? Chairman Kylo noted that this has been required of other communities and want to be consistent. It was pointed out to the trustees that the township is not like the other communities impacted by the contamination. Mr. Stempski noted that cross contamination was also pointed out as a concern.

Mike Narusiewicz, 13678 Greenwood Trail N, asked if residents could opt out of the municipal water system. Chairman Kylo noted that this was an option.

Tamara Morrissey, 2465 Periwinkle Ave, asked who to contact for maintenance on the POETS system. Culligan has the state contract. She noted that the water is contaminated and that the co-trustees control the funds and will influence the decisions. In the cost analysis, she asked that the cost of customer service during installation and beyond be considered. Chairman Kylo noted that Ehlers does include administrative costs in the model.

Jeff Boyd, 275 Midwest Ave N, asked about the cost of hooking up to the system. It appears to have increased from \$2500 to \$8500. Chairman Kylo noted the difference between the physical costs to connect to the system, and the Water Access Charge. This charge is normally charged with new developments or new home construction to recoup capital costs. Mr. Stempski noted that the cost of installation increased in recognition of the larger lots and longer access runs to the mainline pipes.

Supervisor Schultz noted the need to consider future residents in any option being considered.

Local Road Improvement Program

Mr. Stempski, township engineer, explained the Local Road Improvement Program, and the proposed application by Baytown, Lake Elmo, Washington County and West Lakeland to apply for funds to improve the intersection of Manning and 30th Street. After discussion, Mr. Stempski requested a resolution to support the application.

Brian Riddle asked about the justification for a stoplight.

Chairman Kylo noted that this intersection was identified as an issue as part of the Manning Corridor project. Supervisor Schultz further added the complications by plans in Lake Elmo to divert additional traffic from Lake Elmo onto Manning Avenue.

After discussion, Supervisor Schultz moved to approve resolution 2021-4 supporting the application for LIRP funds for intersection at 30th Street and Manning Ave and authorize signature outside the meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Appelt, the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (3-0).

Preparedness Plan Update

Chairman Kylo presented an update to the township preparedness plan reflecting the purchase of the town hall. After review, Chairman Kylo moved to approve the plan with minor corrections. Seconded by Supervisor Schultz, the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (3-0).



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Adjourn

Having no further business, Supervisor Appelt moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Schultz, the motion carried by unanimous roll call vote (3-0). Chairman Kylo adjourned the meeting at 10:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elizabeth A. Vance

Secretary