



Beaver Island
Michigan

Supervisor's Lens

Notes to Township Board Members from Supervisor Kathleen McNamara

NOVEMBER 2, 2018

VOLUME 3, NUMBER 11

SJTGC = St James
Township
Governmental
Center
SJTH = St James
Township Hall



Tuesday November 6
@ SJTH
General Election



Wednesday
November 7 @
5:00PM @ SJTH
Regular Board
Meeting

Finance

The monthly finance report is attached and bills for payment have already been sent to board members. Finance Committee meeting minutes are part of this board packet.

Deficit Elimination Plans for Sewer Fund and Municipal Dock Fund

I have attached these plans that must be filed with the Department of Treasury based on our audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. I developed the plans and the township's auditor has reviewed them. Please let me know if you have questions about this. You can also reference pages 16 and 17 of the audit.

Sewer Fund – The deficit net position (as of 3/31/18) for this fund is minima - \$84.00. The fact that the fund is liable to the road fund for historic borrowing is the biggest factor in creating the deficit. In real cash terms for the last fiscal year, the revenue generated in the sewer fund more than paid for the expenses.

Dock Fund – The deficit net position (as of 3/31/18) for this fund is \$5,214.00. The main reason a deficit elimination plan is needed is because most of the assets of the fund are tied up in infrastructure which is subject to depreciation. Another factor is that at the time of the audit (at the end of the fiscal year March 31) the cash assets are at about the lowest point because all of the revenue comes in during the summer months, but the audit's list of liabilities includes what's to come in the following year. The fact that the fund is liable to the general fund for historic payroll taxes is also a factor. In real cash terms for the last fiscal year, the revenue generated in the dock fund more than paid for the expenses.

Public Works Committee

Attached are minutes of the November 2, 2018 PWC meeting including information about the following: Christmas lights, Cemetery Fencing, Gravel Production, Anderson Marina Proposal, Sewer Rate Study, Municipal Dock Technology Upgrade, Deputy House, Donegal Bay Bike Path

2018 Sewer Rate Study

Performance Engineers, Inc. (PEI) has completed a review of the 2017 St. James Township Rate Study and current 2018 year-to-date data for the purpose of providing the Township with an update to be used for planning 2019 sewer rates. The engineer sent us a **2018 Rate Study Update** which I previously forwarded to you. I am attaching a board resolution adopting the addendum to the rate study as prepared by Performance Engineers. The resolution also sets a new sewer use rate for 2019 at \$41.50.

Feel free to stop in or give me a call if you have any questions or want anything added to the agenda.

Kitty

Ordinance to Prohibit the Transportation of Firewood to Beaver Island

You have received a copy of the Ordinance prepared by our attorneys. Please take the time to review it and see if there is anything you have specific questions or concerns about. I shared the document at the November 1, 2018 meeting of the NLMI Collaborative which is a group headed up by the State of Michigan Wildlife Division. Member so the collaborative were very supportive of the ordinance.

ATT Request to Modify Existing Ground Lease Agreement

Per our discussion at the last meeting, I wanted to let you know that I responded to ATT's request as follows. The current agreement remains in effect.

"Hello Richard, I am following up on the status of the AT&T site located at 27125 Donegal Bay Road, Beaver Island, MI 49782. We realize that AT&T is working to densify its network, and wants to know now that they can count on a new lease agreement with the township to support their long-range plan.

With all due respect for your offer, at this time, St James Township wishes to remain with its current lease. The township does not wish to enter into a new lease agreement at this time because we are very unclear about the potential benefits to our community which is located on the most remote inhabited island in the Great Lakes.

A little over a year ago, new equipment was placed on the Donegal Bay Road tower which we were told would greatly improve AT&T service, yet there are still many dead spots on the island, even within a few miles of the tower. This really effects economic vitality of the island, particularly tourism, and presents a safety issue for visitors/residents out of range.

The township has had a lot of interest in the tower by others who are investigating bringing internet service to the island and the township wants to remain open to ideas which will improve overall telecommunications access to our residents and many visitors.

Please know that St James Township and the Beaver Island Community does not want to lose or strain its relationship with AT&T, we just don't feel comfortable at this time with the offer made.

We would welcome further discussion about the needs of AT&T customers on Beaver Island. We are open to further discussion of this issue."

Great Lakes Energy Franchise Agreement

I hope to have the final GLE Franchise Agreement for approval on November 7th. As soon as I receive the document, I will forward it to you.

Works Family Property Donation

I have had email communication with the Works Family and continue to pursue steps to make this transaction happen. It is likely that we will have a deed for approval at the December board meeting.

Telecommunications Advisory Committee Appointments

We received eight applicants for the five spots on the telecommunications advisory committee! I will forward the letters of interest to you. Bill Kohls and I will speak on Monday and I will forward you the list of our recommendations for appointment on Wednesday.