

**Ross Township
12086 M-89
Richland, MI 49083
269-731-4888**

**Special Board Meeting
November 9, 2021
6:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Supervisor Hutchings.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Present: Christina Hutchings Michael Bekes Syndee Genung
 Lynn Harmon Diana Langshaw Mike Sulka
 Carin Louis

Absent: None

Also Present: Rob Thall Township Attorney, John Crumb Executive Director of Gull Lake Sewer & Water Authority, Zach Klipsch CEO of Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center, Nancy Boyd President of Sherman Lake Residents Association Board and approximately 60 residents.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Sulka moved to approve Special Agenda, Second by Trustee Langshaw. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was opened to public comment at 6:04 pm by Supervisor Hutchings.

Patricia Dorian of Sherman Lake spoke against sewer hookup and was in possession of a **Petition regarding opposition to mandated sewer hookup.

Tom Saad of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hookup and presented data that was provided by Dr. Jones, Limnologist.

Roger Schwietzer of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hookup and presented supporting facts by John Tucci of Lake Savers and Dr. Jones, Limnologist.

John Tucci of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hookup and explained his companies' roll in introducing aeration and bio-augmentation treatments to improve algae and weed problems.

Mark Rogers of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hookup and the need to help residents with the cost.

Matt Alves of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hookup and the need to assist residents with cost.

Kerry Lynn Alieff of Sherman Lake spoke in support of residents not hooked up to sewer. She stated she was connected at her residence however wanted to support residents that were not hooked up to sewer.

Kristine Russell of Sherman Lake spoke against sewer hook-up because of the cost.

Shirley Blakely of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hook up and the need for the involvement by the DNR, DEQ, and Health Department.

Pam Mosley of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hook up and in support of SAD to ease the expense over time.

Jean Sellers of Sherman Lake spoke in support of sewer hook up and SAD.

6:38pm Public comment closed by Supervisor Hutchings.

Presentation

**John Crumb Executive Director of Gull Lake Sewer and Water Authority presented GLSWS Rates, connection status, Data regarding Sherman Lake's environmental status as well as reviewed Ross Township's **Ordinance 179.

**Letters of support were read by Zach Klipsch CEO of The Sherman Lake YMCA Outdoor Center and Nancy Boyd on behalf of the Sherman Lake Resident's Association Board.

The Ross Township Board had the opportunity to ask questions of John Crumb.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The floor was re-opened by Supervisor Hutchings for Public Comment at 8:10 pm.

Steve Kooy of Sherman Lake asked what the Utility Bill Cost would be after hook up. John Crumb stated at this time it is \$38.00 per quarter plus \$8.00 on average if a grinder is in use.

Donna Pieracini of Sherman Lake asked if a SAD was in place during the sale of property would the unpaid balance be passed on with sale? Attorney Thall stated the cost would either be paid in full as part of the new buyer's expense or passed on to the new home owner as a SAD. This would be negotiated at time of sale.

Mark Rogers of Sherman Lake spoke in favor of sewer hook- up, the increase in property value to residents and the need for a SAD to help residents pay over time.

Matt of Sherman Lake stated that there can be a problem with septic systems causing contamination without the septic system having been deemed a failed unit. He stated concerns for costs for other residents.

Tom Saad of Sherman Lake stated the Ross Township Board needs to make a decision for the welfare of residents and long-term future of Sherman Lake in mind.

Karen Brinsonson asked if the Sewer would be in district if residents lived across the street from the lake. John Crumb answered "yes".

Kathy Escanont stated surveying people just delays the problems on Sherman Lake.

Debbie Sutton of Sherman Lake questioned the 200-foot road right away, hook up was not required.

Roger Schwietzer of Sherman Lake stated the lake is surrounded by very narrow parcels. The water well must be 50 foot from septic systems and many narrow parcels drinking wells and septic systems are dangerously close to one another. Roger is in support of SAD.

Kerry Lynn Elieff of Sherman Lake spoke against cost of hook up for other residents.

John Blakely of Sherman Lake stated Sherman Lake needs clean water.

Chris Vokey of Sherman Lake stated he would move if water quality is not improved.

Jim Derhammer of Sherman Lake stated that there should be Governmental Funds available to make sewer hook up more affordable.

Nancy Boyd of Sherman Lake spoke in support of SAD, Grant funds possible with the State of Michigan and DEQ. The grant they applied for was denied because the sewer hook-up was not mandatory. In order to get funding, there must be a mandate in place to get said Grant funds.

Ken of Sherman Lake stated a mandatory hook up is the only resolution.

John Bishop of Sherman lake stated The Sherman Lake residents Association does not represent all residents.

Chris Russell of Sherman Lake wanted to know the rate of failure of grinder pumps. Answer by John Crumb "it depends on what products are being put through the grinder."

Paullette Humbold of Sherman Lake stated she has lived on the lake for 70 years and the lake has never been this bad.

Lori Coy of Sherman Lake spoke for the need of DNR Boat Wash Station at Public Boat Launch.

Jim Pejka of Sherman Lake stated the Ross Township Board needs to enforce the Ordinance that is already in place.

Danielle Pierce of Sherman Lake spoke regarding the Algae bloom being thick as carpet and the need for help financing the connection.

John Menier of Sherman Lake spoke to the fact that Septic systems can be maintained yet still fail without knowing. John stated he was already hooked up.

Kent Elliott of Sherman Lake asked how to know when a Septic System has failed.

8:55pm Public comment closed by Supervisor Hutchings.

Board Discussion and Decision

Trustee Bekes moved to invoke Ordinance Number 179 Section 13-D with a publication date on March 1st 2022 providing residents with an 18-month notification to connect to public sewer. Seconded by Clerk Louis.

The Board and Attorney Thall held a discussion regarding the necessity of SAD in relation to mandatory hook up. Mandatory hook up via Special Assessment could give the Township the ability for residents to pay off the connection over time instead of pay the total cost one time.

9:07 Board Discussion time closed by Supervisor Hutchings at which time she addressed Board regarding the urgency of the matter and stated that she cannot vote on this matter due to a conflict in interest being her property would benefit.

Roll Call Vote for Motion to invoke Ordinance Number 179, Section 13-D:

Sulka NAY
Langshaw AYE
Harmon NAY
Bekes AYE
Genung AYE
Louis AYE
Hutchings ABSTAIN

Motion passed 4 AYE, 2 NAY.

Clerk Louis moved to adjourn meeting at 9:10pm Second by Trustee Beekes.
Motion passed unanimously.

Carin Louis
Township Clerk

s

**copy of documents attached to minutes