

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

December 18, 2014

Present – Supervisors Jay Swanson, Jeff Holm, Larry Handshoe, Tom Rush and Randy Atwood. Baldwin Township Planner Bridget Chard and Township Engineer Jon Bogart are also present as well as Clerk/Treasurer Cathy Stevens.

Call to Order – The December 18, 2014 special meeting of Baldwin Township was called to order by Chairman Jay Swanson at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Brief Summary of How We Got to this Point – Jay Swanson explained that Eddy Florell called Jon Bogart because of the septic issues and Jon then called Bridget Chard. A Subordinate Service District petition has been submitted to the town board. Atwood questioned what started the call to Jon Bogart. Bogart explained it was the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) as there was some report that was due to them and there were some issues with the system itself. It came down to the amount of nitrates coming out of the system. The MPCA has come up with a different interpretation of the rules; not plat lines but now nearest lot line. MPCA is saying the drain fields are too close to lot lines. The MPCA requested the association put together a plan on how to address the situation. There is not enough money in the association account to handle this. Bridget Chard stated that the original drip irrigation line in the drain field is no longer there as it has been chewed up by gophers. In their review of everything before renewal of their permit, that is probably how it started. Permits are issued every 5 years. Eddy Florell, Frontier Trails Homeowners Association, stated that the issues started in 2011. Their board did not exist for a while until 2011. Swanson stated that his question is how the rules got deciphered differently? The date of the system is 1998 and was designed by John Oliver & Associates. When they encountered some problems with nitrates Bogart, Pederson & Associates were hired to fix the problems and it worked. Rush questioned how many more septic systems there are in the township like this one. Bogart replied approximately 6-8. Chard stated that there are 2 systems within this area: 1 for 21 homes and the other for 20 homes. The deadline for repair is May 31, 2016. Bogart stated that the association needs to write a letter to the MPCA informing them of what they are going to do, in general.

Presentation of Subordinate Service District (Wastewater Management Model) and Application to Present Concerns, Planner, Bridget Chard with comments from Mr. Jon Bogart, Township Engineer – Frontier Trails and Frontier Trails 2nd addition is a common interest community under State Statute 515. The Subordinate Service District cannot be created by the town board. A petition has been given to the

town board. Atwood stated that the Subordinate Service District is an option and questioned if there are any other options available. Chard stated that she had met with their board of directors and they cannot find financing on their own. The other route would be to ask the county as they have Subordinate Service District financing as well. The township has a way to recover their costs. The county does not have that and it would be harder for them to do it as they do not have in statute to do bonding without an election as the township has. A sanitary district route would be very difficult and usually involves a large system. Frontier Trails systems would require treatment and a certified operator.

Review of PowerPoint Presentation – Bridget Chard presented a PowerPoint presentation on Subordinate Service Districts.

Bogart stated that the existing system is every home has a septic tank with an effluent pump that runs along to one of two treatment systems. Traditionally when trying to get rid of nitrates a recirculating system is run. He believes the problem is when recirculating goes through, which needs to be a carbon source. There is no additional new carbon source going in for that treatment that will release nitrates into the air. The second problem is the drip irrigation system. Chard recommended building a budget that allows for updates. If the petition is accepted tonight she recommends Bob Ruppe, Couri & Ruppe, look at this to ensure that we get recovery of costs. There is no end date for Subordinate Service District when it relates to wastewater. There will be no real dollar figure for what this will cost until the district is formed. The homeowners can talk to a contractor themselves.

Asking how many of the 41 homeowners were on board, Florell said there were over 50% of the homeowners involved. Florell went on to say that the homeowner's responsibility ends past the check valve. Florell stated they have a lot of lawyer fees out there and payment plans coming in. He needs to know the process of getting this resolved. Chard stated that the township attorney would need to look at that. Chard stated that the petition is general and if the township took over the outlots that would need to be part of the resolution.

Question and Answer Session - See above.

Approve/Disapprove Accepting Petition for Subordinate Service District, Frontier Trails & Frontier Trails 2nd Addition and Turn Over to Clerk for Verification - Supervisors Holm/Atwood unanimous to accept petition and turn over to the clerk for verification.

Adjournment - Supervisors Holm/Rush unanimous to adjourn at 8:39 p.m.

Cathy Stevens

Submitted By: (s/) Cathy Stevens
Clerk/Treasurer
Baldwin Township

Jay Swanson

Approved By: (s/) Jay Swanson
Chairman, Board of Supervisors
Baldwin Township

Attendees: Adam Westrum, Dale Hurni, Ross Perry, Jeremy LeFlay, Lindsey LeFlay,
Heather Hoss, Audra Cegla, Tom Cegla, Kenneth Kluge, B. Weidenborner, Eddy Florell,
Jon Bogart, Chuck Nagle, Joel Stottrup