

Nottawa Township
Transcription from October 2, 2023 Board Meeting and Associated
Questions and Answers

Patricia Carrick
5355 Beal City Road

I was gonna speak, actually I'm on the agenda for the Coldwater Board. I was just wondering if you took into consideration the perspective of our township? Because ten percent are very little income [*Inaudible*] poverty. When you took this assessment, did you look into what areas were, were, um poverty? [*Inaudible*] With that being said, I had people come to me and address their concerns on what this is doing to them, to help them possibly [*Inaudible*], what they want to spend their money on. My concern, as well. I have \$500 worth of bills a month. How do I manage to absorb this cost? Did you consider any burdens [*Inaudible*]? Um, also, moving forward or down this road, I'm trying to make a statement. [*A possible reminder to state name and address by township.*] Patricia Carrick, 5355 Beal City Road. This road is not equipped [*Inaudible*]. This little, I don't know what size, but apparently [*Inaudible*] who said that road was not acceptable for this sewer [*Inaudible*]. Why do you want to sacrifice my time, and [*Inaudible*], if the sewer system doesn't [*Inaudible*]? As far as I'm understanding this [*Inaudible*]. So, again, why is that? And do you want me to address this? [*Inaudible*].

Township: That's fine.

Thank you. I think I'm done.

Township: Thank you.

Carrick - Questions:

Q1: *Was the poverty level of the township considered in this project?*

A1: **Nottawa Township recognizes that this project may be a significant burden to some property owners. It has been a topic of discussion on multiple occasions, including discussions with USDA. To this end the township has flyers available from USDA for loan and/or grant assistance available to help with some of the costs for those property owners that fall within certain income level parameters (see flyers on township website).**

Q2: *How do I manage to absorb this cost?*

A2: **See answer A1 above.**

Township: Karen Schafer?

Karen Schafer
2165 Miller Dr.

I'm Karen Schafer, 2165 Miller Drive Road. I was planning on talking to you first of all, [Inaudible] everything everybody has to say. I really hope people really are [Inaudible]. I was also wanting to hand over my last two minutes to Abby Sellers. Can I do that?

Township: That's fine.

Abby Sellers

5135 West Beal City Road

My name is Abby Sellers, 5135 West Beal City Road. So I just have some questions about, um ..., so the notice of special hearings, um, can you provide proof that you mailed each and every one of the 409 property owners a notice about the hearing at least ten days before the date of the hearing? Can anybody prove there is a record of that? And did you double check and write it down in any minutes? I would like to know the answer to that. Also, um, notice of special hearings need to be published in the newspaper at least ten days before. Do you also have proof that that was done? If you can do that, that's fine. I just, I just would like to know if you have information and if we can see that. Additionally, in order to engage special assessments, there must be a finding of legal proper determination that a project is specially necessary as defined by the appropriate law. What legal proof can you provide that this sewer project is necessary? Do you have any test results that support this? Because I've spoken with the tribe that did the testing and they said they do it every other year at Coldwater Lake, and every year since 2000, every other year since 2008, they said the levels are so low that it doesn't, it doesn't require any, any intervention. So what they're saying—and they tested it this year, by the way—they're saying the levels are so low. I just want everybody to know that. I don't think that it's necessary, that the levels warrant it.

Additionally, for a homeowner's association to be a valid legal entity, because you guys did allow Coldwater Lake Association to speak for us, to speak on my behalf, to speak on everyone's behalf, actually. So, for a homeowners association to be a valid legal entity, it must be organized as a corporation. Are any of you aware that the Coldwater Lake Association is a corporation? Have they incorporated, filed legal papers of incorporation? Maybe we should have checked on that before we allowed them to speak for the people. As far as I know, a homeowners association also must have officers that are elected by members of the organization. I didn't get invited to vote on any such occasion. I bought my house in 2011. I was not even told about the Coldwater Association, yet they get to speak on my behalf. I don't [Inaudible], nor did they ask me. So I wasn't notified when I purchased my house. [Inaudible] (*Time announced by township*) [Inaudible]

Sellers - Questions:

Q1: *Can you provide proof that all property owners were mailed a notice of the hearing at least ten days before the hearing?*

A1: **Yes, the township does have proof that the public hearing notice was mailed via first-class mail, as required by law, at least ten days prior to the public hearing.**

Q2: *Was confirmation of the notice written down in any meeting minutes?*

A2: **Yes, See July 2018 meeting minutes available on the township website.**

Q3: *Notice of special hearings need to be published in the newspaper at least ten days before. Do you also have proof that that was done?*

A3: **Yes, the Township has proof that the special hearing notice was timely published in the newspaper.**

Q4: *What legal proof can you provide that this sewer project is necessary? Do you have any test results that support this?*

A4: **This project is based on the support/needs of properties in the area.**

Q5: *Comments and questions regarding the validity of the Coldwater Lake Association and how the township allowed the association to speak on everyone's behalf.*

A5: **Nottawa Township cannot speak to the validity of the association from a legal perspective but can unequivocally state that it did not allow the Coldwater Lake Association to speak on everyone's behalf.**

Township: Ralph Groves. Anne Groves, pardon me.

Anne Groves
5467 Beal City Rd.

Anne Groves. It's hard for me to hear everybody. Can you guys hear me? Okay. So, in the short two months that I've done a deep dive into this, and it's only been a couple of months, I was for it to begin with, against it in the middle, and very much against it now. I've learned that, you know, my township has been able to mail me my taxes, been able to mail me information about this, but when I asked you before this, you guys didn't have my address. That's kind of interesting. Like I said that stuff, and you have no way of contacting me because you don't have my address, and you can't return the [Inaudible] got all this information to me.

I also learned that there's laws on Michigan books that need to be changed. One of them is that landmass can be used as a voting power. So, if I'm rich and have a lot of property, I might be able to pull that vote my way. I, I'm just old fashioned, one, one voice, one vote. That's what this should be. One voice, one vote. And the fact that that got slid under us, the fact that got slid in under us, which is exactly what happened, didn't, no conversation at the 2018 meeting. Since then I haven't seen it, until I went deep diving into your information. I'm also reminded, and I'm learning that government really does, and I know it does, need to be handled in the light of day. Every single thing that happens in government: project, assessment, whatever, voting, whatever, needs to be in the light of day. This hasn't been like that.

There are people that needed to be contacted that you just didn't contact. And whether you have to do it by email, by snail mail, by phone call, by knocking on their door, or whatever, that was your job to do that. Not ours. You told everybody in the Coldwater Lake Association, "Knock on your neighbor's door and tell them about this." Not my job, not my job. I did, but it still wasn't my job. And there's people in their homes, there's older people in their homes not at this meeting right now. There are people that were terrified by the woman who knocked on their door and told them that if they didn't sign now, it was going to be twice as much later. And probably some legal repercussions. Is that how you guys want our community elders to be handled? Because that's how it was handled. And we've got it in writing now. We've got why they want

their [*Inaudible*]. So, I'm asking for a redress of this sewer project. Is that going to be able to happen? [*Pause*] I'm waiting.

Township: We have the signatures. It's gonna go to lawyers and let them handle it.

What's that?

Township: It's gonna go to legal and let them handle it.

Okay. So we are going to redress. I'm asking for the easement agreements that were, that were accrued under duress, for you to just tear them up. Do the right thing and tear um up. These people that made phone calls have said why they want them back. I have some people waiting, because they're so terrified at what they were told. They don't want you to know they want their easements back, because they were told that they'd be having legal action taken against them. So, I promised I wouldn't say anything until you guys agreed to do the right thing and tear um up. Just tear um up. Do this the right way. So sorry. [*Inaudible*]

Township: He can speak.

No, he can't.

Township: Yes he can. No, he gave his time up.

[*Confrontational dialogue.*]

He gave it to me.

Township: He gave his time up.

Unidentified Speaker or *Township:* Common now.

Township: He gave his time up. I'm sorry. [*Interruption by last speaker.*] That's fine. I want to make sure we can get to everybody. We have a lot of people here. [*Interruption continues.*] And I'm trying to make sure. Maybe more people want to speak. I want to make sure everybody gets a chance.

Township: Just a quick . . .

Township: Starting right here.

Township: Nope, nope, here.

Township: Hold on. I've got one more that's already on the list. Give me one second. One more person. Isabella 4-H Camp. Is there somebody here from Isabella 4-H Camp? Perfect. Thank you.

(Cheering.)

Township: Who's in . . . ?

Township: Name?

Andrew Wittbrodt
1415 N. Littlefield Rd.

Andrew Wittbrodt. I am the president of the Isabella County 4-H Camp, 1415 North Littlefield Road. We are the director, with the board of directors of the 4-H Camp, located on roughly 40 acres on Coldwater Lake. Our property currently houses four buildings. We are a nonprofit organization that operates youth camps and rental facilities. The camp operates on a minimal budget that basically breaks even each year. All profits are used to operate and maintain the facilities. We contacted Nottawa Township in early, in early May, regarding the costs we would incur for this sewer project. We've had multiple calls with an engineer, and later with the township attorney. We were recently told that although we are tax exempt for property taxes, we are not exempt from the special assessment costs. Today we have not received any cost information other than the original cost estimates mailed with the easement paperwork, but with four facilities, each requiring hookup, the camp would incur roughly \$75,000, at a minimum. The proposed cost of \$75 per month per building would be an additional \$300 per month, or \$3,600 per year to an already struggling facility. Questions we have proposed to the township that have not been answered to this day are how many grinder stations will be required to operate all four buildings? How many more years are we subject to pay times four the \$75 fee, and do we qualify for the 40-year special assessment?

The 4-H Camp has a unique situation. It was placed into a conservation easement in 2006, and must remain in its current state. If the camp were to be sold, the easement remains in place for life and transfers with the property. The financial burden on individual property owners is substantial, but we are unfortunately facing that burden times four. As the board of directors, we can only evaluate the information put before us. Currently we are facing the minimum of \$75,000 to hook up facilities to the sewer system, as well as an additional monthly cost that will likely exceed 25 percent of our total revenue in 2023. We're also a seasonal property that only runs six months out of the year, and the property is closed for the rest of the year. For the past 71 years, this camp has provided a place for youth programming, for not only Isabella County, but the entire state of Michigan. In that time, it has truly become a staple of Coldwater, of the Coldwater Lake community. With this proposal's [*Inaudible*] financial burden, we would have no choice but to close the camp. Thank you.

Township: Thank you.

Wittbrodt - Questions:

Q1: *How many grinder stations will be required to operate all four of our buildings?*

A1: **The current design calls for two grinder stations including one for the single family home and one for the other three buildings.**

Q2: *How many more years are we subjected to pay times four the \$75 fee?*

A2: **The fee being referenced is a monthly rates and charges fee primarily to operate and maintain the system. This fee will be adjusted from time to time, based on actual costs, but is not tied to a certain duration of time and will be necessary for ongoing operation of the system.**

Q3: *Do we qualify for the 40-year special assessment?*

A3: **The township needs more information in order to answer this question. To this end, the township's attorney has reached out to the 4-H.**

Q4: *If the camp were to be sold, would the easement remain in place for life and be transferred with the property?*

A4: **Yes.**

Christopher Natzel

5638 Riverside Beach Dr.

Chris Natzel, 5638 Riverside Beach Drive.

Township: Chris Natzel?

Yes.

Township: Alright.

I provided each of the board members a letter. I won't take credit for writing this letter, my wife is a much better writer than I am. I'm not going to read through the whole thing, because [*Inaudible*] too slow, so if you'd like a copy of the letter

Township: Yep.

If anybody else would like a copy of that letter, I'd be more than happy to provide it. Essentially it's saying we are in one of the most difficult financial times ever in the last couple of years. The rate of inflation, we had a five percent increase in our property taxes last year, likely another one coming. The county's now close to three mill on building a jail. Um, I keep talking to people that you seem to know. I talked to over 20 people, and I have not talked to one single person that has received any documentation. I bought my house in 2018 on Riverside Beach Drive. The first documentation I got from the township was basically an easement, and I really didn't take too kindly to [*Inaudible*], because I felt threatened. I signed it, I absolutely did sign it, and I feel like ..., because if this thing gets shoved down our throats, what's going to happen is I'm going to end up having to bear the cost of that on my own. I'm hoping to build in a [*Inaudible*] soon, because when I've taken this whole landmass thing ... I've heard of taxation without representation, but I know somebody, you all know who I'm talking about, that owns 62 acres of empty property. Taxation without representation, I call that representation without taxation. So,

yet, in your own letters, in your own documents, you state that a vacant parcel does not, is not going to be assessed. So, not only does this person get a winded vote, they also don't have to pay anything for vacant property. Now if you're talking . . . when I looked at the assessment of \$16,000, and based on my SEV, we're talking \$400. My taxes went up \$450 last year. When is this madness going to stop?

Township: Sir, right here.

George Montie
5623 Riverside Beach

George Montie, 5623 Riverside Beach. I agree with all of that Chris says. And we just moved in in 2020. I don't know why, but they're putting that grinding station in front of my house. I don't appreciate that. I like to move it to the side.

Township: We can do that.

Okay. How do you do it?

Township: When, I'll just do this real quick. Your easement was basically a blanket, but if there's a, when they go to set the grinder stations, you're gonna get a choice of where you want to set.

Okay, good deal.

Township: You can, when we did Beal City's septic services, they put a stake in where the engineers wanted to set it, then the homeowner got an opportunity to move it to a best fit with their, to their purpose. Down the road you may want to add on, you don't want the tank there, so you want to move it off to the side. You can, as long as nothing else interferes with other utilities and stuff. That's what we're trying to do. We're trying to get it where it's best for the person, best for the whole.

So when they show up to set the tank, I can speak up at that time.

Township: We can do it before then. Talk to Pete Lorenz, he can, and he'll help you with it.

Is he with the county?

Township: No, he's right here in town. He's one of the engineers on the, on the project.

Okay.

Township: And he'll work with you. They've been doing it with other people, changing their easements to make it fit their, their future plans better.

And I really thank you for all your service. Thank you.

Montie - Questions:

Q1: *Who do I talk to about moving the grinder station?*

A1: **Pete Lorenz or Joe White**. You can email them at pete@lorenzse.com or joew@wolveng.com.

[Time lapse.]

Township: Well, she had her, excuse me, she was before you back there. The lady back there on the left, I'll get you first. We'll come back again.

Melissa Utt

5534 W. Jordan Rd.

I am Melissa Utt, 5534 W. Jordan Road. I just want to let everybody to know [*Inaudible*], and in your minutes [*Inaudible*], you didn't represent me, not in the association. [*Inaudible*] As I mentioned last month, as we mentioned [*Inaudible*], our paperwork is wrong [*Inaudible*], and if they can't fix an easement, what other mistakes ... [*Inaudible*]. It doesn't give me much confidence in anything. And what Chris brought up, and I think I've read it with two different views, we have an extra barn. I think you told me last month that we will have an assessment. We don't?

Township: We're not assessing empty, vacant lots.

No assessments? Because I know there was somebody that's voted that has four other lots [*Inaudible*].

Township: If it's a vacant lot, with nothing on it, it is not assessed. As long as it does not have a water service to the building, it's not assessed.

Water service or toilet?

Township: Excuse me, as long as there's not a toilet and living facility in the garage. If it's got a second home in the garage of some sort, yes, it would be assessed. But if it's an empty, vacant garage, it's not.

Township: Right here. Yep.

Kimberly Lavigne

Fritch Dr.

Well, my first question is, what exact stage are we in the special assessment proceeding? Before that, may I ask you a question, like, why some people's questions are being answered now, and some people's are being answered, like, next month?

Township: It's ones that, it's ones that I can answer.

Okay.

Township: I'm not gonna give you a quick answer. It's the ones that I'm not going to answer, I'm going to wait and let the legal and the engineers answer.

Do you know the exact stage of the special assessment?

Township: I'll get you an answer.

Okay. Exactly what improvements are planned for us? I mean ...

Township: What's, what was the question?

Well, like you said, we've entered into a deal with other municipalities, like Mount Pleasant. Like so what, what exactly improvements are planned for us? Like exactly, like we don't know, like exactly what you're putting in our houses. To tell you the truth, it's like a guessing game. At first you told us it was all turnkey. Remember? And that's what Charlie said at our meetings, too, he always said, "It's turnkey. You guys won't get charged a penny. It'll all be put on your taxes." Well, now, all of a sudden half of it's not turnkey, and we're not really being told what exactly is happening. At first, we were talking about the lagoon, then we were talking about the pressure thing. Now we're talking about grinding pumps. You know, so I would just like to know exactly what, um, you're gonna do, if that's okay.

And how was the township ... like, how are you financing it? Is it 100 percent on us? And then them couple grants you got? Or, like, how do you plan on, like, in most instances, like, the township is going to do something like this, they have a plan, like they've already saved for it for 15 years, and they're gonna pay half and the people are going to pay half. But I don't see where anything's being paid by you guys. You guys just want it, but is anything being paid by the township, or are you guys just collecting our \$75 a month? That's good.

Township: Thank you.

Lavigne - Questions:

Q1: *Do you know the exact stage of the special assessment?*

A1: **The next phase will be to bid the project to determine the actual cost of the improvements. The township board will then prepare the special assessment roll and call a public hearing regarding the roll.**

Q2: *Exactly what improvements are planned for us?*

A2: **The project consists of three main components: 1) a low pressure sewer collection system to provide service within the Special Assessment District, 2) a pump station on the township property at the southwest corner of Beal City and Littlefield Roads, and 3) a 6 inch force main along Beal City Road to Beal City. The low pressure sewer system includes grinder stations, service leads, and mains. The mains will be owned and maintained by Nottawa Township. Additionally, for those property owners who grant easements, the grinders and service**

connections will also be owned and maintained by the township. Property owners will be responsible for connecting their building sewer and electrical to the new grinder station along with properly abandoning their existing septic tank.

Q3: *How is this being financed?*

A3: This project is being financed through multiple vehicles including 1) a USDA loan, and 2) grant funds from the State of Michigan. The loans will be paid back using revenue from the special assessment and monthly rates and charges.

Township: Oh, I'm sorry. Which one?

Donna Land
5805 Gross Drive

I wrote this letter and I ... Oh, Donna Land, 5805 Gross Drive, Weidman, MI. And I wrote this letter, and I [*Inaudible*] several people on Gross Drive that thought I should read it, because they agreed. So, here goes. Nottawa Township sending letters, and needing an easement signed to install a sewer and a grinder on my property. They threatened me if I didn't sign, and take me to court. They would hook it up, and it would cost me even more money. If I didn't have the money, I could sign up for a grant. I don't have, I couldn't get all the information I needed for the grant. Um, and I'm afraid I will lose my house, then where am I gonna live, on the street?

Township: Acknowledgement of next speaker.

So I sat down and wrote a few little notes.

Township: No problem. Your name?

Ian Kabell
5160 Parkview Dr.

Ian Kabell, 5160 Parkview Dr. I am in the sewer district. My septic tank, for what it's worth, is almost certainly not close enough [*Inaudible*]. So, I realize we don't know what the total cost of the sewer is going to be, so I assume for the sake of argument, \$15,000 special assessment tax. That's within the range you gave us. That is also nearly half the assessed value of my home, and more than half of the taxable value of my property. The cost per year, and on over 40 years ... I looked up the current federal funds rate, now five and a half percent. That seemed like a reasonable basis to work with—now \$928.44 per year. That right there is more than my current Federal [*Inaudible*] taxes, and probable cost monthly for running the sewer: \$840 a year. That's just about as much as my current property taxes. This seems excessive.

Now, I understand we live in the community contributing to the welfare of the community. I pay my taxes. I vote for the school that needs it, even though I don't have children, because I understand it's to provide a benefit, the community's benefit for my neighbor's children to educate. But I would like to invite the board members to do, now, what is, what is the case, now what is the benefit to me and to the community, and help raise this incredible increase in my taxes? Now what, now, if in other words, I would like you to make the case, if you can, why this

should be done, why it's worth the money. I admit that I can't see it. And if it's not worth the money, I don't really consider it lawful.

Kabell - Questions:

Q1: *What is the benefit to me and the community [to merit the] increase in taxes?*

A1: **Following are answers provided in the Q&A memo that was mailed with the original easement document:**

- 1) reduced risk of a septic system backup on your property
- 2) reduced occurrence of foul/septic odors
- 3) elimination of dampness and/or seepage from the septic tank system
- 4) property becomes more marketable to a wider percentage of the population, which may result in increased property value
- 5) improved protection of drinking and surface water
- 6) infants, pregnant women and those with already compromised immune systems benefit from a reduction of nitrates often found in local water supplies from improperly treated sewage
- 7) reduced risks to public health from diseases such as hepatitis or dysentery
- 8) fewer disease-carrying mosquitoes and flies.
- 9) the project will eliminate the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) Time of Transfer requirements, as they pertain to septic systems, when a property changes ownership.

Township: Yes?

[Inaudible]

Township: I'll get it.

Township: I'll get it. This is going to take a minute.

Township: Okay. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker: Did you know the answer to his last question?

Township: Which one?

Unknown Speaker: About why you feel we need it?

Township: I'll get it answered.

Unknown Speaker: Oh, I thought you would know that.

Township: I'll get you an answer.

Larry Hyatt
5139 Parkview Dr.

Larry Hyatt, 5139 Parkview Drive. Again, um, I am in total agreement with Ian. You know, we, with the cost of the taxes, the increase in the sewer bill and estimated \$15,000, which we all know it's going to be a lot higher than that. That's more than I paid for my property. You know, I bought my place in 2020. Um, um, I just think it's a huge financial burden to everybody. Without, without us having a say. I asked you at the last meeting if you had an estimated total cost for this, for this sewer project, and I never got an answer. Um, I have my letters, I have both my easement documents. I have my threatening letter. I have not signed yet. I've never signed on the bottom line for anything that I didn't know the price of. I don't, I don't know how you guys are trying to force me to sign for something I don't know how much you're going to charge me. I just think it's wrong. It's a huge financial burden. So please, get the numbers. Let's talk, let's discuss it. That's all I have.

Township: Thank you.

Hyatt: Comments only, no questions.

Randy Pulcifer
1926 Midway Dr.

My name is Randy Pulcifer at 1926 Midway Drive. I opposed everything that you guys are trying to do. It's like the government's forcing your, forcing your way onto my land. Liberty pretty much means freedom. Right? I mean a lot of people in here can't maintain their freedoms without your harassment. We really don't need it. Um, the representative back here said something about the Green Deal. How is putting electricity on my land that is gravity fed a Green Deal? That's pretty much all I got to say.

Township: Anybody else?

Isabella 4-H Camp (Ongria Dow)
3103 Summerton Rd.

I'm just curious, um with all of these people who are being faced with, and our camp as well. Granted, we are exempt, so we do not have to pay property taxes at this point. If these people leave vacant homes on this lake, and in this community, who is going to pay your taxes?

Township: What was your name?

Ongria Dow.

Township: Okay.

Does that then fall on those that remain? Does that amount, um, are the special funds that you're going to need somewhere, or...?

Township: I'll get answers.

Isabella 4-H Camp - Dow - Questions:

Q1: *[If homes are abandoned, who will pay the needed monies to fund the sewer project?]*

A1: **If payment of the tax bill, including the special assessment amount, is delinquent, the County will pay the special assessment charge until the tax bill is caught up or property is transferred to a subsequent property owner.**

Q2: *Will [the cost] fall on [remaining homeowners]?*

A2: **No.**

Township: Jilliane.

**Jilliane Marquiss
5122 Parkview Dr.**

Jilliane Marquiss, 5122 Parkview Drive. Coldwater Lake Association doesn't represent even a quarter of the people in the special assessment district. Probably less than ten percent, if we really looked into it. So I'd like to know why they were contacted by Kory, um, to see if there was interest in the sewer, um, what was stated in December 17, 2017 minutes. I'd also like to know who is pushing the project? Who wanted it in the first place? In May of 2017, the minutes state that they are pushing us to include Coldwater Lake. It doesn't say who "they" is. Your words are really vague to say the least. So, who is pushing the DEQ claim, if they weren't? The DEQ is now claiming they weren't. So, again in October 2017, the minutes state again, the DEQ tests at Coldwater Lake came back okay. They still are planning for us to include the lake in our system. Again, who is "they"? We'd like some names. And then I'd like to know how and who decided what land was included in the special assessment area. Why the vote was done by landmass, and not by property owners, which was asked here earlier? Why large pieces of land? And in your last minutes, you stated you didn't know which piece of land, so I'll name the land, it's Mary Harter, Don Harter's land. Why that 60-plus acres was included, um, when they're not, they don't even have any septic on their land, supposedly. Um, was the special assessment drawn to include these few huge land parcels, um, on purpose? It kind of looks that way that made, made it, guaranteed that it would get passed.

What bids for the project came back? Um, so, five times right now is my guess. Five times the original estimate. And we're just gonna pay that? I'm not signing a paper agreeing to that, um, which is what you're asking me to do. Most of us can't afford the old estimates, let alone the new estimates, um, which many people stated here, me included, will probably lose my home because of this. Some families have owned these properties for 60 to 80 plus years. Why can't we have a new meeting? Why can't we have a new meeting with the new estimates? You got estimates before. You said you won't know the numbers until we get bids? You got estimates before somehow, can't we get new estimates now and have a new meeting and figure this out, before we go any further and spend any more money? Um, again, I think it's ridiculous to ask us to pay this. The \$75 is, I don't think, ever going to be even close to \$75 to send our stuff to Mount Pleasant. I think it's going to be more. Why must we do this? You stated in a previous meeting I was at that we must do this. Is it because we received grant money? If it is, is it because we already spent it?

Marquiss - Questions:

Q1: *Why was the Coldwater Lake Association contacted in 2017 to see if there was interest in the sewer and who is pushing this [sewer] project?*

A1: The township is aware that there has been interest in public sewer around Coldwater Lake for many years. In fact, there is documentation that this has been considered since at least 1967. To this end, during the planning stages of the Beal City project, the township reached out to the Coldwater Lake Association to gauge interest, which is common for a project of this nature. Recognizing that the Association maintained a sizable database of email addresses for property owners within the district, the township reached out and requested assistance in contacting property owners by using this database in an effort to glean a preliminary feel for interest, in the least costly way.

Q2: *Who wanted it in the first place?*

A2: See answer A1 above.

Q3: *Who determined [which parcels of] land was included in the special assessment area?*

A3: In setting the special assessment district, the township looked at a number of factors including parcel size, distance of buildings generating sewage to the system, and soil conditions.

Q4: *Why can't we have a new meeting?*

A4: The township has followed and will continue to follow all statutory requirements in connection with the special assessment district. This included holding a public hearing where property owners had the opportunity to object.

Q5: *Was the special assessment drawn to include the few huge land parcels on purpose?*

A5: See answer A3 above.

Q6: *Who are "they"? Can we get names?*

A6: "They" referred to in the May and October 2017 meeting minutes is EGLE (formerly DEQ). The comment in the October minutes of "They still want us to plan for the lake in our system" most likely refers to planning and design of the Beal City system and force main to Mt. Pleasant. In the basis of design of a system, it is required to evaluate/account for both initial and future service areas and users.

Q7: *What bids for the project came back?*

A7: The project has not progressed to the bidding stage yet.

Q8: *Are we doing this because we got grant money and it's already spent?*

A8: The original State of Michigan grant to Nottawa Township was appropriated to Beal City and Coldwater Lake projects based on REU's. The Beal City portion of the grant has been used for the construction of that system and the township is still in possession of the portion of funds allocated to the Coldwater Lake project. There was a subsequent grant from the State of Michigan that the township has used a portion of to fund expenditures to date.

James Lucka

4931 W. Littlefield Dr.

My name is Jim Lucka. I live at 4931 W. Littlefield Drive. A couple of things that I heard the lady say earlier that there have been samples of the lake and that we were in compliance. Originally, when ... I think that the high school was going to have a meeting to talk about [*Inaudible*] compliance, I wondered why, or, somebody told me that there was a survey stating whether or

not compliance with [*Inaudible*] or, whatever. Is that data available so that we know who did what? And when that was taken, and what their conflicting data then has had, and, uh, has there been any followup on why it was in compliance one time, and noncompliance another time? I've also heard that you might have to have a backup system. And when navigating a 4-H Camp a couple of years ago, I had asked ..., I have a sewer, a fresh line sewer as part of the building. I guess, the proposal said to fill it? Is that still part of the project? And then to lose electricity, is that all I can do [*Inaudible*] a working system now, why can't I keep that and have this other [*Inaudible*], if that were the case, rather than just dried up 1000s of dollars? I can't have that [*Inaudible*]? That's all I have for now.

Township: Thank you. Go ahead.

One other thing on the easements, uh, is there a document somewhere where I can see the entire project and look at the easements and the system that's proposed? I've gone online and I've not been able to do that, maybe I'm missing it. And, uh, see all the properties that are supposedly attached, and those that are exempted? There's a small apartment building next to mine; looks like that easement to the apartment may be coming across my property or my neighbor's, but I don't see where that's originating from, as far as the attachments of one, online.

Township: Okay?

Lucka - Questions:

Q1: *Is data available so that we know who did what [regarding compliance testing]? And when was [the survey] taken?*

A1: **It is presumed that this question pertains to testing performed by EGLE (formerly DEQ). The township is not in possession of specific test results.**

Q2: *Has there been any followup on why [there was] compliance one time, and noncompliance another time?*

A2: **To our knowledge, there have not been any recorded events on non-compliance for E Coli in Coldwater Lake.**

Q3: *Is the proposal to fill [current sewers] as part of the project?*

A3: **The septic tank will need to be crushed and filled or removed. The sewer line from the house to the septic tank needs to be connected to the new grinder station. The drainfield can be abandoned in place.**

Q4: *Why can't I keep my current system?*

A4: **The State of Michigan Public Health Code (Act 368 of 1978), the Central Michigan District Health Department Sanitary Code, and the Nottawa Township Sewer Use Ordinance all include language requiring connection to a public sanitary sewer system if it is available.**

Township: Anybody else?

Jean Netzel

5638 Riverside Beach Dr.

Jean Netzel, 5638 Riverside East Drive. One question regarding the \$75 monthly fee. I realize that's an estimate right now. If it ends up being \$80, is there anything that's going to prevent that in the future from going to \$90 or \$100 or \$150? Are we going to be subject to increases that are put on us by Mount Pleasant? Or, if Mount Pleasant's system needs repaired, are we also going to bear the weight of helping with that project? I mean, I'm just wondering, are there any protections for us in costs going forward with regard to our fees to Mount Pleasant?

Township: Is that it?

Yep

Township: Thank you.

Netzel - Questions:

Q1: *Is there anything preventing the original \$75 monthly fee from increasing?*

A1: **No. However, the fees will only reflect the costs associated with owning and operating the sewer system and any debt charge component recommended by the township's financial consultant.**

Q2: *Are we going to be subject to increases put on us by Mount Pleasant?*

A2: **The agreement between Nottawa Township and the City of Mt Pleasant includes provisions for the township to only pay its pro rata share of the cost of treating the sewage at the Mt Pleasant Wastewater Treatment Plant. There are no costs charged to the township for Mt Pleasant to own and operate its collection system.**

Q3: *Will we bear the cost of helping with Mount Pleasant's system if/when it needs repair?*

A3: **See answer A2 above.**

Township: Kurt.

Kurt Simon

5493 W. Beal City Rd.

I'm Kurt Simon, 5493 W. Beal City Road. I'd like to have the latest and greatest copy of what everything's gonna cost. [*Inaudible*].

Simon: Comments only, no questions.

Tiffany Pickler

5519 W. Jordan

Tiffany Pickler, 5519 W. Jordan. Um, I don't understand how a lot of this works, but if there was a landmass vote ..., but, then vacant land is not included in that special tax assessment, how can you take a landmass vote, but then leave out the people who hold all that land having to pay? How does that work? When, I'd like to know when, what needs to be done to get those bids? Like, what else is left that you need in order to send this out to bid? How many easements do you have? How many easements do you need returned to go to bid? Um, when I talked with you before, Kory, we had discussed rural development money, and that's why this project

needed to move forward. Um, how much rural development money are we looking at losing, if this project doesn't move forward? And what is the date that we will lose that money?

Um, I've been told through different contractors that there was an all-day meeting to discuss the issues um, in Beal City's sewer system, and how much of a mess that was to try to clean it up after the last contractor. Basically, I've been told that this Beal City sewer will be an issue for.... It's, it's like there's issues all over, throughout that, that will probably never be fixed. Right? What's different about the engineering at Coldwater Lake that's going to make ours better, and not end up with the same problems, or make Beal City's worse, if we're to hold to that, and then later Weidman tying in as well? And then monthly fees? How do monthly fees, how do monthly fees work? Like my parents also own property and have a house on the lake. Um, they're not there year-round, so are they charged \$75 a month no matter what? Is that everyone, even if you... a lot of these homes are just summer vacation homes, so how do you charge them \$75 a month when they're not even there 50 percent of the time throughout the year? I don't think that's fair to those landowners either. So, I guess my question to that, that I would like answered, is will they be required to pay the \$75 per month?

Township: That it?

Yes, that's it.

Pickler - Questions:

Q1: *How can you take a landmass vote, but [not require those landowners to pay]?*

A1: **All property owners were given the opportunity to participate in the public hearing.**

Q2: *What needs to be done to get the bids?*

A2: **The township needs to secure all necessary easements, construction permits, outside approvals, and advertise the project for bids.**

Q3: *How many easements do you have, and how many are needed to go to bid?*

A3: **We have approximately 90% of the easements necessary to advertise for bids.**

Q4: *How much rural development money will be lost, if this project doesn't move forward?*

A4: **USDA has pledged a low interest loan in the amount of \$4,969,000 over a 40 year term.**

Q5: *At what date will we lose this money?*

A5: **The terms of the USDA loan require that all funds be dispersed within 5 years of April 7, 2020.**

Q6: *What's different about the engineering at Coldwater Lake that's going to make ours better than Beal City's, or make theirs worse?*

A6: **These two projects are totally unrelated and difficulties encountered on that project have no bearing on the construction for the proposed Coldwater Lake project.**

Q7: *Will landowners who spend less than 50 percent of the year at the lake be charged the same monthly fee of \$75, as permanent residents?*

A7: **Yes.**

Township: Ma'am.

Wendy LeBouton
5763 Gross Dr.

Wendy LeBoutane, 5763 Gross Drive. Is there certainty this project will proceed, if all easements are not secured? And are you considering hardship? Is that a consideration?

(Pause)

Can that be answered?

Township: I'm sorry, I'm trying to concentrate here. So, I'll get you the answers.

LeBouton - Questions:

Q1: *Is it certain this project will proceed, if all easements are not secured?*

A1: **Necessary easements must be secured before USDA will allow us to bid the project and secure project bids. Individual easements, for grinder stations only, that are not necessary for project construction, are not required for the project to proceed.**

Q2: *Are you considering hardship?*

A2: **Nottawa Township does not take this project, nor the potential hardships, lightly. There is a legal process to follow, which the township has, and, throughout the process, there has been an overwhelming majority in support of the project.**

[Inaudible interruption, possibly by Lucka.]

Township: Nope, this lady right here, Jim. I'm sorry, but everybody gets one turn and that's it. I gotta keep going.

Mary Michener
1169 Summer Lane

Hi, Mary Michener, 1169 Summers Lane. Um, I'm the only house down there. There is a vacant lot. There is an empty cottage that's ready to be torn down. No one will tear it down. I've lived with a tarp over it for I don't know how many years, so it really does, you know, ruin my taxes, you know, because of this. And then the other thing is, I am allowed to speak for other seniors. I'm 76 years old. I'd like to tell you, I receive \$906 Social Security each month. Now how am I supposed to afford all this? Okay. I will have to sell my house. But it, it ... this sewer costs more than what it's worth, so I'm not going to be able to sell it to anybody. The other thing is, um, I want to rescind my signature that I signed on this assessment.

My boys from down in the Detroit area, Novi *[Inaudible]* and Bloomfield Hills, left their phone numbers. No one returned their calls. No one. They called within the specified time asking questions. They told me not to sign. I was threatened on the last day, you know, and I signed it, brought it up to the park and had it notarized, all to their, you know, saying, "Mom, mom, don't til we talk to our lawyers," and were, "No, no, don't sign. You know this is ridiculous." But I signed it, because I was afraid that I was going to be billed all this money. And you know, well, maybe \$75, I might be able to afford it. Yes. But then there's all these other things. You have to have a

generator, if you don't have one in your house already. How are you going to run the electricity to flush the toilet? You know, I'd need another two hundred amps, or something put in. All this is costing an atrocious amount. I really think your estimates are way off. And this is for a few other people that I've talked to that are my age. They're all very concerned when you're on Social Security how you'll manage.

Michener - Questions:

Q1: *How am I [and other seniors on Social Security] supposed to afford this?*

A1: **Nottawa Township recognizes that this project may be a significant burden to some property owners. It has been a topic of discussion on multiple occasions, including discussions with USDA. To this end the township has flyers available from USDA for loan and/or grant assistance available to help with some of the costs for those property owners that fall within certain income level parameters.**

Q2: *How are you going to run the electricity to flush the toilet, if you do not have a generator?*

A2: **If there is no power, then the water well will not be functional.**

Township: Anybody else? Steve?

Steve Morganstern

5188 Parkview Dr.

I'm Steve Morgenstern. I don't need it and I don't want it. I don't want an estimate. This is outrageous what this township's doing to us, and if that doesn't sink in, then I don't know what else to tell you. This isn't going to be rainbows and lollipops. This product is going to cost us tons of money, not just now, but for the next 40 years. This, this system that they're projecting for you is one of the worst systems that you put in in an area like ours. We don't need it. The lake's fine. I believe what happened was they made commitments to Mount Pleasant to send so many cubic yards of raw sewage. It's almost a million cubic yards of raw sewage that they're committed to, to send to Mount Pleasant. I got the contract here signed on 2020. It's, it's a crazy, it's a crazy, crazy contract. And if you think this is a great deal now, wait till it gets initiated. Hold on to your butt, because it's not going to be cheap. Eight hundred and eighty-five thousand cubic yards. They signed an agreement, says if they renege on any kind of cubic yards going to Mount Pleasant, they can fine the township. That means they're going to fine all you, and all of us. I don't need it and I don't want it. I'm in 140 feet of sand. And secondly, they've done everything, they've done everything wrong. They weren't transparent about anything about this from 2018 to present. I don't want an estimate. We do not need this.

Unknown Speaker: That's right.

This is just the beginning, and if you say you want an estimate, that's, you're telling them you're for it. I'm not for it now, and I'm against it. I have been since day one, and I will not sign my easement. If you guys want to hire a lawyer to sue us, to take us to court, then, then so be it. But this isn't right. You signed it by contract involving all of us, and the ones that aren't here, to send so many cubic yards of waste to Mount Pleasant, and that's not right.

Unknown Speaker: We probably won't get that much in the winter.

There are so many clauses in this contract right here it'd make your mind blow. I'm telling you right now it's not gonna be cheap. Pumps are not gonna last. Lift station pumps will not last. They've already had breakages in Beal City from their pump station down Beal City Road to [Inaudible] Mission. This is not a good system, and we don't need it. Period.

Township: That it?

Yep.

Morganstern - Comments only, no questions.