

Nottawa Township
Transcription from November 6, 2023 Board Meeting and Associated
Questions and Answers

Township: Ma'am, Groves.

Groves: I'm not ready yet. Please go on to somebody else.

Township: That's fine.

I'm, I'm gonna talk though.

Township: Ma'am, in back.

Jean Natzel
5638 Riverside Beach Dr.

Jean Natzel, 5638 Riverside Beach Drive. Uh, first off, we, uh, submitted a request to reconsider the sewer project for Coldwater Lake last meeting. Do you intend to respond, we haven't received anything yet.

Township: We're not going to rescind. We're not going to stop.

Natzel: You're not going to reconsider due to economic reasons or financial hardships or anything?

Township: No, we're waiting. We don't even know what the cost is of anything yet. We're working on what's best to be done and we'll go from there. So we're gonna continue on.

Okay. All right, in your Township meeting from February 5th of 2018, under old business, you stated the questionnaire was sent to lake property owners about adding a sewer system to the lake. Was this a written questionnaire that was sent to property owners?

Township: When we sent it out at that time, it was sent out as an email to a bunch of people that, just to get an idea of what it was.

Okay, so ...

Township: A mass, a mass email process.

So, it was a survey, an online survey.

Township: Yes. Yep.

Okay. Your March 5th meeting indicates that the survey of Coldwater Lake showed 71% of 150 in favor of the sewer. Where did that 150 number come from?

Township: People that took the survey.

You know, I reviewed the entire survey that was put out by Publicom.

Township: I'll have to get a better answer for you then.

Ninety-three, 93 people responded, not 150. Um, so, also from public comments, an 11-question survey was sent electronically to members of the Coldwater Lake Association, with email addresses on file with the association's secretary, and a link to the survey was promoted through the association's Facebook page. Did you notify the other property owners who are not affiliated with the lake's association of the availability of that survey?

Township: I don't have that answer for you right now.

And why was that survey conducted in March when our seasonal people were gone?

Township: I'll get the answer.

All right, no answers, but that's okay. Seventy-one percent of those 93 people that responded were in favor of the sewer. Do you realize that's only 16% of the total property owners that are being assessed with this sewer project? Did you really feel that that was a fair and adequate assessment of what people wanted?

Okay, in March, on March 22nd, your Facebook posts went on to say that based on that majority, the Township would currently process and develop the next steps for the plan. More information would be available in April, after the meeting with bond counsel, municipal financial planners, surveyors and engineers had taken place. But when you posted the responses to the Q & A for the September meeting of this year, Tiffany Pickler asked how much upfront money has already been spent for engineering, and in what year was that? You responded, the engineering costs had been accruing since 2017. Why were you paying money to, for engineering, prior to even having done the survey to gauge the interests of the people?

Township: That wasn't the money that was being spent in 2017.

That's what you responded to your question.

Township: The engineering started then, because Beal City was under enforcement.

Unknown Speaker: She didn't say it starts with Beal City, she asked about Coldwater Lake.

Township: (Inaudible)

Okay. Looking at the USDA letter that was sent April 7th of 2020, it indicates the loan applied for will be \$4,969,000, and a 2.375% interest rate. When you quoted us the estimate of \$12 to \$16,000 per property, did that include the interest rate?

Township: I'll get that answer.

Because...

Township: Your time's up.

In the amount that was said. Um, and, also, I'm going way back here, because we just need...

Township: Time's up.

Jean Natzel – Questions:

Q1: We submitted a request to reconsider the sewer project for Coldwater Lake last meeting. Do you intend to respond?

A1: *The Township does not plan to reconsider the project. Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before August 6, 2018, the date of the first public hearing. The Township has since invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District. Additionally, EGLE and CMDHD are both in support of this project which is needed due to a number of factors.*

Q2: You're not going to reconsider due to economic reasons or financial hardships or anything?

A2: *The Township does not plan to reconsider the project as stated above.*

Q3: Was a written questionnaire sent to property owners?

A3: *This was referencing the online survey which was emailed to a list of Association Members.*

Q4: The survey of Coldwater Lake showed 71% of 150 in favor of the sewer. Where did that 150 number come from?

A4: *It is unclear where the 150 number came from but appears to be inaccurate and should have been 93.*

Q5: Did you notify the other property owners who are not affiliated with the lake's association of the availability of the [11-question, electronic] survey?

A5: *No, since the survey was only to gauge general interest, the Township utilized the Association's database of emails to reach out during the early stages of consideration knowing that all property owners would eventually be notified in the Special Assessment process if a project was proposed.*

Q6: Why was that survey conducted in March when our seasonal people were gone?

A6: *At that time, the Township was moving forward with a project in Beal City and EGLE directed the Township to consider a regional system. The Township was merely reaching out as quickly and efficiently as possible so project planning could move forward on the Beal City project. There was no intent to include or exclude certain people in the survey.*

Q7: Do you realize that's only 16% of the total property owners that are being assessed with this sewer project?

A7: *As stated above, the survey was just a sample to gauge general interest in a public sewer system around the lake.*

Q8: Did you really feel that was a fair and adequate assessment of what people wanted?

A8: *As stated above, the survey was just a sample to gauge general interest in a public sewer system around the lake knowing that eventually all property owners in the district would be notified as part of the Special Assessment process.*

Q9: Why were you paying money for engineering prior to even having done the survey to gauge the interests of the people?

A9: *In 2017 the Township was engaged in negotiations with EGLE regarding an Administrative Consent Order from the State of Michigan for the violations found in Beal City. In these meetings with EGLE, the Township was directed to consider a regional system including Coldwater Lake and Weidman in the proposed solution. This required the Township to expend funds on preparing a Preliminary Engineering Report that evaluated a Coldwater Lake system.*

Q10: When you quoted us the estimate of \$12 to \$16,000 per property, did that include the interest rate?

A10: *No it doesn't. Special assessments, in accordance with State law, must be declining interest. In other words, each year, the assessment will be the interest on the unpaid balance plus 1/40th of the original principal. The special assessment can be paid off at any time with no prepayment penalties. It should be noted that the interest rate the Township will charge is 1 percent more than the loan interest rate which is a standard practice and statutorily allowed.*

Township: Next person please.

Jerry Kabell

1240 N. Vandecar Rd.

My name is Jerry Kabell. My address is 1240 North Vandecar Road. And I am newly resident in the Township, although I have been in Isabella County a good deal longer than that. I am given to understand that the assessment for the Coldwater Lake project was divided up amongst the property owners on an every-property-pays-the-same-cost basis. If I'm not correct, please stop me. I, I do question how fair that is, since the economic impact on the value of each property of the sewer project will be different. I understand that the initial basis for the sewer, sewer project was the cleaning up of the lake itself. So, it seems to me that those who have lakefront properties would benefit more from that than those who do not have lakefront properties. And similarly, it would seem to me that those who have properties with higher assessed valuations would benefit more from that. And it seems unfair to charge those who are not in those two categories the same cost. Thank you.

Township: Thank you.

Jerry Kabell – Comments only. No Questions.

Ronald Shirely

1331 N. Hyslop St.

Ron Shirely, 1331 North Hyslop Street. On my street, we've got ten homeowners, and, uh, the ones that I've talked to, not one of them are in favor of it, even though we were forced to do the easement, um, or you would take legal action. I'm just wondering, now, this is my third time at the meeting here, and, uh, the people I've heard, I haven't heard anybody in favor of it. And I'm just wondering why the Board doesn't take that to heart and understand that, ah, this is the United States, the Constitutional United States, and that we get, ah, we should get a vote on it, and you should pay attention to it.

Ronald Shirely – Questions:

Q1: I haven't heard anyone in favor of [the sewer]. Wondering why the Board doesn't take that to heart and understand that...we should get a vote on it, and you should pay attention to it.

A1: *In actuality, there are property owners in the district who are in favor of having a public sewer system for good reasons. The Township held a public hearing in accordance with statutory requirements in connection with the special assessment process.*

Township: Sir.

Fred Hazen
5180 Parkview Dr.

My name is Fred Hazen. I live at 5180 Parkview Dr., Weidman, Michigan. I have a quick question for you, and I think you should be able to answer it. You've been doing this, I believe, since 2017, 2018, and have a meeting every month. I cannot believe, on this Board, the question hasn't come up, what are you going to do with the people who cannot afford it? What are you gonna do with those people?

Township: I don't have that answer.

So us, as a people who can't afford it, you maybe, well, go get a loan. You can't afford a loan, you can't afford \$75 a month. You can't afford \$400 in maintenance fees. You can't afford higher taxes. And we have sent letters to you telling this, we can't do this. And you kept just saying, "We're gonna move forward." Move forward and let people get out of their home? Is that your plan? There are people that cannot afford it. (Inaudible.) One more question, I came here two months ago and I asked you a question. I said, "In China, China is a communist country, and they take their rights away from people. I have a right as a US citizen to make a choice to choose or not to choose. I own my property. Do I have a choice to hook up to the sewer system or not?"

Unknown Speaker: Yes.

No, I don't have a choice.

Township: I'll get you that answer.

From what I know, if I live 200 feet from it, I have to hook up the septic system. What do you think happens to my septic system?

Township: It has to be abandoned.

(Inaudible.) If I say *no*, what happens?

Township: It's up to the ...

If I say *no*, it's my choice. What happens?

Township: It's up to the Health Department.

You basically, you're saying I don't have a choice. Where is my choice? So I'm asking you right now, all of you, how do you feel about taking my choice away? Four hundred and ten people don't have a choice. How do you feel about that? Can you answer that? We don't have to wait (Inaudible) minutes. Can you answer that?

Township: You, you'll get an answer.

How do you feel? It's a constitutional right. Maybe you should change the flag to a communist flag, because you're not (Inaudible) America. America has a choice. Answer it, how do you feel? You have no feeling? People are losing their home. They've lost their choice, and you just sit there say, "I don't have an answer." I think you have an answer.

Fred Hazen – Questions:

Q1: What are you going to do with the people who cannot afford it? Move forward and let people get out of their home. Is that your plan?

A1: *Simply put, the cost to property owners and the township will be greater if this project is not completed now. Here are a few reasons:*

State grant funding: There is approximately \$2.4 million dollars in State grant funds that Nottawa Township is allocating to this project. If it is not completed now, these dollars would not be available for the Coldwater Lake project. Without this funding, the cost to those in the Coldwater Lake special assessment district would be considerably higher in the future.

USDA funding: The USDA agreed to provide the township a very low interest loan (2.375%) over 40 years, based on prevailing interest rates at the time of the agreement. If this project is not completed now, the interest rate would almost certainly be measurably higher, costing the township and residents more money in interest on the loan.

Pending legislation: There is state legislation (HB4479) currently in committee, that will increase the requirements for waste treatment and disposal. The current bill states: "The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the

protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest that is declared as a matter of legislative determination.” With more stringent requirements, property owners not in compliance will face higher costs to replace/maintain/improve current septic systems if there is not a public sewer system in place.

Q2: Do I have a choice to hook up to the sewer system or not?”

A2: *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.*

Q3: What do you think happens to my septic system?

A3: *Septic tanks will need to be abandoned by crushing and filling or removing. Drainfields can be left in place.*

Q4: If I say no, it’s my choice, what happens?

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.*

Nottawa Township’s Sewer Use Ordinance (dated 4-27-2020) which can be found on the Nottawa Township website, addresses enforcement actions for not complying with the ordinance. Due to the lack of first hand knowledge, the Township is not going to respond on what may and may not be involved with enforcement from other outside agencies.

Q5: [H]ow do you feel about taking my choice away? And that of 410 other people?

A5: *Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before August 6, 2018, the date of the first public hearing. The Township has since invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District. Additionally, EGLE and CMDHD are both in support of this project which is needed due to a number of factors.*

Township: Chris.

Chris Natzel

5638 Riverside Beach Dr.

Chris Natzel, 5638 Riverside Beach, Dr. I want to respond on the, on these comments. There’s a lot of people who are working very, very hard, diligently, on gathering support on this opposing sewer. I'd like to say, I'm one of, um. (Inaudible) ...time and effort, but that's gonna change. In my communication with them, I understand we're very close to having 206 people who are willing to give written testimony, affidavit, or whatever legal mumbo jumbo in terms you wanna use that are against this. Uh, 410, 206 a majority. If we provided you proof, with legal written signatures that they oppose this, do you still intend on moving forward with this project, because I'll go back to what this gentleman said, “You're supposed to represent us.” And once we give you that 206 signatures, let me tell you something, Mr. Mindel, you better rescind this project, because the next thing that's going to happen is I'm going to be on board with Mr. Morgenstern, and we're going to be looking at some recalls.

Chris Natzel – Questions:

Q1: If we provide you proof, with legal written signatures that they oppose this, do you still intend on moving forward with this project?

A1: *The Township does not plan to reconsider the project. Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before August 6, 2018, the date of the first public hearing. The Township has since invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District. Additionally, EGLE and CMDHD are both in support of this project which is needed due to a number of factors.*

Unknown Speaker: Yeah.

Township: Here.

Ian Kabell
5160 Parkview Dr.

Ian Kabell, 5160 Parkview Drive. I was here last month, uh, I went into, uh, some detail about, uh, probable costs, and I asked you if you would, uh, be able to cost-justify that for me. This was my way of trying to contribute to the discussion, move the discussion forward. It's fairly obvious, I think, that I do not regard the sewer project as a particularly good idea. But let's try to work together. I wanted to give you the opportunity to make the best case you could. If there were things being said you disagreed with, I wanted to give you the opportunity to push back. If there were points we were not considering, I wanted to give you the opportunity to bring them forward. I wanted to give you the chance to be heard. And I wanted to give us, the people who disagree with you, a chance to listen to you fairly. What I got was a copy and pasted list of, uh, possible reasons a sewer system might be useful. Many of them would apply to our area, probably not all of them. There was no attempt made to explain why the benefits would justify the costs. A lot of them, it would be very difficult to point to those benefits since justifying those costs. So I, I tried to give you an opportunity you more or less did not take.

Now, if I was sitting in your position and I wanted to persuade someone like me that the sewer was needed, perhaps for the purposes of water quality in Coldwater Lake, now, I would say, okay, there is an issue with water in the lake. This is how we know there's an issue with the water in the lake. This is how we know which proportion of the issue with the water is coming from the Coldwater Township, Coldwater Lake septic systems. This is how we know that we need to go the whole hog solution, and we cannot address these problems with more limited point-oriented ways. And this is an important point, because for the, my my best guess, less than half the cost of the sewer system we could buy a new drainfield for every property on the lake. This is why the benefit to the water quality would justify the cost to to the taxpayers; the \$1,700 a year was my guess. And if you wanted to say, okay, I don't think the \$1,700 is right, this is what I think the cost would be and this is why, very well. And at that point, we can sit down and say, okay, now this is what we've got, is this worth moving forward with and pushing my friends and neighbors out of their homes? Or, ideally, can we work out a way to move forward with this without pushing my friends and neighbors out of their homes?

Township: Okay,

Am I out of time?

Township: Yes. Yep. You're out of time. Thank you.

Unknown Speakers: Nice job. Nice job.

Ian Kabell – Comments only. No Questions.

Township: Pat.

Patricia Carrick
5355 Beal City Rd.

Patricia Carrick, 5355 Beal City Road. I'm gonna go back to when uh, Karen and I first came to the meeting. Um, we had a handful at the time (Inaudible) we come forward and asked the Board if Coldwater Lake Association (Inaudible) "Yes." A handful did." You also stated that Charlie Walmsley was one that came to you. And as far as that goes, you opened up a can of worms for Coldwater Lake Association people that has nothing to do with us. We never received any—a show of hands, how many people receive the survey. Seriously, anybody in this room see, have... (Inaudible)

Unknown Speaker: Four, three, four, five.

That's five out of this crowd of people received the survey. That should tell you something. (Inaudible) Another thing, since Mary Harter's here right now, you put her under the bus also. I wasn't gonna bring her up, but see she's here, you said she's paying for it to be ran to her place, which is far beyond 200 feet from her home. Why is she even in this assessment? Why is she in this assessment to make us a part of it? That right there is what I was told way back, before everybody started coming, that her property is the one, that her property is going up (Inaudible), and I hope she knows what what's going on right now. Also, um, you stated in several, um, things, several documents that we needed all easements to be, um, signed in order for this to go forward. Is that true?

Township: No.

It's not true now, right? It's not true now.

Township: I've never said we needed all the easements.

Multiple Unknown Speakers: Yes you did, yes you did. Yes you did Kory. You said legal action was going to be brought on us, if we didn't sign. Yes. You did Kory. (Inaudible)

Township: We've got to move on.

Multiple Unknown Speakers: Yeah, 90 percent. (Overlapping comments.)

So, I mean (Inaudible) time you guys. Just, I'm going back to (Inaudible). My son served in, for this opportunity here. We're gettin' shit on right now. What are you guys doing up there? What are you guys doing with that mill money? You got windmill money. You should be paying back Beal City, because they were mandatory. Coldwater Lake Association? They can pay for their own sewer system. They're the ones...(Inaudible) They can build their own. Leave us out of it. Thank you.

Patricia Carrick – Questions:

Q1: Why is she [Mary Harter] even in this assessment?

A1: *The Harters are included in the Special Assessment District because they expressed an interest in public sewer. To be clear though, if this property had not been included in the district, the total percentage of objections would have only increased by approximately 1.5% and had no effect on the outcome.*

Q2: You stated in several documents that we needed all easements to be signed in order for this to go forward. Is that true?

A2: *The Township has requested several different types of easements, including easements to place grinder stations on private property which do not need to be secured to move the project forward. The Township must secure easements to install public sewer mains in private roads and to install public mains or services on private property to serve adjacent parcels.*

Q3: What are you guys doing with that windmill money?

A3: *Windmill monies are deposited into the Township's General Fund. It is a Board decision on how and where those funds are allocated.*

Ann Groves

5467 W. Beal City Rd.

I'm ready.

Township: Okay.

I'm gonna talk for my three minutes, because, um, you're hog-tying us to the three minutes and I'm gonna let you answer your questions on your three minutes. Um, I'd like you to explain why some people's sewer wants—do they want the sewer?—is going to trump other people's need for housing security and financial security. That's one of my questions. The next question is, you're, you're, oh, I'm just gonna, I'm just gonna share that I have a whole thing on Ian's response you gave to Ian Kabell's (Inaudible) the question, and, um, it was really offensive. Your attorneys must think we're morons. It's going to keep the smell out of my backyard? For another \$35,000, it's going to keep the mosquitoes down? *Please*. The responses that you gave to him were embarrassing.

Um, and then you mentioned it'll reduce the nitrate in our water. Did you bring up what it's gonna do when it goes back through the sewer system and goes up into Mount Pleasant and it's gettin' spread out—the chemicals they're gonna use in that sewage plant—and then it gets broken down

and out, goes out to different farms? Can you imagine the farming, farmers then get that (Inaudible) far more dangerous chemicals. Um, I asked you about the burden of, um, I asked you the question about whether or not our elders and lower income families belong in places that, um, have healthy running septic. Or is this considered a feasible move when we have a large amount of people, low income, elderly, and perfectly fine septic, since our lake is fine? Another question. Kory, I spoke with you on the phone, and we had a really civil conversation. Um, you agreed to re-address this on the validity, if I was to show you that landowners are interested or not interested in it. That's the beginning, we have about 30 more local people to sign it, and that is not even people that are out of town. We're going to get way more than a majority. So that's another question. Are you still willing to go through with it after you see that? Okay. Um, why are the parcels, why are we expected to pay for Isabella County's Park? The Coldwater Lake Park, when it's a county park? Why are these people in this assessment expected to pay for the county park? We're a township. That's another question. Um, and why are you trying to mandate the crushing of our septic? Doesn't, doesn't do you any good, except it keeps us protected when your system breaks down, and it will, because it's electrically run. So unless we can all afford a five to \$6,000...um...ah..

Unknown Speaker: Generator.

Unknown Speaker: Thank you.

Thank you.

Unknown Speaker: It will be more than six thousand dollars for most of us (Inaudible) are gonna be more than six grand.

Yeah, and that's the reason you're paying for this, because you have to have it when our electricity shuts off, because it will. And then your septic system won't work for us. So we've got that. We can't buy any cheap generator, unless we plan never leaving our houses. And how is a parcel designated, a large parcel, designated "farm"—because they did have a tree farm on it—allowed in our septic, our, our special assessment? How is that happening? That's not happening. That's not supposed to happen. How's that happening? There's all my questions. You've got um. I hope you're taping. I got through all my questions.

Township: Thank you.

Ann Groves – Questions:

Q1: I'd like you to explain why some people's sewer wants is going to trump other people's need for housing security and financial security.

A1: *Simply put, the cost to property owners and the township will be greater if this project is not completed now. Here are a few reasons:*

State grant funding: There is approximately \$2.4 million dollars in State grant funds that Nottawa Township is allocating to this project. If it is not completed now, these dollars would not be

available for the Coldwater Lake project. Without this funding, the cost to those in the Coldwater Lake special assessment district would be considerably higher in the future.

USDA funding: The USDA agreed to provide the township a very low interest loan (2.375%) over 40 years, based on prevailing interest rates at the time of the agreement. If this project is not completed now, the interest rate would almost certainly be measurably higher, costing the township and residents more money in interest on the loan.

Pending legislation: There is state legislation (HB4479) currently in committee, that will increase the requirements for waste treatment and disposal. The current bill states: "The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest that is declared as a matter of legislative determination." With more stringent requirements, property owners not in compliance will face higher costs to replace/maintain/improve current septic systems if there is not a public sewer system in place.

Q2: Are you still willing to go through with [the project] after you see that? (If we get more than a majority.)

A2: *The Township does not plan to reconsider the project. Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before August 6, 2018, the date of the first public hearing. The Township has since invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District. Additionally, EGLE and CMDHD are both in support of this project which is needed due to a number of factors.*

Q3: Why are we expected to pay for Isabella County's Park?

A3: *It is unknown why there is the belief that the property owners are paying for or subsidizing the Park when Isabella County Parks is anticipated to be the largest rate payer in the system.*

Q4: Why are you trying to mandate the crushing of our septic tanks?

A4: *Crushing or removal of septic tanks is a Health Department requirement for health and safety reasons. An abandoned septic system could become unstable over time due to corrosion, subsequently weakening the walls of the tank. The instability could trigger a collapse of the system, causing damage, injury or even death.*

Township: Anybody else?

Ralph Groves

5467 W. Beal City Rd.

Ralph Groves, 5467 W. Beal City Road. Just got a few items. One, the information, was it shared with everybody that knew you were going to use landmass for weighing the "for" or "against"? Was everybody informed of that?

Unknown Speakers: No. Nope. No. (Overlapping comments.)

That's the question. I don't think we knew it, and I think we would have been probably more uproar at the time. And then also, you know, you said you wanted to, for people to voice their concerns, opposition, on the same day that we had the information meeting. They had no time to digest what was told them. And really any information that's been provided has been terrible.

And I guess the next one is, at what point are you people on this Board gonna get serious about our concerns? You're moving forward, but at what time...what's it going to take for you to pause this? How much opposition do you have to see before you're going to take a breath and say, wait a minute. Or are you just basically telling us we have to sue this Board? Is that what you're telling us, that we have to sue you to take action?

Unknown Speaker: Yep. Those are all questions.

Ralph Groves – Questions:

Q1: Was it shared with everybody that you were going to use landmass for weighing the “for” or “against”?

A1: *The Notice of Hearing mailed to all property owners of record within the proposed Special Assessment District prior to the hearing states, in part, “TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township Board may determine to proceed to make said improvement without a petition unless written objections to the improvement are filed with the Township Board at or prior to the Township Board meeting to be held on August 6, 2018. If written objections are received from record owners of land constituting more than 20% of the total land area in the proposed special assessment district the Township Board may not proceed to make the improvement unless it first receives a petition requesting the improvement signed by the record owners of land constituting more than 50% of the total land area in the proposed special assessment district.”*

Q2: At what point are you people on this Board going to get serious about our concerns?

A2: *The Township has and will continue to take concerns seriously. However, millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District has already been invested to accommodate flow from Coldwater Lake based on the lack of objections at the first public hearing.*

Q3: What's it going to take for you to pause this?

A3: *As stated previously and on numerous occasions, the Township has followed the statutory special assessment process and does not intend to pause on this project.*

Q4: Are you just basically telling us we have to sue this Board?

A4: *No, it is not the Township's desire to expend sewer funds and other resources in defense, but will do so if necessary.*

Township: Kim.

Kimberly Lavigne
1702 Fitch Dr.

1702 Fitch Dr. I got a couple of comments, and then I also have a question for you. So when you, were you aware, when you had the Beal City meeting and you called that kind of your vote, even though we don't call it a vote, that nobody had numbers at that time? You understand what I'm saying? You didn't give anybody a number and say, hey, it's gonna cost this much. In fact, you don't even know today, six years later, what the numbers are. So how can you expect somebody to vote if they want something or not? I mean, that's that's crazy, don't you think? I mean, hey, yeah, let's build this great thing, but, hey, it's unlimited. Okay, and I'd like that to be on the next question, you know, when you answer my questions. Another thing is, I've been on

Coldwater Lake Association for I think eight years and so I've heard some things that I'm probably not supposed to talk about. But that's fine. One of the things was, uh, four years ago I brought up to the association, Mark, that my friend who had been here 35 years, was selling her house, because she was so upset about the sewer. She was probably 80 years old at the time. So while she was just frantic, she put her house up for sale. It broke her heart, I watched the lady, the strongest lady I ever know, cry. Because she did, she knew in her heart that she couldn't afford the sewer the way they have it laid out, the taxes, and she was worried about it all, let's just be honest. So when I brought it up to the association that literally people are losing their houses and selling their houses—I don't mean to put you on the spot—but Mark told me, I said, people are gonna, you know, sell their houses over this, and he says, "There's more people that want in." So they don't matter. You know. So nobody cares about you. Nobody cares about you. You know what, there's another person that wants your house and there's another person that wants out, especially, okay, but I care about my neighbors. I've been here my whole entire life. This isn't even, this sewer is not coming to my house, okay? I signed it because my dad asked me to before he passed away. We've got to do something.

Can't you work with us Kory? I've asked you this before. When I was at that fishing tournament and you called me, I begged you, let's come up with a solution that all of us can live with. You know, I asked him, can we leave our, our permanent, our other septic there for five years, or seven years? You know, until we make sure that this one, this one's going to work. And you said, "No." I said, you know, I gave, I brought up lots of other options that maybe would work for us. Can we get the \$75 down, because that seems a little excessive. "No." You know, when we first started this everybody, including the Association, told us that this was turnkey. Everything, every single penny of it was gonna be on our taxes, so it's not gonna cost anything to anybody. We found that all was lies. It's gonna cost us \$75 a month. You know, it's it's, so, I mean, things have changed, lots of um from when it first started. I mean hasn't the economy went up ten percent? It's right in the MCL Standards, that you have to give us another hearing if it goes up more than ten percent. I'm pretty sure you know in your heart it's gone up more than ten percent, so at this point, you should have already gave us a new meeting all on your own, out of the kindness of your heart. Also, in that meeting, that was supposed to be our first meeting. I have the proof. You said there was going to be two meetings, two meetings. We never got the second meeting. You told me about three months ago that the second meeting would be coming up. Correct? We've never seen it, okay?

I've been coming to these meetings for a lot of years. I came here when there was like three other people here, okay? Every month. I'm glad that all you guys are here, you know, actually it makes my fight seem, like, worthwhile. Well, some months we didn't have as much to talk about because there wasn't. Right? But when you guys all came in here that was awesome, I appreciate it. I mean, it's been, it's been great watching other people fight it. But, here's the deal: In 2000, they got mad at me because I was fightin' this. So the only way they could get me back was to take away my homestead. So they thought, well, some stupid chick just bought a house, you know, we'll take away her homestead, so my taxes doubled, my payments went up about \$500 a month. Um, you know, it was crazy. They said...

Township: Time's, time's up Kim.

..four years of homestead. Okay, so, so, so I did, okay, so then I fought it. So...

Township: Time's up.

Unknown Speaker: Let her talk.

Township: Nope, time's up.

Unknown Speaker: Let her talk.

Township: Time's up.

So it got reversed, okay? So then, so then they said, "Okay, well, we owe her some money." So they literally sent me a check, okay? Well, what did they do? They waited

Township: Kim.

two more years, until they didn't have...

Township: Time's up.

And they say the check was too...

Township: Time's up. Anyone else want to talk?

(Overlapping comments continue.)

Township: Kim, Kim. Kim, you can stop or leave.

Kimberly Lavigne – Questions:

Q1: When were you aware, when you had the Beal City meeting and you called that kind of your vote, that nobody had numbers at that time?

A1: *The statutory process does not include provisions for identifying any costs until after bids are taken. This was made very clear at the first public hearing.*

Q2: You don't know what the numbers are. How can you expect somebody to vote if they want something or not?

A2: *This is a customary practice for projects funded by special assessments.*

Q3: Can't you work with us Kory?

A3: *This proposed project involves many people with differing interests and the Township has to take into account the needs of the entire district.*

Q4: Can we leave our permanent or other septic there for five years, or seven years? You know, until we make sure that this one, this one's going to work.

A4: *The type of sewer system being proposed (low pressure sewer system) is an economical and effective method of sewerage otherwise difficult land areas, such as flat, wet, rocky and hilly terrain and has a proven track record in lake areas. There are thousands of these units installed around lake communities in Michigan and other states across the country making your concerns unwarranted.*

Q5: Can we get the \$75 down?

A5: *The \$74.25 monthly sewer service fee reflects the current fees charged to users to own and operate the sewer system. This fee is reviewed and adjusted annually as necessary to capture actual costs of owning and operating the system.*

Township: Does anybody else want to talk? Yes, back here.

Shelly Short
5056 W. Jordan Rd.

Shelly Short, 5056 West Jordan Road. So I was just wondering when we talk about the 410? Is it 410 parcels or 410 landowners?

Township: I believe it's parcels.

Why have you not placed opposing the sewer on the agenda so we can talk freely?

Township: We don't have a three minute limit.

So, we don't have the three minute limit. So we can have just a candid conversation and people can discuss, you know, like adults do? Because this is our township.

Unknown Speaker: There's supposed to be two hearings and a special assessment.

Why is there no sewer project on the web, web page updates for Coldwater Lake until 2023, when this project has (Inaudible) to roll around? Also, I have children that live in Beal City that are on the end of the line and were forced to go into the sewer. Their hookup costs were \$10,000 to hook in, and they are a very young family, young kids. Damn near lost their home over it. My heart just goes out to people that are going to lose their homes over this, Kory. I guess on a personal note, I want to ask the Board on a personal note, do any of you guys think of these things, like are they in the back of your mind? Do you think, jeez, this is America, maybe we need, maybe we need to take a step back and look at this, because these people are gonna lose their homes?

I grew up on a farm in Isabella County. We came to Coldwater Lake back in the 70s, prior to us being able to afford a little spot. In the 70s, my parents were able to get a spot. We had a trailer house on that spot. Ten years ago, I helped my dad, we designed and built my now lake house, where I'm at. The thought, I'm glad he's not here to deal with this, because this would be, it would be bad. It would be, it would be very bad. And the thought that I might have to do something different with my lake house because of the financial burden that you're placing on

this, when I helped build that place from the ground up, sickens me. And it sickens me that you guys just sit up there and, “Yep we're going forward. Yep.” This is, I don't know who signed what line on what, where, when, but you need to take a step back and think about this. You're supposed to be working for us, Kory. You were voted in by people.

Unknown Speaker: You can be voted out too.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.)

Shelly Short – Questions:

Q1: I was just wondering when we talk about the 410? Is it 410 parcels or 410 landowners?

A1: *It is parcels.*

Q2: Why have you not placed opposing the sewer on the agenda so we can talk freely?

A2: *Based on previous meetings, back and forth exchanges have proven to be confrontational and less productive than well thought out and accurate written responses.*

Q3: Why is there no sewer project on the web, web page updates for Coldwater Lake until 2023, when this project has (Inaudible) to roll around?

A3: *The Township has had a page dedicated to the sewer system since at least 2021. Please see link: <https://nottawatwpisabellami.gov/government/sewer-project/>. However, Township resources were being applied to construction of the infrastructure to Mt. Pleasant until early this year.*

Q4: I want to ask the Board, do any of you guys think of these things? (Re: people who are going to lose their homes.

A4: *Simply put, the cost to property owners and the township will be greater if this project is not completed now. Here are a few reasons:*

State grant funding: There is approximately \$2.4 million dollars in State grant funds that Nottawa Township is allocating to this project. If it is not completed now, these dollars would not be available for the Coldwater Lake project. Without this funding, the cost to those in the Coldwater Lake special assessment district would be considerably higher in the future.

USDA funding: The USDA agreed to provide the township a very low interest loan (2.375%) over 40 years, based on prevailing interest rates at the time of the agreement. If this project is not completed now, the interest rate would almost certainly be measurably higher, costing the township and residents more money in interest on the loan.

Pending legislation: There is state legislation (HB4479) currently in committee, that will increase the requirements for waste treatment and disposal. The current bill states: “The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest that is declared as a matter of legislative determination.” With more stringent requirements, property owners not in compliance will face higher costs to replace/maintain/improve current septic systems if there is not a public sewer system in place.

Q5: Do you think maybe we need to step back and look at this, because these people are going to lose their homes?

A5: *See response to Q4 above.*

Township: Anybody else? Pat.

Pat Schafer

2165 Miller Dr.

Pat Schafer, 2165 Miller Drive. Um, I had asked you two, three months ago for a price. You told me you couldn't give us a price until all the easements was here. But you (Inaudible) a little while ago.

Township: No, I said I couldn't give you a price until we had our bids finalized.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.)

Remember I wanted to build you a house and give you a price later?

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments re: Health Department.)

Yeah, the Health Department says they have nothing to do with it. It's all the Township. Zoning says the same thing. Nobody wants it, Kory, other than you.

Unknown Speaker: Legal says the same thing.

Yeah, one guy here that don't show up half the time, he is one that wants it.

Unknown Speaker: So that should be a conflict of interest. Big time.

That's all I have to say.

Pat Schafer – Comments only. No Questions

Unknown Speaker Why did the engineer write himself out of it?

Township: Sir, back there.

Randy Pulcifer

1926 Midway Dr.

Yeah, it's Randy Pulcifer, 1926 Midway Drive. Um, as far as the benefit thing, this goes for Ian, uh, the Supreme Court of Michigan defines it as, uh, an improvement, must be, increase the market value of the land. That was, uh, (Inaudible) versus Bloomfield Township 493. You guys want to know what this benefit means? Um, uh, let's see, let's see what page... (paper shuffling) In 1986, it was 1986, they made that same, same confirmation that you have to make sure that

the value of the land improves for it to be a benefit. Now, that BS that you put on there, like you're trying to sell property, that's just ridiculous. My land is capable and a lot of these people's lands are capable and have been capable, under a Michigan licensed septic system, to take care of themselves. You're forcing yourself onto us. And this is the question I asked you last time, "Why are you forcing yourself onto our land?" It's not necessary. That's my last question.

Randy Pulcifer – Questions:

Q1: Why are you forcing yourself onto our land?

A1: *This is a special assessment project for the good of the overall district. Not everyone is always going to agree with it, but the special assessment process has certain requirements that have been met giving the Township a direction to proceed. Again, after the first public hearing in 2018, millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District has already been invested to accommodate flow from Coldwater Lake based on the lack of objections. The Beal City project would have been a completely different system had Coldwater Lake not been included. Additionally, EGLE representatives directed the Township to consider a regional system in any proposed solution for Beal City from the onset.*

Township: Ma'mm.

Christy Pulcifer
1926 Midway Dr.

Christy Pulcifer, 1926 Midway Drive. I want to know how you can lay your head down and sleep at night knowing that people are...(overlapping chatter) How can you do that? That's corporate money, greed, money, this, that, whoever, you know signed on the bottom line then that's what it is. And I see right through it, and I think it's wrong.

Township: Thank you.

Christy Pulcifer – Comments only. No Questions.

Township: Diana.

Diana Pitts
9249 N. Littlefield Rd.

Hi, Kory, I'm Diana Pitts, 9249 N. Littlefield. Kory, I just have a couple of quick questions. Why, why are we going through this? What is the reason that you are standing firm, no matter what we all say? Is there a piece of this that we're missing? Is it like, and we spent too much money on Beal City, where you can't dig it out, dig yourself out? (Inaudible) And why, why are you so headstrong and not working for us, understanding the burden it's putting on us? I understand we might lose our homes after working our whole life to get it. I just want to know why? What reason is it that you're standing firm that this goes through? Can you answer that to me now?

Township: I'll get the answer for you.

Unspecified Speakers. Kory, come on. Laughter, overlapping speakers. Do you even know what project we're talking about?

Also, I kept myself awake many nights, wondering whether I should request my easement documents back. And I just decided to pull up my big girl panties, and I requested it back and got that lovely letter from your (Inaudible) lawyer saying, you can do that, ask for it back. However, here's the threat again, you're still going to be responsible for this, this, this and this. And that scared the bejeezes out of me. And finally, I just said, you know what, I asked Heather, I want it back. I got it back. It's in my hand. I don't know if you're gonna penalize me now. I figured as much as this is going on and you can't give us even a dollar amount. I would like to know how many easement documents were returned?

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping)

Let me guess, give me an answer.

Heather, you should know.

Township: (Heather) Want me to answer it?

Township: Go ahead.

Township: (Heather) Two.

You have two? How many is on the list?

Township: (Heather) Ten.

.

You have ten on the list.

Township: (Heather) Yep.

How many are missing easements that you did, never got to begin with?

Township: (Heather) I don't know the answer to that. I'm, I'm the one that was taking the request for them back.

Is it Beal City? Did they, did everybody there hook up, or is anybody still not hooked up?

Township: One not hooked up.

Are they going to court? Are you taking them to court?

Township: (Heather) There will be enforcement in the future.

Enforcement, exactly. Because they've lost their choice to hook up. Correct?

Unknown Speaker: Yep.

Diana Pitts – Questions:

Q1: Why, why are we going through this?

A1: *As previously stated, after the first public hearing in 2018, millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District has already been invested to accommodate flow from Coldwater Lake based on the lack of objections.*

Q2: What is the reason that you are standing firm, no matter what we all say?

A2: *See answer A1 above.*

Q3: Is there a piece of this that we're missing?

A3: *See answer A1 above.*

Q4: [Have] we spent too much money on Beal City, where you can't dig it out, dig yourself out?

A4: *See answer A1 above.*

Q5: [W]hy are you so headstrong and not working for us, understanding the burden it's putting on us?

A5: *See answer A1 above.*

Q6: What reason is it that you're standing firm that this goes through?

A6: *See answer A1 above.*

Q7: I would like to know how many easement documents were returned?

A7: *Two.*

Q8: How many is on the list?

A8: *Ten.*

Q9: How many are missing easements that you never got to begin with?

A9: *This is an ever evolving number but to date the Township has received over 80% of the easements.*

Q10: Did everybody [in Beal City] hook up, or is anybody still not hooked up?

A10: *One is not hooked up that meets the requirements for connection. There are two other buildings that did not hook up. One because it is over 200 feet away from the available sewer and the other because it does not have functional plumbing in the building and no sanitary sewage originating from the building.*

Q11: Are you taking them to court?

A11: *There will be enforcement in the future. This may be from the Township or another regulatory agency based on individual circumstances.*

Lisa Jackson

5272 & 5274 W. Beal City Rd.

Um, my name is Lisa Jackson, we own 5272 W. Beal City Road and 5274 W. Beal City Road.

This was a map I was given from Dan Endres. The properties that are marked here are the ones who were opposed to the sewer. That's what they based all of their decision making on was this map, basically saying, just the little properties were against the sewer. But after going through and going door-to-door, this is our map today.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.)

I have a copy for you all, and I have a copy of all of the signatures we've received. It's been a lot of work. Mike is over it. (Laughter) Prior to taking over my whole life. So, um, I just want you to know that these two don't even compare. It's really sad. And I have two other little questions here. Um, I'd like to know how much money is left from the funding for that grant, or whatever it was for, left over for Coldwater Lake? And I'd also like to know if you could break down the \$75 monthly payment, like how much goes to Mount Pleasant for the sewer part of it, how much goes into a fund for you to upgrade in the future, and then how much is in that cafe fund that's leftover? I'd like to know the amounts of each one. Thank you.

Township: Thank you.

Lisa Jackson – Questions:

Q1: How much money is left from the funding for that grant left over for Coldwater Lake?

A1: *Nottawa Township secured a \$3,000,000 grant from the State of Michigan for sewer improvements. The Township allocated \$2,286,662 of these funds to Coldwater Lake based on its estimated 363 Residential Equivalent Units (REU's) compared to Beal City's 113.24 REU's. A portion of these funds (\$887,766) was then used as an equity-buy-in to the shared components of the Beal City project (e.g. the gravity sewer in Beal City Road, the pump station, and the force main to Mt. Pleasant). Subsequently, the Township secured an additional \$1,000,000 which it intends to allocate to Coldwater Lake. If Coldwater Lake were to be excluded, the Township would likely reallocate all of these funds to Beal City and/or Weidman. These funds continue to be applied to expenses actively being incurred.*

Q2: I'd like to know if you could break down the \$75 monthly payment.

A2: *As stated above the monthly sewer service fee reflects the current fees charged to users for the Township to own and operate the sewer system. This fee is reviewed and adjusted annually as necessary to capture actual costs of owning and operating the system. The current break down of the actual fee of \$74.25 is as follows:*

- *Debt Charge - \$8.50*
- *Repair, Replacement, and Improvement Fund - \$3.29*
- *Operating - \$62.46*

Q3: How much goes to Mount Pleasant for the sewer part of it?

A3: *Approximately \$27 per month per REU.*

Q4: How much goes into a fund for you to upgrade in the future?

A4: *As stated above the Repair, Replace, and Improvement Fund is \$3.29 per month per REU.*

Q5: How much is in that cafe fund that's leftover?

A5: *Approximately \$43. This balance is applied to operating expenses other than the cost to treat charged by Mt Pleasant. These include, but are not limited to, billing, maintenance, conveyance system operation, audit, insurance, Miss Dig, electric, gas, internet, ground maintenance, equipment, office supplies, computer hardware and software, and other miscellaneous expenses. The system has not been in operation a sufficient amount of time to know what our true stabilized costs will be.*

Melissa Utt
5534 W. Jordan

I'm just gonna go on the record as Melissa Utt, at 5534 W. Jordan Road. This is the fifth month in a row that I'm gonna bring up the fact that the easement that was mailed to us is wrong. We've told you five months in a row, we still can't get a correct easement. So even if we wanted to sign, we can't sign because our line goes to our neighbor's yard, and I don't think our neighbor would appreciate two lines. Um, maybe we should've signed, maybe that would have saved us some money. And, um, I'm with her, I'd like to know what money that you're planning on spending, what you've spent so far on this. I think you're probably in over your head millions of dollars with Coldwater Lake project so far, and that's probably why you're not backing down, or not listening. (Inaudible) I just read a good article that Beal City, the school district's getting a lot of the windmill money. That was amazing. Great for them. Great for the school district. Great for the students, teachers. Are you gonna try to get some windmill money for this project?

If I move into the city, build a house, am I paying a 40-year assessment to get hooked up to a city sewer? Why, why are we having to pay all these costs? I can see paying costs to upgrade to 220. Why, why are we paying for 40 years? \$16,000 at a minimum for 40 years. Why, why citizens have to undergo that process? Seems like that should be a Township problem. You want us to have the sewer, you should pay for it.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.)

Beal City, we've talked to people we know, who've got two lawsuits going against people that were involved in that. They have so many problems. And yet you're wanting to go ahead. The line's too small. You're going, what, 15 miles with this from some (Inaudible) And the grinder, I've asked about this before. What's keeping that, a backup, from going into our basement or our crawlspaces? Is there any guarantee that you're going to get a quality grinder that's gonna have a shutoff that we won't have backup, because we know the system's going to fail. It's just, it's too far. It's too big. It's too much. It's not too big mile-wise, too small of a pipe. And like a gentleman brought up there, what, Coldwater Lake has no issues? Tell us why you want this project? We haven't heard any good reasons. The Coldwater Lake is not polluted. Why why do we need this then?

Unknown Speaker: Because they need us. (Inaudible)

Township: Thank you.

Melissa Utt – Questions:

Q1: [W]hat money [are] you're planning on spending?

A1: *The Township intends to spend the grant funds allocated to Coldwater Lake along with the loan funds of \$4,969,000 secured from USDA.*

Q2: [W]hat [have you] spent so far on this?

A2: *The Township has spent approximately \$1.4 million dollars to date on equity-buy-in and consultant fees.*

Q3: Are you gonna try to get some windmill money for this project?

A3: *Windmill monies are deposited into the Township's General Fund. It is a Board decision on how and where those funds are allocated. The windmill money is intended to benefit the Township at large. The sewer project only benefits properties within the Special Assessment District.*

Q4: If I move into the city [and] build a house, am I paying a 40-year assessment to get hooked up to a city sewer?

A4: *Utility and/or connection fees are unique to every municipality, but it is customary that they are paid for by the users.*

Q5: Why are we having to pay all these costs? Why [do] citizens have to undergo [this] process?

A5: *As stated above, it is customary for users to pay for public utilities that serve their property versus the Township at large paying for them with no direct benefit to all residents. Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before August 6, 2018, the date of the first public hearing. The Township has since invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District.*

Q6: What's keeping a backup from going into our basement or our crawlspaces?

A6: *Services will have two check valves which prevent backflow from the main to the grinder stations. One on the service line pipe coming from the sewer main and one on the pump in the grinder station chamber.*

Q7: Is there any guarantee that you're going to get a quality grinder that's gonna have a shutoff that we won't have backup?

A7: *The selected grinder station will meet industry standard specifications and be provided by a manufacturer with a long and proven track record with many successful installations.*

Q8: Tell us why you want this project?

A8: *As stated above the Township has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District.*

There are properties within the Special Assessment District that do not have permitted drainfields, additionally some properties lack sufficient space and other limiting factors for a new drainfield once theirs fails. The Township is aware of properties within the Special Assessment District that have resorted to pump and haul of waste because they cannot secure a new permit for this very reason. We believe this will become increasingly problematic once pending legislation passes.

Additionally, the cost to property owners and the township will be greater if this project is not completed now. Here are a few reasons:

State grant funding: There is approximately \$2.4 million dollars in State grant funds that Nottawa Township is allocating to this project. If it is not completed now, these dollars would not be available for the Coldwater Lake project. Without this funding, the cost to those in the Coldwater Lake special assessment district would be considerably higher in the future.

USDA funding: The USDA agreed to provide the township a very low interest loan (2.375%) over 40 years, based on prevailing interest rates at the time of the agreement. If this project is not completed now, the interest rate would almost certainly be measurably higher, costing the township and residents more money in interest on the loan.

Pending legislation: There is state legislation (HB4479) currently in committee, that will increase the requirements for waste treatment and disposal. The current bill states: "The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest that is declared as a matter of legislative determination." With more stringent requirements, property owners not in compliance will face higher costs to replace/maintain/improve current septic systems if there is not a public sewer system in place.

Q9: Why do we need this?

A9: *See answer A8 above.*

Ongria Dow

4-H Camp

Ongria Dow. Again, associated with the 4-H Camp. I just have, um, some relationships that allow me to be privy to some information. I am a time-of-transfer licensed individual. So, all of these people could go through a time-of-transfer assessment, have their drainfields and septic systems evaluated logistically through the Health Department for far less, and again upgrade their own systems for a much better rate. There are opportunities where you can use dye packs in every drainfield around that lake and find out exactly where your problem is, if that's what you're concerned about. But water testing doesn't show anything, so that's not what you're concerned about. I also am privy to knowing that your plumbing is contracted through Beal City. They are going to be positioning themselves, because they're called out weekly to fix problems that keep occurring via manholes, via lines, via whatever. It's a nightmare for everybody in that project. They predict this will be worse. And it will be. I do not live here, so other than losing a camp that's been around for 53 years, I don't have a dog in this fight, other than the fact that you are railroading people. And I really don't think, I don't know if you all live on (Inaudible) and you're gonna have this assessment on your taxes?

Unknown Speakers: No, no. Not a single one of us. Just have our hands up. (Inaudible)

This speaks volumes to me, as an outsider looking in, that you don't care. How dare you, to have that little old woman that's living on \$900 a month Social Security worry about her, where she's going, and what she's going to do. Who's paying their (Inaudible)? Um, you should truly be ashamed of yourself.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.) Yes. (Inaudible)

The fact that you're not willing to listen. If it's the engineers and the Health Department that we have to talk to, I would promote a meeting with all these people present so we can get answers that we need without having to wait till it's published on, online. Without having someone say you need to talk to so and so. Or you need to talk to so and so. Let's get all the so and so's in the building and have a real conversation with real answers in real time. Um, I don't know that we ever have time for the camp to make the decision. You know, you're going to have a 40-acre camp that's going to set there vacant.

Unknown Speaker: They'll make it an Airbnb.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.) No they can't. Because we're already in the Land Conservancy. They'll turn it into a homeless shelter.

At any rate, I just, if those are the answers that you're going to give, then I challenge you to come up with a situation where we have everybody who's making and able to answer these questions present and get some answers.

Ongria Dow – Comments only. No Questions.

Mike Jackson
5272 & 5274 W. Beal City Rd.

I'd like to know how much of our money you guys have spent so far pursuing something that we don't want. And I've been around this lake 25 times in the last two weeks, house-to-house, with this lovely lady right here, and most of the people, "Well, I don't know nothin' about nothin'." But the ones that do, sign it, they vote against it. Well, is it too late? Have you spent enough money of ours to go for this that we can't backtrack and have a real vote that counts—of all the people, not just certain people—the whole 410 people? A survey to revote.

Mike Jackson – Questions:

Q1: [H]ow much of our money have you guys spent so far?

A1: *The Township has spent approximately \$1.4 million dollars to date on equity-buy-in and consultant fees. This has been in the form of grant dollars.*

Q2: Have you spent enough money of ours to go for this that we can't backtrack and have a real vote that counts—of all the people, not just certain people—the whole 410 people?

A2: *Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before August 6, 2018, the date of the first public hearing. The Township has since invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District.*

Unknown Speaker: He said, he called me in August and told me it was 1.67 million they'd already spent on Coldwater. I don't know why, yeah, Kory, don't go there.

Township: I did not.

Unknown Speaker: (Comments continue up to introduction of Tiffany Pickler)

That's the truth. I don't go wrong on my numbers.

Township: It's misinformation.

No Kory.

Township: I told you so far today, with Beal City and everything from the day we started, that's how much was spent.

I didn't want that. The question that was supposed to be answered when you called...

Township: That's what I answered.

..was how much have you spent on the Coldwater Lake thing. You said, "I'll get back with you." He said, didn't he? He said he'd get back with me. He got back with me, he called me, said 1.67 million.

Township: (Inaudible) I told you it was combined, I didn't have the separate.

How much money has been spent on the Coldwater Lake part? I'll ask the question brand new.

Township: On the Coldwater Lake Park? That's your question?

Not Park, part.

Township: We'll get that answer. I don't know. We'll get that answer for you.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.)

Township: I don't have that (Inaudible).

Tiffany Pickler

5519 W. Jordan

Tiffany Pickler, 5519 W. Jordan. So last month, I asked a few questions as far as what needs to be done to get the bids? The answer was, "The township needs to secure all necessary easements, construction permits, outside approvals and advertise the project coordinates." How many bids do you currently, er, I'm sorry, how many easements do you currently have? What's the number of easements you have? What number of easements is remaining that you need to secure in order to send it today? Um, what construction permits do you need, and what dates do you have to have those by? What outside approvals do you need, and what dates do you need to have those by? And then what dates do you plan on advertising for bids? Do you have a date locked in that you just have to go to bid by this date? If it does go to bid, are you going to allow online bids like you did last time? Um, how many easements, um, sorry...

I asked the question, how much rural development money will be lost, if this project doesn't move forward? The answer was, "USDA has pledged a low interest loan in the amount of 4,969,000 over a 40-year term." And I also asked what date we'll be given this money? And the date that you gave me said all the money had to be disbursed within five years of April 7, 2020, which makes that April 7, 2025. So if I read that right, this all has to be done and up and running, and those loans have to be dispersed by 2025, in order to do that. With that, do you have to go with the lowest bidder for those loans? Um, does that USDA loan require you go with the lowest bidder? Um, and then how many homeowners in Beal City have had damages due to any failures, um, that have happened since that's been installed? Um, what's the current monthly cost of contractors fixing problems within Beal City right now? Um, and then, last month you stated that these two projects are totally, Beal City and Coldwater Lake, are totally unrelated, um, and the difficulties that have been encountered into Beal City will not, we definitely won't encounter those in Coldwater Lake. However, Coldwater Lake is tied right into Beal City, is my understanding of it, so how are we going to avoid any of those issues, if there's already issues in Beal City and we're connecting? So what are you doing to ensure that that doesn't happen? Are we doing upgrades to Beal City too? That's all my questions.

Township: Thank you.

Tiffany Pickler – Questions:

Q1: [H]ow many easements do you currently have?

A1: *This is an ever evolving number but to date the Township has received over 80% of the easements.*

Q2: What number of easements is remaining that you need to secure, in order to send it today?

A2: *The Township needs a handful of easements for private streets and private property. The Township has requested several different types of easements, including easements to place grinder stations on private property which do not need to be secured to move the project forward. The Township must secure easements to install public sewer mains in private roads and to install public mains or services on private property to serve adjacent parcels. If the Township is unable to secure the required easements, it must and will pursue legal relief to gain access to these private streets and parcels.*

Q3: [W]hat construction permits do you need, and what dates do you have to have those by?

A3: *The main permits required include, but are not limited to, EGLE Part 41, EGLE Part 91, EGLE Part 301, Isabella County Road Commission, Isabella County Building Permit, and Isabella County Zoning Permit. These permits need to be secured prior to going out to bids.*

Q4: [W]hat dates do you plan on advertising for bid?

A4: *Once we are given authorization to bid from USDA. In large part, this is driven by easement acquisition. It is the Township's intent to advertise for bids as soon as possible.*

Q5: Do you have a date locked in that you just have to go to bid by this date?

A5: *No, but the later we advertise the more risk we run in contractors already having work lined up for the year.*

Q6: If it does go to bid, are you going to allow online bids like you did last time?

A6: *Yes.*

Q7: [H]ow much rural development money will be lost, if this project doesn't move forward?

A7: *USDA has pledged a low interest loan in the amount of 4,969,000 over a 40-year term.*

Q8: [W]hat date [will we] be given this money?

A8: *The USDA letter of conditions states that "All projects must be completed and all funds disbursed within five years of obligation". The obligation date was in September of 2020.*

Q9: [D]o you have to go with the lowest bidder for those loans?

A9: *USDA requires that the contract is awarded to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder. UWP Bulletin 1780-34 states in part...*

"a. Determining Responsiveness. The owner and consulting engineer with the assistance of the owner's attorney check each proposal to determine whether the bids are responsive and submitted by a responsible bidder. A responsive bid meets the requirements of the solicitation for bids and a responsible bidder is one capable of performing the work described in the bidding documents. To determine responsiveness, the owner, engineer and attorney must verify the following:

(1) The bid is properly executed, signed, sealed and all addenda acknowledged;

(2) The bid is complete with prices provided for all required items and any required supplemental information provided;

(3) Proper bid security, such as a bid bond, has been provided and at the proper amount along with appropriate powers of attorney if required; and

(4) USDA Rural Development required forms are included with the bid submittal."

The definition of Successful Bidder is as follow:

"c. Successful Bidders. The successful bidder is that responsible contractor (see section 5 of this bulletin), not suspended or debarred, submitting the lowest bid responsive to the requirements of the bid solicitation. A responsive bid is one meeting the requirements of the bid solicitation. A responsible contractor is one capable of performing the work described in the bid solicitation. The owner, with support from its consulting engineer and attorney, may make award to such a contractor or may reject all bids. Upon selection of a contractor, the owner awards a contract to that bidder with concurrence of Rural Development. Procedures for concurrence include review of the bid tabulation and the consulting engineer's recommendation for award, notification of the owner and engineer of concurrence, review of executed construction contracts, and signing of the agency concurrence in the contract. These duties are normally performed by the State Engineer."

Q10: [D]oes that USDA loan require you go with the lowest bidder?

A10: *See A9 above.*

Q11: [H]ow many homeowners in Beal City have had damages due to any failures that have happened since that's been installed?

A11: *None.*

Q12: [W]hat's the current monthly cost of contractors fixing problems within Beal City right now?

A12: *There has not been a consistent monthly expenditure for fixing problems. There have, however, been repairs required on three separate but related issues to replace blind flanges.*

Q13: [H]ow are we going to avoid any of [Beal City's] issues, if there's already issues in Beal City and we're connecting?

A13: *The Beal City defects have largely been resolved.*

Q14: Are we doing upgrades to Beal City too?

A14: *The Township intends to construct a small grinder station and equipment storage building and an emergency overflow basin (required by EGLE) at the Beal City Pump Station site. No other upgrades are proposed.*

Township: Jillianne.

Jillianne Marquiss
5122 Parkview Dr.

Julian Marquiss, 5122 Parkview Drive. Um, I've asked questions since 2018, and they never got answered. Mainly, they, I was told in 2018 that it's done. It's over. It's moving forward. I'm hearing the same thing and it's 2023. How should we be asking our questions, because she clearly asked these questions last time and didn't get answers. And I asked questions last time and didn't get answers. We all ask some of the same questions in the last two months, and we're not getting answers. So what is the best way to get the answers? And I agree with her, get the all the people here? Why can the people be here, and opposing the sewer be put on the agenda so that we can have a discussion? Supposedly, in 18, we had this grand meeting with all this information, and there wasn't. I was there, there were guesses, it might cost this much, it might cost that much. I was there, I received the letter, missed the part that said I had to oppose it by the end of the meeting. But I did that, I submitted a piece of paper that put me on a list that a 60-some acre parcel was going to wipe me out no matter what, who doesn't even have a house in that land.

So I agreed that parcel shouldn't be in the assessment. I asked the question twice. I've never got the answer why that parcel's in the land. Why are... (Inaudible interruptions) I'm frustrated. I've known you my entire life, my entire life, I am going to lose my house. We are all going to lose our houses. A few of us might be able to afford this, many of us can't. You have half of the numbers that you need saying we don't want it. So I think we, more than the people, that you're saying, Charlie Walmsley, I was at that meeting with Patty when you said Charlie Walmsley, and a couple of people from the Coldwater Association expressed interest. I don't care about a stupid survey, because it could be four people in the same household that took that survey. I have never been a member of that association. I think it's BS that it happened this way. I think that if you had that meeting, and you told us there was going to be a second one, you told us you had to have all the easements—I'm never signing mine. Never. I'm never signing it.--You didn't tell us these things. I'm glad someone is here recording this, and you're recording it, but you're not getting our questions right. So how do I ask my questions and submit them to you, and have them answered correctly?

Township: I can give you a good, a good answer for that one. Right now we record the meeting. We have to have the meeting dictated to get all the questions. We don't know if they're questions or statements. It's hard to tell by even how things are said sometimes. So, if you email, write the questions down, turn um in, we send them out and get you the answers.

I want the answers on, I want the answers like they're supposedly being answered now by your lawyer. I want them posted so everyone can see them. I want her answers.

Township: We're going to.

I want her answers. But I haven't seen any answers. I have seen a lot of stepping around, but not a lot of answers. You're asking me to sign the easement away from my property and to pay for something I don't even know what it's going to cost. I think if you were in this assessment, you would think that's absurd. But you force a lot of people to sign it with threats. I'm going to lose my house, you have told me you're suing me, I am going to lose my house. I have two special needs kids that I adopted, and they are going to lose their house. Someone should care about that.

Unknown Speaker: I do.

Township: Does anybody else have anything?

Unknown Speaker: You're gonna earn those \$3,000 wages you guys just got increased over here tonight, huh.

Unknown Speaker: Would you appreciate, or would it be acceptable to have assistance in the dictation transcription of the meeting to help you understand the questions as we do those, because I would happily do that for you.

Jillianne Marquiss – Questions:

Q1: How should we be asking our questions?

A1: *Email. Write the questions down, turn them in and we will send them out and get you the answers.*

Township: Does anybody else have anything to say?

Unknown Speaker: I do.

Township: Steve.

Steve Morganstern
5180 Parkview

I originally asked, who's forcing you to do this? That was the original question I had at the first meeting, and I still to this day do not have that answered. Who's forcing you. Tell me who's forcing you. Cuz you know and you won't say.

Township: We're not being forced.

That's what you said earlier in the first meeting...

Township: I never said I was being forced.

..so why, why...

Township: In, in, in the meeting, Coldwater Lake is not under enforcement. Beal City was under enforcement, but when we met with the DEQ they made us responsible for Beal City, Coldwater Lake and Weidman.

Unknown Speaker: No they didn't.

Township: Yes they did.

Unknown Speaker: I talked to EGLE.

Township: You can talk to EGLE all you want. I have the recorded meeting. I can rea...get to you.

Unknown Speaker: (Inaudible)

Township: I'll give it up. I don't care. They made us, we had to have a system available to take Beal City, Coldwater Lake and Weidman.

Carrick: Not Coldwater Lake, uh uh.

Township: Go ahead. Patty, it's Steve's time. I was trying to answer...

Steve Morganstern, 5180 Parkview Dr. Okay, from what you just stated, you said it has to be available.

Township: Mm-hmm.

That doesn't say we have to go along with it. So if DEQ is stating that they want to implement Coldwater Lake and Weidman, which is very poor, into the original project, but they're not mandating you, then why are we included into it? That does not make any sense. It makes no sense whatsoever. 2017, we've got plenty of information on your conversation with DEQ. We're working on it. We're looking at it proactively. What's proactively mean in Beal City where it originally started? How many years prior to 2017 had you been notified by DEQ? How many years prior to 2017? You don't have records of that?

Township: We never were notified until 2017.

Really, 2017 was the first time you were notified?

Township: Mm-hmm.

So we go fast forward. Oh, we have to implement this sewer project in Beal City, who come in at poverty level, supposedly, so the eight million dollars that was spearheaded by, by Representative Hauck, all went to Beal City, eight million dollars of it.

Township: There was not eight million.

How much was there?

Township: There was three million dollars.

Okay, three million. So you're saying it was only split in half between Beal City and Coldwater Lake, when Coldwater Lake wasn't even mandated to tie in? I just don't, the numbers aren't addin' up. If if Beal City is all that is mandated, then why are you pushin', you can make the system bigger, but Beal City pays for it. The problem started in Beal City. That's where the original problem started. I don't care how big you make the system in Beal City so you can accommodate these people who may want it, but we don't want it. We don't need it. Shame on DEQ or EGLE if they're lying to us, because we spent hours and hours and hours talking to DEQ, and they have stated to more than one of us, "No we aren't, we aren't enforcing this." There is no problem at Coldwater. Well, we need to see that documentation, and we need to know who it was by, you can't just say, oh, yes, they are saying this. I'm not discrediting what you're saying, but we have to have proof. We can't have these threats telling us our lake's dirty when our lake isn't dirty.

These people bought these homes on Coldwater Lake, knew whether they had good septic fields, septic tanks or not. Shame on the Health Department for passing um. That's not my fault. I'm in 30 feet of sand. Mine works perfectly fine. But I want proof on who's forcing you into this. And why did you sign this contract if you knew you didn't have Coldwater Lake on board? What are these people in Weidman gonna do when they, they can't afford, they're worse off than Coldwater Lake. What are we gonna do? This contract is signed. You're required, you're required to send so many cubic yards of waste to Mount Pleasant, and probably half them people on Coldwater Lake are all seasonal. So then, when them, when them, when them cubic yards go down, the Township is gonna be fine. Correct?

Township: No.

Why does it say that there then?

Township: No.

Then why are they requiring you to put (Inaudible) cubic yards of waste there then? This system is gonna be the worst system ever. For 40 years...

Unknown Speaker: Did you... (Inaudible)

Township: The lawyers looked into it.

For 40 years

Unknown Speaker: Who did?

Township: The lawyers.

Overlapping Speakers

Why, why aren't, why aren't the lawyers, why isn't the engineer here?

Unknown Speaker (Inaudible) ... to be here.

Why isn't, we're, how did this special assessment even get developed? Why did we go right by Beech's and never include them? And then the little subdivision here, why didn't we include all them people there too? Why did we skip the Lorenz property down on Jordan Road?

Unknown Speaker: Because he's the engineer.

Township: We didn't skip Lorenz's property. Lorenz's house is in it.

Unknown Speaker: Nope, no, no. Show him, show him, the map.

That's fine. You can see, you can see the whole Lorenz property...

Township: No, the whole Lorenz property wasn't, it was vacant land.

So why did we pass Beech's and not include them?

Township: I don't have that answer for you...

..include all them other people on that road?

Unknown Speakers: (Inaudible)

It's just, I don't get the whole thing, we don't need it. Forty years, 40-year assessment? Why not make the whole township pay for it? Nottawa Township? NottawaTownship.

Unknown Speaker: Yeah, that way we could do a millage.

Have the entire Nottawa Township pay for this whole, this whole project.

Unknown Speaker: (Inaudible)

..this special assessment here.

Township: Thank you. Time.

Steve Morganstern – Questions:

Q1: [W]ho's forcing you to do this?

A1: *(Answer provided at meeting) Beal City was under enforcement, but when we met with the DEQ they made us responsible for Beal City, Coldwater Lake and Weidman. We had to have a system available to take Beal City, Coldwater Lake and Weidman.*

(Further clarification) It was also discussed in the meetings with EGLE that if violations were found in the future with Coldwater Lake and Weidman, that the Township would be responsible for corrective measures.

For clarity, the Township has not been forced into this project. To the contrary, it has followed statutory requirements in enacting the will of the people. The will of the people was expressed during the first public hearing on August 6, 2018. Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before the first public hearing. Since then, parties have relied upon the results of the public hearing and the Township has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment District.

Q2: [W]hy are we even voted into it?

A2: *As stated numerous times, by State law, special assessment projects do not have provisions for voting. In this case, the process moved forward based on the limited objections received on or before the first public hearing.*

Q3: How many years prior to 2017 had you been notified by DEQ?

A3: *(Answer provided at meeting) (Answer provided at meeting) We never were notified until 2017. (Further clarification) Violation Notice VN-006810 for Beal City is dated December 13, 2016.*

Q4: [W]hy did you sign this contract if you knew you didn't have Coldwater Lake on board?

A4: *It is believed that this question is referring to the contract with the City of Mt. Pleasant in which case the point made in the question is inaccurate. The first Public Hearing (time to object) in the Coldwater Lake Special Assessment process was held on August 6, 2018 and the Sanitary Sewer Service Contract between the Township and City was executed on March 28, 2020.*

Q5: What are these people in Weidman gonna do when they can't afford [it].

A5: *The Weidman area situation has not progressed past the notice of violation stage with EGLE at this time. It would be premature and highly speculative to comment on particulars regarding funding and costs at this time without knowing the scope of the anticipated project and proposed funding.*

Q6: [W]hy are they requiring you to put (Inaudible) cubic yards of waste there?

A6: *There are no minimum volume requirements for the amount of wastewater sent by the Township to the City of Mt. Pleasant WasteWater Treatment Plant. However, there are requirements in the agreement for the Township to commit to reserving and paying for REU's for Coldwater Lake and Weidman on or before December 31, 2026 or risk forfeiting them.*

Q7: [W]hy isn't the lawyer or engineer here?

A7: *Based on previous meetings, back and forth exchanges have proven to be confrontational and less productive than well thought out and accurate written responses.*

Q8: [H]ow did this special assessment even get developed?

A8: *As previously stated, 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.*

Q9: Why did we go right by Beech's and never include them?

A9: *This was an oversight that the Township is currently looking into.*

Q10: And then the little subdivision here (unknown location), why didn't we include all them people there too?

A10: *It is not clear on what subdivision is being referred to.*

A11: Why did we skip the Lorenz property down on Jordan Road?

A11: *(Answer provided at meeting) We didn't skip Lorenz's property. The whole Lorenz property wasn't, it was vacant land. Lorenz's house is in it. (Further clarification) The parcel with a house located at 5395 W. Jordan Road is included in the Special Assessment District. The adjacent 38 acre parcel which was vacant when the district was established, is not included in the district.*

Q12: Why not make the whole township pay for it?

A12: *It is not an equitable solution for all residents of the Township to pay for a service that only benefits a limited number of residents. For instance, the Township has been issued a violation notice from EGLE for Weidman and will eventually be mandated to correct the exceedances there. It doesn't seem equitable for Coldwater Lake residents to pay for a system in Weidman.*

Anybody else? Bill.

Bill Powell

1219 Waterfront Dr.

I wasn't gonna have a question, I'm here just to see what the atmosphere is.

Unknown Speaker: Loving and friendly.

I'll admit it, I work for the State of Michigan. I'm a computer guy. I work in Lansing. Nothing to do with... (Inaudible) I live on the lake. Um, there's been a lot of federal money coming and going in the last few years due to the pandemic. Is there any federal money that the governor or the state can get to support a small village like this? I saw an email from the governor's office a couple of weeks ago. They're redoing a couple of the roads over, what, Clubhouse Drive on Isabella Lake, and another one, they're paving it. The government says, "Fix the damn roads..."

(Inaudible comments.)

Unknown Speaker: That's the difference. That's the difference.

There's a lot of emails that, where the governor is writing out small businesses in villages getting federal money. I don't know, but is there any federal money that could be had?

Township: On the federal side, I don't know.

It's called EGLE now. I mean, it was the DEQ. If they're mandating our lake and Weidman to be on it. If they're not, okay, I don't know, but would there be some federal money that the state could pick up to help out a small community like ours?

Unknown Speaker: Already went to Metro Detroit. I was told...

Unknown Speaker: There's a lot of um that just don't care.

There's a lot of money going up all over the state.

Unknown Speaker: I did ask, um, if it was for Metro Detroit, the sewer system, the sewer money...

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments.)

There's a lot of money that is handed over to the state. But you know, it's coming from the federal government and I'm not in on that, I'm just a computer guy that supports computer systems for the state.

Unknown Speaker: I don't know. (Laughter) It's a good question, but if it hasn't been asked it certainly should.

I think the money that came to Beal City was from what, um, one of the Haucks who was a Representative (Inaudible) and helped get some of that money get routed to Beal City. I don't know much about it, but I'm just wondering, is there some federal money that the state could pick up for a small village like ours, or a township or whatever.

Township: I know that Senator Hauck is trying to get us more money. I can tell you that. It's all I can tell you.

Just an idea there. If it is going through, more money from outside that...

Township: That it Bill?

Yep.

Bill Powell – Questions:

Q1: Is there any federal money that the governor or the state can get to support a small village like this?

A1: *(Answer provided at meeting) Senator Hauck is trying to get us more money.*

(Further clarification) To date, Nottawa Township secured a \$3,000,000 grant from the State of Michigan for sewer improvements. The Township allocated \$2,286,662 of these funds to Coldwater Lake based on its estimated 363 Residential Equivalent Units (REU's) compared to Beal City's 113.24 REU's. A portion of these funds (\$887,766) was then used as an equity-buy-in to the shared components of the Beal City project (e.g. the gravity sewer in Beal City Road, the pump station, and the force main to Mt. Pleasant). Subsequently, the Township secured an additional \$1,000,000 which it intends to allocate to Coldwater Lake. If Coldwater Lake were to be excluded, the Township would likely reallocate all of these funds to Beal City and/or Weidman. Unfortunately, based on median household income the Coldwater Lake project does not qualify for USDA grant funds.

Township: Anybody else?

Ron Utt
5534 W. Jordan Rd.

...what division of EGLE was mandating this, and make it available. Can you tell me what division of EGLE told you that, and who in that division told you that?

Township: Well, he said, "I wanna go with Jack in the meeting." I don't remember which one it was, but I'll get the recording and I'll get it out.

I want to know what division of EGLE is mandating this, and what individual you talked to from that division, so I can contact them.

Unknown Speaker: Kory, they'll tell you what that information is tomorrow. (Inaudible)

Unknown Speaker: Isn't there a ten day minimum to get responses from government?

Township: Again, if you guys would ask your questions indirectly, we could get it to you a lot quicker.

Ron Utt – Questions:

Q1: [W]hat division of EGLE is mandating this?

A1: *In 2017 the Township was engaged in negotiations with EGLE regarding an Administrative Consent Order from the State of Michigan for the violations found in Beal City. In these meetings with EGLE, the Township was directed to consider a regional system including Coldwater Lake and Weidman in the proposed solution. However, unlike Beal City, to date, EGLE has not mandated this project.*

Q2: [W]hat individual [did] you talk to from that division, so I can contact them?

A2: *The Township has worked with multiple individuals at EGLE. The best approach may be to contract the Bay City District Office so they can determine who is best suited to answer your questions.*

Township: Karen.

Karen Schafer
2165 Miller Dr.

(Inaudible) ..has to represent we the people. We the people. Where are “we”? You’re not representing us. I have a quick question for all of you out there. If this goes through, will you guys all adopt one of these families that I talked to that will, that cannot afford it and will lose their house? Will you guys adopt um? Pay their total expenses for the rest of their lives? (Inaudible chatter) A lot of people don't want it, cannot afford it. So I, she gave me some wonderful solutions. I hope you take that to heart. I really do. Thank you

Karen Schafer – Rhetorical questions only

Township: Sir.

Yeah, I'm old and don't hear quite as well as I used to. So...

Township: If I can get your name.

James Short

Township: James Short?

James Short
5056 W. Jordan Rd.

I'm not sure if my wife is fifty-six or somthin'. (Inaudible/laughter) Um, yeah, like seven. Um, I'm old and don't hear the way used to so when the people over there asked what the deal is with people that are gonna lose their homes, and do you guys care, does the Board care, um, I missed your answer. So I guess I'm asking for your answer, how does it feel about people get...

Township: I don't like it but, I mean, I'm set in a position here right now that I cannot stop.

Unknown Speakers: (Overlapping comments re: “why”.)

Unknown Speaker: And you won't say why you can't stop.

Unknown Speaker: But you would rather see all of us lose our homes and not, some people have kids that go to college that can't afford to go to college because they gotta pay for this.

James Short – Questions:

Q1: [H]ow does it feel [that] people that are gonna lose their homes?

A1: *Simply put, the cost to property owners and the township will be greater if this project is not completed now. Here are a few reasons:*

State grant funding: There is approximately \$2.4 million dollars in State grant funds that Nottawa Township is allocating to this project. If it is not completed now, these dollars would not be available for the Coldwater Lake project. Without this funding, the cost to those in the Coldwater Lake special assessment district would be considerably higher in the future.

USDA funding: The USDA agreed to provide the township a very low interest loan (2.375%) over 40 years, based on prevailing interest rates at the time of the agreement. If this project is not completed now, the interest rate would almost certainly be measurably higher, costing the township and residents more money in interest on the loan.

Pending legislation: There is state legislation (HB4479) currently in committee, that will increase the requirements for waste treatment and disposal. The current bill states: "The connection to available public sanitary sewer systems at the earliest, reasonable date is a matter for the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare and necessary in the public interest that is declared as a matter of legislative determination." With more stringent requirements, property owners not in compliance will face higher costs to replace/maintain/improve current septic systems if there is not a public sewer system in place.

Township: Is there anybody else who has a public comment?

Yeah, Audrey Wittbrodt, 1415 Littlefield Road.

Township: What was the name?

Audrey Wittbrodt

1415 Littlefield - 4-H Camp

Audrey Wittbrodt, 1415 Littlefield Road. 4-H Camp. I guess back to that question right there is, you say you can't stop. Can you tell us why you can't stop? I don't care if it's in ten days, but we need a legitimate reason. What is forcing you to move forward?

Unknown Speaker: Yeah, who's gettin' paid?

We don't care. Is there a contract? Is it a money issue? We need a legitimate answer of why you can't stop. And if there is anything that you, that we possibly can do to make it stop? What is it that we have to go, I mean, they're gettin' signatures. Um, I mean, this group has done a lot. What can make it move forward to make it stop?

Township: Thank you.

Audrey Wittbrodt – Questions:

Q1: Can you tell us why you can't stop?

A1: *Pursuant to State law, the time to voice opposition to this project was on or before August 6, 2018, the date of the first public hearing. As previously stated, after the first public hearing in 2018, millions of dollars in infrastructure to accommodate flow from the Coldwater Lake Special*

Assessment District has already been invested to accommodate flow from Coldwater Lake based on the lack of objections. The Beal City project would have been a completely different system had Coldwater Lake not been included. Additionally, EGLE representatives directed the Township to consider a regional system in any proposed solution for Beal City from the onset.

Q2: What is forcing you to move forward?

A2: *See answer A1 above.*

Q3: Is there a contract?

A3: *There are numerous contracts. The Township has spent significant money to date on consultants assisting with the project. With this said, there is no financial penalty for terminating these contracts. However, the Special Assessment District stands to lose extremely favorable loan rates and terms on financing should the project be postponed now but reinitiated at a later date (for instance, if and when the State discovers violations in the lake). Also, as of January 1, 2027, the Township is required to pay the City of Mt. Pleasant for any unconnected users that it wishes to hold capacity in reserve for. If the Township does not reserve the capacity, it is deemed as released by the Township and the City shall have no obligation to provide Services for any released REUs unless the City, in its sole discretion, expressly agrees otherwise in writing*

Q4: Is it a money issue?

A4: *See answer A1 above.*

Q5: What can make it move forward to make it stop?

A5: *The Township has no intentions of stopping the project or starting the process over.*

Unknown Speaker: There's a commissioner's meeting tomorrow. Um, it's kinda (Inaudible)

Township: Anybody else? Public comment? If there was no other public comment, Treasurer's Report.

END TRANSCRIPTION