

RESOLUTION

MANISTEE COUNTY COLLABORATIVE SEWER INITIATIVE (1/31/17)

WHEREAS, our local government has participated in a preliminary collaborative sewer project involving Onekama Township, Arcadia Township, Bear Lake Township, Pleasanton Township, and the Village of Bear Lake; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the project is to assess the economic and practical viability and benefits of developing a sewer system that would connect participating local governments with the wastewater treatment plant owned and operated by the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (LRBOI) with the understanding that LRBOI has agreed to make treatment capacity available to the participants; and

WHEREAS, the potential benefits of constructing such a sewer system include: creating infrastructure to develop and expand businesses and create jobs; protecting surface and ground waters and Lake Michigan from pollution caused by septic system failure; protecting three critically important watersheds; and achieving an economy of scale in completing such a project through collaboration; and

WHEREAS, because of the potential benefits of the project the participants believe that their respective governments should proceed to the next phase of the project; and

WHEREAS, the next phase of the project involves two steps: (1) formation of a sewer authority involving all local governments and (2) an application by the sewer authority to USDA Rural Development to finance the construction of the sewer system which would result in a definitive financing proposal involving grant and loan funding; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost for the next phase of the project includes legal fees of \$10,000 to establish the sewer authority (Attorney Eric Williams) and \$30,000 in fees to complete the application to USDA Rural Development (Wade Trim/Brian Sousa), a total of \$40,000; and;

WHEREAS, a USDA Rural Development Planning grant could be sought by the Sewer Authority that could cover \$23,000 of the \$40,000 in costs to establish the authority and complete the financing application, leaving a balance of \$17,000; and

WHEREAS, if all five local governments continue to participate in the next phase, each local government would contribute a sum of \$3,400 if the planning grant is secured or \$8,000 if it is not secured, with an understanding that the sum (\$3,400 or \$8,000) could be financed through the financing provided by USDA Rural Development for the sewer project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that our local government, contingent on full participation by the above referenced local governmental units, will allocate \$3,400 toward establishing the sewer authority and submitting a complete financing application to USDA Rural Development with the understanding that the participants, through the Sewer Authority, will make their best efforts to secure a planning grant and that Attorney Eric Williams and the firm Wade Trim will proceed to establish the sewer authority and the sewer construction grant application to USDA Rural Development, respectively; and

FURTHER, that the participants will collectively establish a communications process to discuss and answer questions about the project, including three open public meetings; and

FURTHER, that we be provided copies of all agreements and other documents executed, prepared or completed as part of this phase of the Initiative; and

FURTHER, that our current representative(s) on the collaborate sewer ad-hoc committee continue to be our representative(s) to develop the proposed sewer authority and funding application with final approval by our governing body.

Motion made by Carter, seconded by G. Wisner.

Upon roll call vote the following voted “yes”: P. Wisner, G. Wisner, Carter, Eckhout, Cederholm.

The following voted “no”: None.

The Supervisor declared the Resolution adopted.

CERTIFICATE

I, Patrice C. Wisner, the Clerk of the Township of Arcadia, hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Arcadia Township Board held on February 9, 2017, and that the meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Michigan.

Patrice C. Wisner, Clerk

Township of Arcadia