

On Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. the Wright Township Board held a public hearing at the Wright-Waldron Municipal Building located at 112 East Center Street, Waldron, Michigan.

The public hearing was to hear and consider objections to the special assessment roll made to assess part of the cost of the construction of sanitary sewer improvements in the Township of Wright to properties in the Lime Lake/Prattville Sanitary Sewer special assessment district. Whereas, as a result of comments received at the public hearing on February 2, 2006, and other information received by the Board, the supervisor prepared a revised special assessment roll and this public hearing was hereby called.

In order to appeal the amount of the special assessment to the Michigan Tax Tribunal an owner of or party in interest in property to be assessed, or his or her agent, may appear in person to protest the special assessment, or may protest the special assessment by letter filed with the Township Clerk at or prior to the time of the hearing, in which case appearance in person is not required. If the special assessment is protested as provided above, the owner or any party having an interest in the real property may file a written appeal of the special assessment with the Michigan Tax Tribunal or other court of competent jurisdiction within 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll.

The Supervisor, Fred Horwath called the meeting to order,

The Board Members in attendance were Fred Horwath, Roger Zimmerman, Lois Hills, William White, and Connie Strong.

Present at the meeting to assist with the public hearing were Steven Darmofal from Feller Finch and Associates; Thomas Traciak from ACI Finance, Inc.; Christie Cook, Rural Community Assistance Program Coordinator; and Ben Wheeler, Township Assessor.

A list of the people present at the meeting follows:

Sonia Eischen	James A. Eischen	Carmen D. Munsell
Jan Garber	Toni Heidelberg	James Marry
Ron Oates	George P. Morgret	Roxanne L. Morgret
Richard Chudey	John Klein	Skip Linden
Jim Sorter	Robert Gentner	Mildred Flower
Chris Kastner	David Estes	

Whereas, an overview of the details of the Lime Lake/Prattville Sanitary Sewer Improvements project and the financing of the project were presented at the February 2nd public hearing this matter was not done again.

Supervisor, Fred Horwath, opened the meeting to hear and consider objections to a special assessment roll made to assess part of the cost of the construction of sanitary sewer improvements in the Township of Wright to properties in the Lime Lake/Prattville Sanitary Sewer special assessment district. Each person was asked to introduce themselves before speaking.

John Klein asked how it is going to work if someone wants to connect to the sewer system after it is completed and was not originally assessed. Tom Traciak addressed his question. Anyone connecting to the system that was not originally assessed would pay an amount equal to the assessment cost plus any amount deemed necessary due to rise in costs. This money would be used to pay Operating and Maintenance cost not to pay the debt.

Jim Marry asked several questions. He asked who checked on the Engineering Firm, Feller, Finch, & Associates before hiring them. Christie Cook addressed this question and

explained the selection process. Jim wanted know the cost of Feller & Finch. Lois Hills read to him amounts from the amendment to their agreement on February 9th. The original amount of the contract was \$391,000.00, and new price adjustment was \$515,000.00. Jim asked who would be on site for inspection during the construction of the project. Steve Darmofal addressed this question. Feller & Finch will have people on site during the construction of the project. Jim asked about the target completion dates for the construction project. Steve explained the substantial completion date is January 1, 2007, and the final completion date is June 15, 2007. Jim asked what the penalty was if the contractors did not meet the deadlines for completion. Steve explained that there is a \$750.00 per day penalty if either completion deadline is not met. Jim asked what electrical voltage was required for the grinder pumps. Steve stated the grinder pumps required an electrical voltage of 240.

Sonya Eischen inquired about the start date for the construction of the sewer system. The question was addressed by Steve Darmofal. The construction cannot start until contracts are signed, which are expected to be signed in early April. The contracts cannot be signed until 30 days after the confirmation of the special assessment roll. This is due to 30-day period to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Steve commented the contractors want to start construction in early April.

George Morgret asked about the letters of objection on the special assessment. It was explained that if a letter was objection was filed with the clerk for either the February 2nd hearing or the March 2nd hearing they are valid.

Jim Marry asked about appealing to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Tom Traciak explained that special assessments are different than the regular process of appealing to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. The special assessment public hearing takes the place of the Board of Review. To appeal the special assessment you do not need to go to the Board of Review first. Once the public hearing is closed, the resolution confirming the Lime Lake/Prattville Sanitary Sewer Improvements Special Assessment Roll is adopted, then the 30-day process will start to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Tom stated the Tax Tribunal will reject your appeal immediately if an objection hasn't been made at the public hearing or the objection filed in writing.

George Morgret stated he hasn't seen anyone coming around to each property concerning the placement of the grinder pumps. Steve replied that it was put on hold since the public hearing was to held again due to the revised special assessment roll.

Skip Linden inquired what would happen while the contractors are digging they come upon a drain and there is sewage in it, will it be reported or checked out. Steve addressed his question. Contractors are responsible to fix a drain if they caused any damage to it.

George Morgret asked who will operate the system once it is complete. Fred Horwath replied that David Gier has been hired for the Operation and Maintenance of the sewer system.

Those desiring to preserve their right to appeal to the Michigan Tax Tribunal was given a time to submit their name and address to the Clerk. The list is as follows:

Jan Garber	14300 Prattville Road, Hudson, MI 49247
Jim Marry	14191 Prattville Road, Hudson, MI 49247
Toni Heidelberg	13778 Prattville Road, Hudson, MI 49247

Letters protesting the special assessment were received as follows:

Jan Garber	14300 Prattville Road, Hudson, MI 49247
Toni Heidelberg	13778 Prattville Road, Hudson, MI 49247
June Williams	9887 Coman Road, Hudson, MI 49247

Chris Kastel wanted to check on the special assessment amount of his property. The revised special assessment roll was checked and he was given the amount of the special assessment of each of his properties.

Supervisor, Fred Horwath closed the hearing at 8:00 p.m.

A resolution confirming the Lime Lake/Prattville Sanitary Sewer Improvements Special Assessment Roll as prepared by Paul M. Wyzgoski from Dickinson Wright PLLC was submitted for consideration.

The resolution was offered by Board Member, William White and supported by Board Member, Connie Strong, to adopt the resolution confirming the Lime Lake/Prattville Sanitary Sewer Improvements Special Assessment Roll as prepared by Paul M. Wyzgoski from Dickinson Wright PLLC. For the complete wording of the resolution see February 9 – Attachment 1. Roll call vote: William White – yes, Connie Strong – yes, Roger Zimmerman – yes, Lois Hills – yes, and Fred Horwath – yes. The resolution was declared adopted.

Board Member, William White made the motion, supported by Board Member, Roger Zimmerman, for the meeting to be adjourned. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Lois J. Hills
Wright Township Clerk