

VILLAGE OF THREE OAKS PUBLIC HEARING MEETING – DATE: 01-09-19

Village President, David Grosse called the Public Hearing Meeting to order at 7:03 pm at the Three Oaks Village Hall after closing the Regular Council Meeting. This Public Hearing is to discuss and consider the proposed sewer rate increase which is necessary for the funding of the Sewer Lagoons upgrade project.

- **Public Hearing – RE: Sewer Rate Change – Update Sewer Ordinance #212:** There is industrial waste going into our sewer system which has overloaded the system and the MDEQ has mandated that improvements must be made to comply with State regulations. These are extensive and costly improvements which will require the Village to take out a new bond to fund the updates to the system. In order to make the bond payments, additional revenue must be brought into the Village. It is being proposed to do that by raising the Sewer R-T-S rates and the Sewer usage rates. **Audience Member, Jack DeTomasi** asked why the rates are being raised (see answer above). **Audience member, Tom Flint** asked what factors are being considered to determine the rate increase. **Audience Member (unknown)** asked how many water bills are still being incorrectly billed because of non-functioning meters and what is being done and what is the timeline to fix the situation of so many estimated bills each month. He also asked if there were charitable organizations that could help residents with their water bills if an increase goes into effect. **Audience Member, Darlene Heemstra** asked if the Sewer Usage or the Sewer R-T-S rates were being increased. **Audience Member (Unknown)** asked how the new addition to Froehlich's would impact our system. **Audience Member, Tom Flint** asked if more than one (1) business (besides Journeyman) was contributing to the high B.O.D. levels. **Council President, Dave Grosse** replied that other businesses can't be tested until the MDEQ approves the IPP Plan. Tom further asked if the Village could share the costs with Journeyman if they continued to remain out of the system and haul away their waste. **Audience Member, Jack DeTomasi** stated that the sewer ponds have worked well for 40 years and asked why the residents have to subsidize the cost for Journeyman's. He said that if the Village installs a new aerator system, the cost for it's' upkeep is astronomical. **Village President, Dave Grosse** stated that one of the current Sewer bonds will be paid up in about 2.5 years. After that is paid up that would free up funds to pay for a new bond with little or no increase in the sewer rates. However, that would mean holding off upgrades and improvements for several years and the MDEQ will most likely not approve that timeline. **Council Member, John Pappa** stated that the existing ponds are sufficient to handle the Village's current volumes, plus some growth, since Journeyman Distillery is currently removed from discharging into the lagoons. He believes that new electric wiring, pumps, a generator, etc. are needed for a cost of around \$500,000.00 rather than the more extensive project costing an estimated 1.3 million dollars. He said that the Council should be directing the engineers in the direction they want to go in creating the IPP Plan, rather than the engineers telling the Village what to do. He believes that current and future industrial customers should be required to invest in pretreatment equipment rather than having the Village residents pay for the pre-treatment equipment at the Sewer lagoons. It was decided that more research needed to be done along with further input from the MDEQ and our engineers before deciding what the entire scope of the project should be and the cost to implement it. Further discussion of a rate increase for the Sewer R-T-S fees and usage rates will be tabled until the February council meeting.
- **Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:17 pm.**

Submitted by:

Cynthia E. Moynihan,
Three Oaks Village Clerk
Minutes for the 01-09-19 Public Hearing
Were **APPROVED** at the 02-13-19 Council Meeting